



Realtors Help “Keep the Home Fires Burning”

The Jefferson City Area board of Realtors held their annual “Keep the Home Fires Burning” chili supper Tuesday October 19th. Located at Jefferson City’s Eagle’s club, the dinner raised funds for the Samaritan Center Energy Assistance Program. This is the second year the Realtors have chosen to benefit the Samaritan Center. Live country western music greeted diners and entertained them through the evening as they feasted on homemade chili, hot dogs, and various desserts. There looked to be no complaints, as the most common sound of the evening was spoons scraping the bottom of empty bowls! Also, a raffle drawing was held for several prizes donated by area merchants and community members.

With cooperative weather avoiding the forecast warm up and not raining either, a steady crowd filled the Eagle’s hall. Pam Barkhaus, Donna Stone, and several other contributing realtors went out of their way to make the event successful. They should be congratulated on their effort and commended on a job well done. Many area realtors support the Samaritan Center through donations and volunteerism. We are grateful for all they do for us.

Numbers for the event were not available at the time this newsletter was sent to press, so watch for them in November’s issue.

The Energy Assistance Program at the Samaritan Center is bracing for a difficult winter. The Missouri Public Service Commission forecasts an increase in winter heating costs in the neighborhood of 12.5%. With record numbers of people coming to the Samaritan Center every day in need of assistance, the prospects for the cold months ahead are grim. Already we are turning people away for utility assistance due to lack of funds, Tension on the global oil market and instability abroad are driving heating costs higher,

a trend sure to continue in the foreseeable future.

Federal Low
Income Home
Energy
Assistance
Program
(LIHEAP) funds
have been
scheduled with
Missouri in line to
receive \$16.3
million dollars.

The majority of
these funds go to
metropolitan

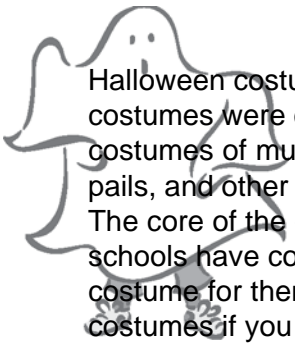
centers, leaving smaller towns and communities with a long list for small funds.

The Samaritan Center is already being forced to turn people away for energy assistance due to lack of funds. Programs like the Jefferson City Area Board of Realtors help to keep the coffers ready to help those in need. Thank you for all your support.

Christmas is Coming!

A record number of families are eligible for Christmas Adoption this year. We need your help to ensure these families an enjoyable Holiday. Please contact the Samaritan Center if you, your family, workplace, or social group is interested in adopting one of our families. Adoption deadline is Wednesday, November 24th.

Also, collection of toys for Santa’s Workshop will be on going through November, if possible bring donations by November 19th.



Costume Drive is a **FRIGHTFUL** Success!

Halloween costume donations hit record numbers this year as over one hundred and seventy costumes were collected through donations. Spider-Man to Barbie, Snow White to Harry Potter, costumes of multiple varieties came in to the Samaritan Center. The drive, collected costumes, treat pails, and other trick-or-treat paraphernalia to outfit the less fortunate spooks and specters.

The core of the costume program is to help promote self esteem in the younger children. So many schools have costume day for Halloween, and there are many children whose families cannot afford a costume for them. Off the rack costumes average \$20.00 and it is difficult to make home-made costumes if you do not have the material. The old sheet you might use to make a ghost may be all that covers their bed. If the children cannot participate without being made to feel inferior by their peers, it takes their fun out of the holiday and makes them less likely to want to attend. No child chooses to be poor; they cannot help themselves out of their situation without outside help. However small it may be to us to see a child pull on a new witch or fireman outfit, there is no limit to the joy experienced by the child. One look at their excited face makes any need for explanation moot.

Thank you all who helped make this year Halloween a happier one for kids who really need it!

Costumes were collected by St. Martin's Catholic School and through various private donations.

Halloween Costumes Scare Up Lots of Publicity! See Page 4

Marylyn's Message

Cold and Scary Nights!

When leaves crunch underfoot and wood smoke fills the air, I always remember James Whitcomb Riley's poem "Little Orphan Annie". Our children could all repeat the stanza, "the goblins will get you if you don't watch out!" to this day. Halloween as we Americans know was and is a fun filled night when you can dress up in costume and go house to house or to a school or church party in quest of a bag full of goodies. So many of you have made that even more fun for the children of the Samaritan Center families this year. We have given away over one hundred and fifty costumes that you so generously donated. Bags and bags of candy, animal crackers and bubble gum were donated so our families in need can turn on their porch lights and greet little people just as we all will do. We want to share the experience we have had when we received the smiles of the kids and their parents. Their thanks will stay in our memory for a long time thanks to all of you.

