

Caring Times

A publication of Caring About Kids, Inc. • 2010, Volume 1



Rodney "The BassMan" Whitaker
In a
Benefit Concert for Foster Children and *Caring About Kids*
Great Jazz for Great Kids

October 8th, 2010
6:00 PM
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbott Rd, East Lansing, MI

Rodney Whitaker - recording artist, renowned bass player, international performer and Director of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University School of Music - is the spotlight performer for Caring About Kids, Inc. Jazz Night fundraiser this year. Professor Whitaker has agreed to lend his impressive credentials and artistic abilities to benefit the foster children of Ingham County.

Professor Whitaker is a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic Jazz Orchestra. Whitaker has toured internationally as a featured performer with the Roy Hargrove Quintet. Whitaker's film score, *China*, directed by Jeff Wray, was released on PBS in 2002.

Rodney Whitaker is a Michigan treasure. For a preview of the treat we have in store for you, visit Professor Whitaker's My Space page at <http://www.myspace.com/rodneytwhitaker>.

Sponsorships for this event are available at the \$500.00 Platinum level (includes 6 tickets), \$250.00 Gold level (includes 4 tickets) and \$100.00 Silver level (includes 2 tickets). Individual tickets are \$35.00 for one or two for \$50.00. Please call the chair of the Committee, Peter Houk, at 517-230-2907 for more information about sponsorships or contact any of the Committee members: Jean Hoffman, Kate Butler, Greg Crockett, Steve Lyon, Addie Roof, Danielle Brehmer, Sharon Doerr, Susan Mallory and Carol Siemon at **517-485-2646**.

To reserve your tickets or sponsor this event, send your check to Caring About Kids, Inc, P O Box 27014, Lansing, MI 48909-7014. **Seating is limited, so reserve early.** (Your tickets will be held at the door if ordered by mail.)

Caringaboutkidsinc.org

Rainy? Snowy? Windy? Sleetng? Sunny? Michigan has something for everyone and so do we! No matter what the weather outside, we have something that will give you that "warm all over" feeling - our new website - caringaboutkidsinc.org

The new website has several components, and as with everything new (and the weather) it needs a little tweaking to make it perfect.

We plan to use the website for better communication about events and programs for foster children and foster parents, as well as upcoming fundraising events. Our newsletter will be posted on the website, and CAK will be able to notify you that the newsletter can be viewed on line rather than mailed...giving us more money to share with the kids.

(continued on page 2)

<http://www.caringaboutkidsinc.org>

(Caringaboutkidsinc.org - continued from page 1)



We are now collecting email addresses for the newsletter notification phase. Please go to the "Contact Us" section on the website and provide your email address. We will let you know when the website enhancements are completed so you can let us know which communications you'd like to receive.

We will not share your email address or any other information with anyone else...we absolutely promise!

Our updated website has a secure section for CAK board members, and our database which is now stored and backed up on a secure server. It will take us all some time to get used to this new technology, so please be patient with us. We are still in the process of designing reports that will help you see where your money and our efforts have gone.

So, even if the weather is gloomy today...we see bright promise for it - and our website - for tomorrow. (After all this is Michigan!)

May -The Month of the Foster Child, 2010: Events and More Events

The meetings, coordinating efforts and deadlines for creating great events started long before the snow was gone. **Julie Burgess, Nancy Burgess, Kelly Gluszewski, Julie Hirchert, Stephanie Hirchert-Walton, Rose Houk, Sandy Milner, Melissa Threadgould, and Chris Vinton** otherwise known as the "Adventures Committee" originally planned 2 events for the children and their families to experience fun in Lansing - **Impressions 5 Museum & Potter Park Zoo**. What better way to celebrate the *Month of the Foster Child* in May? **John Waugh, Kristin Sesti, and Dave Russell** were diligent with behind the scenes details such as grant writing, paying invoices and weighing insurance quotes so that the committee could make these events happen without missing a beat.

However, the committee could not seem to leave well-enough alone, and they also organized a Memory Book event at **Woldumar Nature Center** on 5/15/10. Foster children often do not have many pictures or mementos from their childhood to look back on later in life. Therefore, each child collected the pictures taken for them by Caring About Kids volunteers at the Month of the Foster Child events and placed them in their own photo album with stickers clippings and other treasures picked up along the way. Also at **Woldumar**, the committee planned that while taking a break to let their creative juices simmer, the children could go exploring the outdoors with a naturalist who showed them the art of pond dipping and insect collecting. Of course, we assumed the kids would be hungry after all that work so pizza, cookies, and drinks finished out the day.

Although the full tallies of numbers and successes cannot be given . . . with creative thinking and some new outreach ideas there were 55 people who were exposed to the new exhibits at **Impression 5** on 4/17/2010. One family won a free 12 month membership to the museum and another took advantage of Caring About Kids' offer to pay \$15 of their 12 month membership.

