



AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

An amazing success! That is the best description for the Samaritan Center's third annual dinner and auction. With the move to a new venue in Capitol Plaza Hotel, expectations were high, but record numbers of guests, donations, and over \$100,000.00 in funds raised were success beyond hope.

There are many people to thank for contributions made to the evening, contributions that enabled the level of success achieved. Donors brought in a wide array of auction items which attracted several bidders who helped to raise the amazing amount of funds for the Samaritan Center Foundation. Items ranging from a trip to "The Hill" in St. Louis to handmade turkey calls were donated. Kas Mahfood was on hand to direct the "treasure hunt" where guests could dig through a treasure chest filled with glass gems as well as a few of the real thing. Mike Michelson provided musical entertainment for the evening and offered his services as an auction item as well. The high grossing item was once more Cheryl Boessen's cinnamon rolls a feat they have achieved for each of the three years the auction has been held.

Don Schnieders and Warren Krech offered their services as co-MC's and kept the evening running smoothly. Bill Gratz volunteered as auctioneer again, and got a workout keeping track of bids coming in from a crowd of 850 guests.

Capitol Plaza Hotel provided the canvas for Bob Fennewald, Barb Schmitz, and the decorating committee to work their art on. Over night the ballroom was transformed into a colorful, festive atmosphere that helped bring visions of Tuscany to all in attendance.

Wetsu Creative helped to produce a short film, which chronicled the history of the Center and was presented publicly for the first time that evening. The film helped to bring focus to why the dinner is held and the serious needs that the Samaritan Center fills in our community.

Printed materials for the evening were produced by Jeff City printing. Special thanks to Ron Wolken and his staff, for their ability to change and produce down to the last minute... and then some. Their flexibility is unmatched!

The bar has now been set higher than ever before and the challenge to improve with next year's event is a formidable task. Work will begin again after the first of the year to make the successes continue.

Thank you to all who helped plan the event and make it what it was, to all who contributed in time, talent, or treasure your generosity reaches many in need.



As Don Schnieders and Warren Krech look on, Marylyn DeFeo presents Georgia Clark with an award of recognition. Mrs. Clark and her husband Jack donated the land on which the Samaritan Center's building stands.

ARE THE PUMPKINS RIPE YET?

BOO! What was that you ask? Why is Halloween sneaking up on you! While not quite as scary as Christmas which is lurking just beyond it, Halloween is an important holiday to our Samaritan Center children.

Second only to Christmas in popularity, Halloween can be a trying holiday for children living in poverty. The same financial straits that make it difficult for their family to have food on the table and lights in their home make it almost impossible to have something as frivolous as a Halloween costume.

Halloween is a holiday that is often celebrated in schools where children are around their peers, the low self esteem a child feels when they are unable to participate fully in a party due to their home situation can spiral outward and adversely affect other aspects of the child's life. It is in effort to avoid these feelings that the Samaritan Center offers costumes and other trick-or-treat essentials to our children as supplies permit.

In the same vein as school supplies, Christmas gifts, and all services offered by the Center, we try to build self esteem in persons coming to us in need. We try to offer new costumes to the children, ones that will be similar to those worn by other children. There are classic costumes that never go out of style, but many of the store bought characters are popular for one or two years at the most.

Items for Halloween including costumes, decorations, treat bags, candy, and flashlights can be brought to the Samaritan Center during normal business hours all through the month of September.

Distribution of the items will begin October first.

Collections in classrooms and workplaces are popular, if you have questions about setting such a collection up please call us, we are happy to help.

AN EVENING IN THE TUSCAN GARDEN -THOUGHTS FROM MARYLYN

Miracle of Miracles

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! We were overwhelmed by the fun, excitement and generosity of those who came to spend an Evening in our Tuscan Garden. As I visited with so many of you it occurred to me that people were genuinely happy to be there and were having a great time. To have the chance to spend an evening with friends is one thing, but to spend the evening with those friends while they so generously give to help the Foundation grow is quite another thing. I was dizzy with the course of events. People bidding on the silent auction, ladies and gentlemen paying twenty dollars a scoop to win a precious stone and being elated when they won, bids on the live auction that exceeded all of my dreams, and just the fun and love that permeated the room. All I could think of was that song from Fiddler on the Roof, Miracle of miracles look what happens when God takes us by the hand and encourages us to help those in need. We look forward to seeing you all back in another garden July 13, 2006 to continue to grow the Foundation for the future. If you would like to add to the fund at any time please earmark your gift for the Samaritan Center Foundation. God bless each of you for coming and sharing yourself with us all.

