

Caring Times

A publication of Caring About Kids, Inc. • 2009, Volume 1



Did You Know...MAY was the Month of the Foster Child

Activities galore!

The month of April was a busy time for members of the Board, volunteers of Caring About Kids, Ingham County foster children and families. Caring About Kids Adventures Committee put the spotlight on the month of May, **The Month of the Foster Child**. Highlights in April included a Saturday at Impressions 5 Science Center, another Saturday at Potter Park Zoo and yet another Saturday afternoon of bowling at Marvel Lanes in Haslett. The crescendo of these events was "A Day of Memories", a scrap booking day in early May to create a book of memories and stories from the photos of the previous month's activities taken by the Adventures Committee volunteers and CAK Board. At the end of that day, each child left with pictures specifically of him/her all wrapped with stickers, cut-outs and mementos in a fine quality photo album. Our hope is that this type of kick-off will help raise the awareness of community members to the needs of these wonderful children.

Why are these events so important?

Time, and time again, the Adventures Committee has heard that the one thing that is commonly missing from the lives of most foster children is a sense of history. Most children gain their history from the anecdotal stories of relatives or the pictures of the "first haircut" in treasured baby books. Most of our foster children do not have pictures of themselves growing up. CAK strives to give them that sense of history with our family adventures and the photographs at those events and finally, their very own Memory Book. Although the photography, organization and scrap booking add to the layers of coordination and budgeting it takes to operate smoothly, Caring About Kids is committed to cementing the idea that these children belong in this community and are entitled to their piece of the past, their very own history.

Invited guests to these events were all the foster children in Ingham County, their foster families and relatives in the home. Guardians Ad Litem for the children were invited to come enjoy the day with "their" children as were caseworkers.

The results?

Over 50 children and almost 30 adults attended the first event at Impression 5 Science Center. Two families, who completed the crossword puzzle, had their names drawn for a free family membership to Impression 5 Science Center for one year. One hundred thirty three children and adults enjoyed the tour of Potter Park and their very own animal show. At Marvel Lanes, 13 families (67 people) high-fived their strikes as each child tried to outdo the adults' scores while they munched on pizza for lunch. At the scrap booking event, 55 children and adults oohed and awed over the pictures of the family outings while creating some wonderful works of art in which to keep those memories safe.

CAK gives special recognition and a great big THANK YOU to Impression 5 Science Museum, Potter Park Zoo and Marvel Lanes Bowling Lanes for the special treatment afforded our families and the tremendous help they gave to the Committee in coordinating all these activities for the foster kids of Ingham County. And to the committee members, Melissa Threadgould, Kristin Sesti, Stepahine Hirschert Walton, Deb Delcamp, Jeni Jaques, Wendy Campau, Allison Michal, Kelly Gluszewski, Kendra Thelen and Julie Hirschert, THANKS for a job well done!



Great Jazz for Great Kids—S'Marvelous!

Lovers of great jazz gathered at the Boarshead Theater on Friday evening, November 14 to hear the musical styling of the Sunny Wilkinson Quartet. Feet were tapping, and there were many smiles in the audience as Sunny sang and engaged the audience in an evening of Great Jazz. Sunny's vast repertoire was evident as she sang to a very appreciative audience of supporters for Caring About Kids.

Our special thanks go to Sheri Jones and WLNS for their public service announcement on the event.

Sharon Doer chaired the refreshment committee, and volunteers who sold tickets, poured wine, and served cheese, fruit and desserts were:

Diamond Sponsor—Hon. Donald Allen and Mrs. Deborah Allen

Platinum Sponsor—Board member and Caring About Kids initiator, Margaret Grost

Silver Sponsor—Julie Horn Alexander and Bob Alexander; the CPA firm of Fairchild, Lebel, and

Rice; Board member Sue London, and Pat Kaltenback of the law firm Braun Kendrick Finkbeiner.

Bronze Sponsors—Hon. Laura Baird and George Zulakis, David Russell and Karen Conroy, Heldun and Stephanie Walton, Robert and Kathryn Lovell, Peter and Rose Houk, Sandra Mason, Melissa and Phil Threadgould.

Merchant donors for wine/cheese table set ups were Meijer, Sam's Club, Kroger, Target, and Sohn Linens. Individuals who donated beverages and food items were Tom Rice, Chuck Moore, and various Caring About Kids board members.

More donors are listed in the contribution pages.

Save the Date for the 2009 Event October 23, 2009

at the Boarshead Theater.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with this event, please contact us at (517) 485-2646. Ticket information will be available at a later date.



We Get Letters - Excerpts from thank you notes from some relatively new foster parents:

Dear Foster Child Constituent:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for everything that your organization has done for our foster children. Without your assistance, there are many things the boys would not have been able to participate in that have enhanced their learning experiences, growth and created memories.