There were 135 registered people to attend **Potter Park Zoo** on 5/1/10. An anonymous benefactor generously offered to pay for the admission of the children to the zoo as well as supported a docent from the Potter Park Zoological Society to show animals with which the kids might not have had contact before. Our very special thanks to this very special donor!

It is through the support of generous people in our community and the dedicated volunteers that Caring About Kids can organize such events, pay for the supplies and give *our* children in *our* community the rich experiences they deserve.

Please check out Caring About Kids at our new website www.caringaboutkidsinc.org and consider making a donation today! You'll be glad you did!



Contributions to Caring About Kids April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010

Christmas Donation: Granger Foundation

In Honor of: Elizabeth Boyd in honor of Phyllis Mellon

General Donations:

Leslie J. Adams	Wilma Miller
Roberta Atkinson	Theresa Muniz
Elaine Bergman	Patricia Munshaw
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Nancy Brown	Joan and Gary Raglin
Joanne Christenson	Esther and Richard Reagan
Jane L. Coons	Betty and Nicholas Romach
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Linda and Timothy Crandall	Richard and Margaret Sasena
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P. Driscoll-White	Doris Sutherland
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James and Kimberly Garrison	Susan Trojanowicz
Mary Lou Garrison	Janelle Wallace
Kelly Gluszewski	Joyce Weller
Susan Hall	Gerald Williams
James J. Hebert	Doreen Woodward & W. Thomas Woodward Jr.
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Doug Langham and Joan Bauer	DHS Office of Human Resources
Carl Latona	St. Casimir Church
Don LeDuc	First Presbyterian Church
Rae Leece	Dart Bank
Robert Lovell	Ingham County Adult Probation
Curtis and Carol Main	DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Musette Michael	

United Way:

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Leslie J. Adams	Gail Fournier
Peter Anastor	Ann Gebhard
Therese Brinson	Stacie Gibson
Timothy Caggegi	Diane Holley
Donna Marie Clarke Donovan	Dennis Kill
	Robin Risko



Contributions to CAK - April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010

Jazz:

Frederick Baker
Greg Crockett
Virg Bernero
Tom Fruechtenicht and Carol Siemon
Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Kathleen Butler
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Susan Howard
Sandra Mason
Stuart Shafer
Jacque Stowell
Nancy Wonch and Thomas Sampson
Robert and Melany Mack
Gerald Ambrose
Dale and Diane Herder
Milly and Gene Gilin

In Memory of:

Steve Vagnozzi
H. Lyn Zynda
Mary Beth Scheffel
Julie Horn Alexander &
Robert Alexander
Brian and Peggy Boyce
Dean Boyce
Barbara Buck
Mary Chaliman

In Memory of Aldo and Lois Vagnozzi
In Memory of Andy Zynda
In Memory of Carol Reddy
In Memory of Chuck Hoffman

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<http://www.caringaboutkidsinc.org>



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In Memory of:

Beverly Gingrich	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
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Olive Ivicic	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Janet Kaley	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Henry Miller	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Douglas and Jane Paterson	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
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Maureen Winslow	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
David Buck	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
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Shelly Miller O'Neill	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Peggy Thodis	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Rollin Dart, Dart Bank	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
David and Neysa Gonzalez	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
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Tim and Susana Lebel	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
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Phillip and Janine Lehnert	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Lorena Ruth	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Buck Snider	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
David Russell and Karen Conroy	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Sue London	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Shirely and Dan Skornia	In Memory of Chuck Hoffman
Esther Charles	In Memory of Elizabeth Charles
Phyllis Mellon	In Memory of Elizabeth Charles
Nancy Johnston-Lashier	In Memory of Elizabeth Charles
Ed and Melissa Dore	In Memory of Elizabeth Charles
Linda Tanner	In Memory of Elizabeth Charles
Susan Mallory	In Memory of Jack Gee
Fred Lawless	In Memory of John T. "Jack" Dempsey
A. John and Alice Vielbig	In Memory of Kenneth Vielbig
Musette Michael	In Memory of Kevin Moody
Susan Topping	In Memory of Lynne Croxford
Wayne and Judy Niles	In Memory of Monica La Sarge
Kathy Snyder	In Memory of Monica La Sarge
Harry and Mabel Janke	In Memory of Monica La Sarge
Carl Latona	In Memory of Monica La Sarge
Nancy and Frank Manning	In Memory of Monica La Sarge
Eleanor Doersam	In Memory of Monica La Sarge

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Contributions to CAK - April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010

In Memory of:

Lynda Walker
 Deltavision Optical Center of Lansing
 Fairchild, Lebel, and Rice, PC
 Carolyn Gillespie
 David Rouse
 Kathryn Jackson
 Rita Price
 Jerry and Bonnie Kaiser
 Betty and Nicholas Romach
 David Russell and Karen Conroy
 Marilee Clark and Mary Ann Lathrop
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 Daniel Talhelm and Patricia Degnan
 Muriel Feigenbaum
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 Charles and Joyce Porter
 Constance Knowlton
 Lloyd and Anne Fett
 Nancy Kelley Hammond
 Margaret Grost
 Lola O'Meara

In Memory of Monica La Sarge
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 In Memory of Monica La Sarge
 In Memory of Monica La Sarge
 In Memory of Paul Reinhart
 In Memory of Virginia Stout
 In Memory of William F. O'Meara

100 Women Who Care

There is a new group in our area called "100 Women Who Care". It was formed to help local charities through the generous contributions of its members.