This year we are experiencing a tremendous out pouring of people with shut-off notices for their electricity and gas. From August 15th to September 15th we kept record of all that came that were eligible at this time with a shut-off notice. There were 132 families and the amount of money that they needed just to stay on; not to pay their whole debt exceeded \$74,000.00 dollars. These are all working families who have reached the point where they cannot manage this bill in their budget. They have not received financial assistance from us in over a year and some of them never have come for help. We hope that many of you will consider sending us a little extra for this fund. We recently sent out a letter to some of you asking for your help and we appreciate all that you did to help us. The Realtors have recently held a chili supper for us and at this printing we do not know how much that generated. If you can manage a little extra in your monthly contribution we would appreciate it, as would our families. When the kids are in the dark it can be a very Scary Night!

We cannot say enough or often enough how much your prayers and generosity bolster up our spirits at the Center. God is so pleased with your love for your neighbor and continues to whisper thank you in your ears. God blesses all of you for following His lead and continuing to support our work.

Happy Halloween!
Marylyn

Do You Speak Legalese?

He was only 24 but facing a terminal brain tumor, unable to work yet needing legal services— a durable power of attorney for health.

She was only 19 and caring for two younger brothers, keeping them in school and safeguarding them from an abusive father. She needed legal custody to protect them.

When his young wife was dying he promised her he would care for her pre-school age daughter of another father. He wanted to adopt her.

Unable to work after a construction job injury left him with reoccurring dizziness, his debts became overwhelming. Bankruptcy gave him a fresh start.

Her 19 year old daughter was suicidal but without guardianship she was without legal power to provide for her protective institutionalization.

These are a few of the 375 applicants to the Legal Care program since it opened May 1, 2003. Your colleagues made a difference in their lives. Are you ready to join your fellow attorneys serving the needy of our community?

The Legal Care program is part of the many services of the Samaritan Center. The Center provides food, clothing, utility and rent assistance, dental and medical care, reading programs for children, cooking classes for moms, Christmas adoption, tax credit assistance and many other services. Legal Care is probably the only legal assistance program in the state which is able to take a holistic view of the needs of persons due to the integrated approach of the Samaritan Center.

The Missouri Legislature and Governor recognized the valuable contribution made by attorneys who do pro bono legal work by providing them malpractice coverage under the State Legal Expense Fund. Effective August 28, 2004 attorneys providing legal services without compensation through a charity or public agencies will be covered upon registration with the Attorney General. This coverage is especially beneficial to retired, corporate and government attorneys who wish to do pro bono work but normally do not have malpractice insurance.

Every applicant for Legal Care is prescreened for economic need and the nature of their legal problem by a team of volunteer attorneys. Only after prescreening are applicants referred to attorneys for legal services. Thanks to a grant from Cole County Circuit Court funds are available to pay filing fees and other expenses so you will not be out-of-pocket. For more questions and answers about the Legal Care program contact Lou DeFeo, Volunteer Coordinator Legal Care program at 573-634-7776

Dates to Remember for November

6 - Can of Food admission at Ramada 4

15- Turkey drive kick off with KRCC 13

11 - Veteran's Day- Closed.

30- Last day for Santa's Workshop donations

Thank You!

St. Peter's School students who raised 3500 cans and box items along with \$71.00 cash.

Julie Lyman and her associates with DECA. Students statewide donated 142 boxes of cereal and \$122.00 to purchase more cereal.

Bee Seen Signs and 54 Foods for collecting Halloween donations.

St. Martin's Catholic School for collecting Halloween donations

Jefferson City Area Board of Realtors for their support of the Utility Assistance Program.

Tom Baker for Providing Photography services.

Halloween Costumes Scare Up Lots of Publicity!

This year's Halloween costume collection brought in lots of publicity to the Samaritan Center. It all began with an article in the September 19th edition of the Jefferson City News Tribune, where Michelle Regan profiled the St. Martin's School students who were collecting costumes to donate and explained the need for such a program in the community. 1,100 miles away Tiffany Sommers, scanned the internet for story leads. Tiffany- a reporter with TIME magazine's children's periodical, TIME for Kids, found Michelle's piece and decided to make a phone call to Mid-Missouri. Tiffany conducted phone interviews with Samaritan Center staff and with a young girl who was a costume recipient. The TIME for Kids article will appear in their October 29th issue, giving the Samaritan Center nationwide attention in America's classrooms. When Michelle Regan found out that the story had been picked up by TIME for Kids, she elected to do a story on that story! While Jennifer Crutchfield was interviewed for TIME, Michelle was there, getting the scoop! The result being an additional News Tribune front page! Local radio fit into the mix when Judy Dietzel requested a onsite broadcast from Bee Seen Signs to encourage Halloween themed donations. Warren Kretch responded in his Q104 persona, joining Judy and 54 Foods, which owns local McDonalds. In addition, KRCG newsman Ben Piney was on location Monday October 18th, to do a story on children and parents selecting costumes on the first day of their distribution.

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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-5:00pm Monday-Friday