Our boys are doing very well and we attribute a good part of that success to their ability to participate in extra curricular activities, such as, football, basketball, wrestling, baseball and track. It would be difficult for us to afford to pay for equipment and other costs associated with participating in these activities without your assistance.

Again, thank you very much for all that you've done. I'm prayfully hoping that this great organization will continue to be a part of the foster care program.

Sincerely, Mrs. M.

Dear Caring About Kids,

I went to my mailbox expecting my bills to pile up in my hands and as I shuffled through the mail this particular day I saw something from the Department of Human Services. As I opened it, I felt something hard and thick in the envelope and realized it wasn't just a letter. Instead it was a letter from Caring about Kids and four gift cards to Meijer amounting in \$400.00. My jaw literally dropped to the ground.

So in this letter to Caring about Kids and the Dick Whitmer family I am thanking you from the bottom of my heart for the generosity. You have no idea how much my family and I appreciate the help from you all. Your organization and all it's members are such wonderful people and I can not express to you enough how grateful I am. This money could not have come at a better time for us.

This assistance does and will make a difference for my children and from my family, I thank you over and over for this. Your organization is a great thing for children in the foster system and you do change lives. N.S.

If your address has changed:

Please keep CAK informed of any address changes. We like to keep our mailing list up to date and will appreciate a call at (517) 485-2646 if your mailing information changes. Thank you.



Holiday Celebration



DHS workers playing Santa at the holiday party.

The 2008 Holiday Party for foster children and families was held on December 10, 2008 and the Hawk Hollow banquet room was again the beautiful setting for this annual dinner. Forty-five foster families joined us for a pasta dinner with Santa Claus. A grand total of 264 people in all enjoyed this festive evening.

The dinner, decorations and some gifts were provided by Caring About Kids funds. The evening would not have been possible without the other generous support from Hawk Hollow, Colleen's Cuisine, and the families of Montessori Children's House of Lansing and Montessori Radmoor of Okemos. Judge Janelle Lawless took time from her busy schedule to stop by and say hello to many of the families she has seen in her courtroom. She indicated she was delighted to be part of something so happy for these children.



A roomful of cheer!

We once again thank all our community partners, as well as volunteers from DHS, the courts and Caring About Kids Board members for assisting with this event. Special thanks also go out to Ingham County child attorneys Amy Dua, Annette Skinner, Antoinette Frahzo and Robin Eagleson for their support and providing the arts and crafts activities. Dave Russell, CAK treasurer helped the kids decorate cookies, making sure they all had enough sugar sprinkles, gel frosting and loads of creamy frosting to put on the cookies.



Dave Russell Board member, CAK, decorating cookies with the kids.



Annette Skinner, GAL, and Judge Annette Lawless.

To contact CAK:

You can call us at **517-485-2646**. We have a voice mailbox system that we check twice weekly and a board member will return your call. Our web site at [caringaboutkidsinc.org](http://www.caringaboutkidsinc.org) has e-mail capability. Feel free to leave us a message, and we will return your call or answer your e-mail as soon as possible.



June 2008 through April 2009 Donors

Name	Event	Name	Event
Zonta Club of Meridan East	Camp	Granger Foundation	Christmas
Alana Reome	CAUW	Ann Francis	General
Ann Gebhard	CAUW	Betty & Nick Romach	General
Barrett Bonemer, Jackson National Life	CAUW	Brandon Black	General
Casey W. Shaun	CAUW	Carol & Jerry Hause	General
Darryl Pettway	CAUW	Cindy Seehase	General
Diane Holley	CAUW	Community Relations, Jackson National Life	General
Donna Marie Clarke Donovan	CAUW	Constance Knowlton	General
Doreen Woodward	CAUW	Craig W. Spencer D.D.S.	General
Dr. Ruth Worthington	CAUW	Curtis Main	General
Gail J. Fournier	CAUW	Cynthia Aycock	General
Jason Don Vallance	CAUW	Darshann Stevenson	General
Joy Hazard, MSU Federal Credit Union	CAUW	Deborah Jarous	General
Kelly Jo Freeman	CAUW	Dena Omer	General
Kimberly Isaacson	CAUW	Don LeDuc	General
Leslie J. Adams	CAUW	Donald and Janet Laatsch	General
Mary K. Mankowski	CAUW	Doreen Woodward	General
Michele Binkley	CAUW	Doris Sutherland	General
Peter Anastor	CAUW	Dr. Ruth Worthington	General
Susan Doby	CAUW	Elaine N. Knox	General
Therese A. Brinson	CAUW	Emily Henderson	General
Tiffany T. Heutel	CAUW	Esther & Richard Reagan	General
Tobin Leon Craig	CAUW	First Presbyterian Church	General
Todd Quiring	CAUW	Fran Cook	General
Tom Fruechtenicht and Carol Siemon	CAUW	Frieda S. Brown	General
Wilma & Howard Miller	CAUW	Gerald & Carol Williams	General