Each member commits to donate \$100 per quarter to a worthy cause. "100 Women Who Care" is modeled after a group in Jackson, Michigan. The Jackson group now totals 220 women who are making a real difference in the Jackson community.

At each meeting worthy causes are nominated by group members by placing the name of a charity in a container. Three nominations are drawn, and each of the 3 submitting members give a 5 minute presentation about the charity. The group determines the recipient of the donations from the 3 presentations.

The first meeting of this new group was held in March, 2010 and Caring About Kids was the recipient of the first grant. CAK received nearly \$4500 from that meeting! CAK is very appreciative for the support of this terrific group of women.

The group is growing and is seeking new members. Should you wish to join the group, please contact Donna Oade or Rose Zack via email, donnaoade@glolawpc.com or rose@roseandev.com.

(CAK has agreed not to publish the names of the donors or solicit further funds from the donors as part of the agreement with "100 Women Who Care.")

<http://www.caringaboutkidsinc.org>



Presents, gifts and lots of love to go around: What we spent 2009

Just like your kids, Ingham's foster children needed everything from car seats to bunk beds to tutoring and more this year. Nearly 200 children received funds to help pay for practical items and the things that kids need or that help make growing up just plain fun.

The little ones, ages 1-11, needed car seats, preschool tuition, birthday gifts, dance lessons, piano lessons, and karate classes as well as a sensory processing blanket. There were funds used for camps, swimming lessons, and trips with foster families. Memberships to the YMCA and Boys and Girls club were purchased along with summer enrichment programs, and T Ball. 78 children received your help in this age group.

Not surprisingly, the kids ages 12 through 15 were more active in sports and school activities. We assisted with school year books, band camp, summer camp, eyeglasses, football equipment, volleyball equipment, and a cheerleading uniform. School activities abounded for this age group. We helped 52 kids participate in all sorts of activities and school events.

We helped 65 older kids with prom dresses, car insurance, graduation photos, football shoes, YMCA memberships, a lift chair, and notebook computer. There were also many sports related camps and activities.

We purchased gift cards to use for birthday gifts and to assist with other items that children need and are in no one's budget. Total expenditures for individual children were \$24,400.

And then there was Christmas—\$13,290. We were fortunate to have received a grant from the Granger Foundation for \$8,000 that supported this endeavor.

Administrative Costs: We are an all volunteer organization and spend no money for staffing. But economic times have affected our administrative costs. Donations have gone down, making our administrative costs rise, totaling about 10% for 2009. We want to keep those costs as low as possible so we plan to save money by making the newsletter available on line - and of course, by raising more funds.

Our costs during 2009 were:	Telephone/voice mail box	\$ 430
	Postage	\$ 620
	Printing newsletter	\$ 3,780
	Board expenses	\$ 157
	Foster kid/parent events	\$ 4,740

Our income during 2009 was:	Granger Foundation - help with Christmas \$8,000
	Christmas designation was \$25
	Great Jazz for Great Kids rased \$8,010
	Ice Cream Social raised \$250
	Donations, general were \$6,730
	In Honor donations were \$100
	Memorial donations were \$5,395
	United Way designations were \$3,569

Total income for 2009 was \$32,081.86. Our current spending is more than we are raising. Any help that you can give us is truly appreciated.

Your Donations are Appreciated!

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to be used as indicated below:

General Donation In Honor of: _____

Camp Experience In Memory of: _____

I would like to donate \$100 a year for the next 10 years. My first year (2010) donation is enclosed. Notify: _____

Make Checks Payable to: Caring About Kids, Inc. Mail to: CAK, PO Box 27014, Lansing, MI 48909-7014



We Welcome Volunteers

Caring About Kids often needs volunteers for its various committees such as Finance/fundraising, Adventures, Newsletter and Publicity, Development and Share the Music. If you have special talents in any of these areas, which you would like to offer, please contact us by phone at 517-485-2646 or send a note to our P.O. Box 27014, Lansing, MI 48909-7014.

Caring About Kids, Inc. 2010 Board of Directors

Rose Houk (President)
Melissa Threadgould (Vice-President)
David Russell (Treasurer)
John Waugh (Secretary)
Judge Donald L. Allen
Margaret Grost
Jean Hoffman
Susan Mallory
Kristin Sesti

Ingham County foster kids need YOUR help!
Use the form on page seven and send your tax-deductible donation to
CAK, P.O. Box 27014, Lansing, MI 48909-7014



P.O. Box 27014
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