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MARYLYN'S MESSAGE

Needs, Needs, and More Needs

When we opened the doors on August 1st it was as if the flood gates were opened. So many families were needing food and utility assistance. In eight days we helped seventy five families with \$30,000 in DollarMore funds. We helped seven families with Samaritan Center funds in the amount of \$2,078.85 . The first week we saw 469 families for food and the second week 424 families for food. We have given in excess of 1000 school supply bags. One family told us they didn't have anything in their home to eat but crackers and green beans for two weeks. No matter how long I am in this business I never cease to be amazed at what our neighbors here in town endure.

One mother with three young children came for food and school supplies and told me her husband was in Iraq and with the cut in income she was struggling to keep the family in food. Another young mother had lost her employment with the state. She has a young baby girl and is finding it hard to find employment that will pay enough to enable her to pay daycare and still make enough salary to live on. I am sure there are many single parents out there just like her. Thank God that you support the Center and help us to feed these families in crisis.

Gasoline and need for certified birth certificates for driver's license renewal are becoming a huge expense for the Center. The ten dollar gas voucher that we used to give just will not stretch until their next payday. Fifteen dollars for a certified birth certificate to renew ones drivers license does not sound like much to us but add that to a zero balance budget and it can be a large worry.

We had a wonderful auction and dinner recently but those funds are designated for our Foundation so when those of us in charge now are called home the Center will have funds to continue on in the future. We depend on our regular donors to keep us afloat for the all the direct services that we give to those in need. Thanksgiving is coming and we will need turkeys for all our families and Christmas we will need nice new toys for Santa's Workshop. If any of you are planning to help in those ways please let us know. Toys will be needed in the house by December 1. We distribute them from December 5th to the 15th.

Call Ben for the particulars. We also will need adopters to adopt our families this Christmas. If you adopted last year you will receive a letter, if you don't get that letter and want to adopt a family call Anne.

THE FAT MAN IS GETTING HIS WARM UPS ON!

Christmas is coming! The season of adoption is closing fast on the Samaritan Center. A mailing will be going out soon to recruit adopters for families as well as volunteers to help through the Holiday rush.

Opportunities for volunteerism are more abundant than the normal large quantities during the Holidays. In addition to adopted families, Santa's Workshop will open once more. Here parents of children who are not part of the adopted family program can select new toys for their children.

Food drives, toy drives, fund raising, volunteering, the opportunities to help are many. If you think you would be interested in receiving information on them call Anne Carmichael at 634-7776.

HERITABLE CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS 4026

BACK TO SCHOOL

Our annual school supply collection was very successful this year. Thank you to all who donated to our cause. The children who received new backpacks and necessary tools of learning are much better off due to your generosity.

At press time 1,126 packets of school supplies had been handed out to families in need. The program is a needed relief of funds for families already struggling to make ends meet. It also helps to keep the children positive. Just think how much easier it is for them to attend school and focus when they have proper equipment rather than being embarrassed and singled out for lack of necessities.

Thanks also to the volunteers who worked to sort, count, package, and distribute the supplies. The look on the face of children receiving a new backpack and supplies makes it all worthwhile.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September

- 1 Halloween collection begins
- 5 CLOSED- Labor Day

**MISSOURI STATE EMPLOYEES
CHERITABLE CAMPAIGN OUR
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October

- 1 Halloween distribution begins
- 3 Christmas Sign-up begins
- 10 CLOSED- Columbus Day
- 11 Realtor's chili supper at Eagles Lodge
- 23 CROP Walk, benefits Samaritan Center

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Hours of Operation

- Open to Public: 9:30am-11:30am Monday-Thursday
4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday
- Medical Clinic: 4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday
- Dental Clinic: by appointment Only,
call (573)761-3473 for information
- Staff Office Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