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: _____
 Holiday Gift In Memory of: _____

I would like to donate \$100 a year for the next 10 years. My first year (2009) donation is enclosed. Notify: _____

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

**DONATIONS**

(Continued from Page 4)

Name	Event	Name	Event
Gerald and Shireen Luther	General	Cathy Mozham--Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan	Golf
H.E.L.O. Club	General	Laura Fournier, Compuware	Golf
Hank & Bonney Mayers	General	Mary Ellen Sheets/Two Men and A Truck International	Golf
Hoa Xuan Luu	General	Virg Bernero, Ving's Community Fund	Golf
Jackson National Life	General	Anne Cruce	Jazz
James J. Hebert	General	Braun Kendrick Finkbeiner, P.L.C., Pat Kaltenback	Jazz
Jane L. Coons	General	Carol & Allen Stebbins	Jazz
Joan and Gary Raglin	General	Carol Nelson	Jazz
John Elashkar and Eleanor Lynn	General	Dawn Star Fleming	Jazz
John Shinsky	General	Diane Mitchell	Jazz
Joseph P. McMahon	General	Fairchild, Lebel, and Rice, PC	Jazz
Joyce Weller	General	Fred & Pat Lawless	Jazz
Katharyn A. Barron	General	George Zulakis and Hon. Laura Baird	Jazz
Linda S. Kohl	General	Georgia Curry	Jazz
Marianne List	General	Gerald and Shireen Luther	Jazz
Mary Frances Jozefowicz	General	Heldun & Stephanie Hirschert Walton	Jazz
Mary Lou Evans	General	Jan E. Levine	Jazz
Merry Rosenberg	General	Janice Payne	Jazz
Michael and Sarilda Tackett	General	Janice Tribble	Jazz
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Labovitz	General	Joye Sharp	Jazz
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Coscarelli	General	Julie Horn Alexander & Robert Alexander	Jazz
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Fett	General	L. Barry Kaufman, PH.D	Jazz
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Threadgould	General	Lynda Walker	Jazz
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stocker	General	Margaret Grost & Monica LaSarge	Jazz
Carol Thomas	General	Marge Malarney	Jazz
Doris Ledyard	General	Melissa R. Threadgould	Jazz
Norm Charles	General	Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Hoffman	Jazz
Pat Hepp	General	Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Allen, Jr.	Jazz
Paul Spata	General	Peter and Rose A. Houk	Jazz
Rae Leece	General	Karen Conroy & Dave Russell	Jazz
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Rita Charron	General	Nancy and Frank Manning	Jazz
Roberta & Bob Atkinson	General	Patricia A. T. Quinn	Jazz
Rosalind D. Folman, Ph.D	General	Robert & Kathryn Lovell	Jazz
Samantha Byrne	General	Sandra Mason	Jazz
Sara Bennett	General	Sandy Cain	Jazz
St. Casimir Church	General	Sharon Alston Ellis	Jazz
Sue London	General	Sue London	Jazz
Susan Trojanowicz	General	Sue Safir	Jazz
Terri L. Edick	General	Wendy Campau	Jazz
Whimer Family Endowment	General		
Timmara Tanner	General		
Timothy & Linda Crandall	General		
Vernon & Paula Smith	General		
William and Christine Phipps	General		
William and Meaghan Reed	General		
Wilma & Howard Miller	General		

<http://www.caringaboutkidsinc.org>



DONATIONS

(Continued from Page 5)

Name	Memory	Of
A. John & Alice Vielbig	Memorial	Kenneth Vielbig
Bill and Mary Ann Kelley	Memorial	Virginia Lopez
Dr. Sam and Ms. Susan Mallory	Memorial	Jill Coon
Ed & Melissa Dore	Memorial	Elizabeth Charles
Eloise and Frank Calvaruso	Memorial	Richard Niles
Esther Charles	Memorial	Elizabeth Charles
Gertrude Fish	Memorial	Elizabeth Charles
Julie Ruhala	Memorial	Thomas Ruhala
Linda & Dennis Tanner	Memorial	Elizabeth Charles
Margaret Grost & Monica LaSarge	Memorial	Richard Niles
Melissa R. Threadgould	Memorial	Frank Albrecht
Mobile Communications Services, Inc.	Memorial	Elizabeth Charles
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Niles	Memorial	Virginia Hedden
Lola O'Meara	Memorial	William F. O'Mera
Phyllis Mellon	Memorial	Elizabeth Charles
Nancy Kelley Hammond	Memorial	Margo Pell
Patricia L. Buggia	Memorial	Margo Pell
Steve and Darlene Vagnozzi	Memorial	Lois Vagnozzi
Susan M. Hall	Memorial	Gary Miller
Susan Topping	Memorial	Lynne Croxford
Ute von der Heyden/Paul Wright	Memorial	Margo Pell

Name	In Honor	Of
Dr. Sam and Ms. Susan Mallory	Honor	Rose Houk
Eleanor Doersam	Honor	Margaret Grost
James and Dee Ann Dye	Honor	Houk Family
Jamie & Cindy Knowlton	Honor	Ben & Connie Wickens
Margaret Grost & Monica LaSarge	Honor	Mabel Janke
Margaret L. Lombardi	Honor	Sue London
Melissa R. Threadgould	Honor	Rose Houk
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Ettinger	Honor	Maureen Sorbet
Ben Baldus	Honor	Julie Ruhala
Nancy Kelley Hammond	Honor	Lynn Larson
Robert & Renee Swanson	Honor	Melanie Mayo-Rodgers
Sharon Baisden	Honor	Rose Houk



Where the Money Went 2008

Caring About Kids keeps records of expenditures for individual requests each year. Every foster child in Ingham County is eligible to receive Caring About Kids' funds no matter what agency supervises their care.

Requests for services are approved quickly, and checks are issued by the Ingham County Department of Human Services with funds supplied quarterly by CAK. We helped foster children with a great variety of "things" and services during the past year. Younger children had fewer requests than older children.

In the under 5 year age group, cribs/beds, adoption gifts, swim classes, birthday gifts, sports programs and tutoring were purchased.

Ages 6 through 10 saw support for camps, tutoring, sports, birthdays, and trips.

In the 11 to 15 age group, trips, camps, glasses, beds, school supplies, sports equipment/activities and musical instruments were purchased.

The 16 through 18 age group saw support through the purchase of a calculator, modeling school tuition, Dalmac registration, music lessons, a school class ring, and several trips, camps, and YMCA memberships.

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

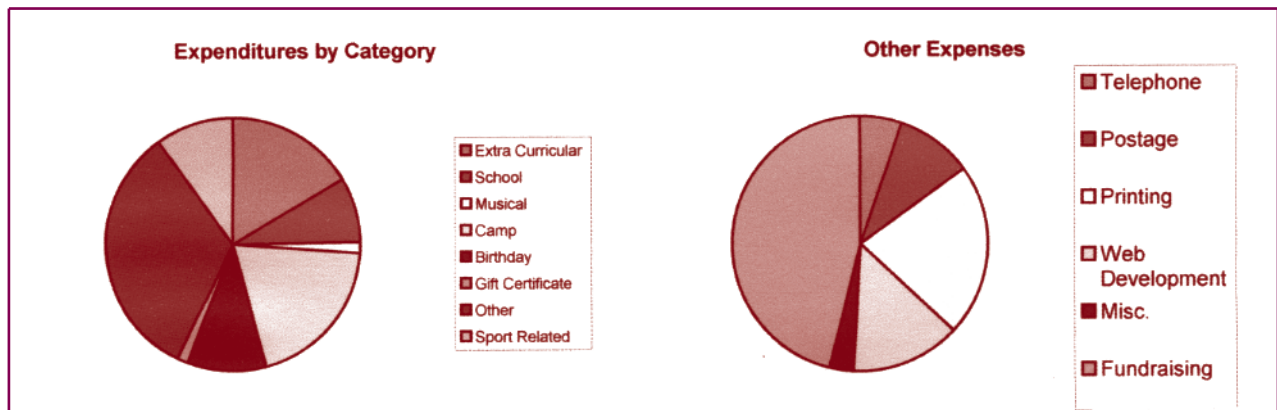
Extra Curricular Activities	\$5,928	School	\$ 4,014
Musical	\$ 112	Camp	\$ 11,041
Birthday	\$ 573	Other	\$ 6,987
Gift Certificates	\$ 500	Sports	\$ 2,321

The listing is certainly not all inclusive, just a good sampling of how your donation is spent. Caring About Kids supports activities that help foster children have a successful childhood. The services and goods that we fund are the same things that you would do for your children.

Other Expenses

Caring About Kids is an all volunteer organization with no office or staff. Our 2008 expenses were:

Telephone	\$560	Postage	\$1039
Printing	\$2346	Web Development	\$1500
Misc.	\$313	Fundraising	\$4953



<http://www.caringaboutkidsinc.org>

We Are Here Because ...

Currently there are more than 700 children in foster care in Ingham County -- more than the population of 2 elementary schools. They are in foster care because they have been neglected, abused or both.

Our mission is to provide foster children with meaningful gifts that are unique to the individual needs of each child by working in partnership with caregivers and case managers, who identify the specific needs of a child; to educate the community about the plight of foster children; and to raise the monies to support these needs by scheduling fundraisers and obtaining donations from the community.



Caring About Kids, Inc. 2009 Board of Directors

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

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



P.O. Box 27014
Lansing, MI 48909-7014
Phone: 517-485-2646

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