
Heart to Heart

Many kinds of donors support GSC's glamorous fundraiser

Tables by Design, held on September 11 at the Elms Hotel, raised over \$26,000 to benefit those in need and the operations of the emergency assistance programs. 26 beautifully designed tables adorned the Grand Ballroom.

Pete and Nancy Rucker offered souvenirs and photographs from their trips to Africa for GSC staff to use in decorating this table. The Ruckers have contributed to Tables by Design as a sponsor for the past two years, but their financial support for GSC programs goes back at least 25 years. "Our living comes from the community and we need to give back," states Nancy. The Ruckers' philosophy of giving is based on this quote attributed to Stephen Grellet, a Quaker missionary.

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."



Over 130 items were offered during the silent auction enabling guests to bid and take home some real treasures. Thanks to James Rojas for entertainment, ICON Event Group for audio/visual resources, and GSC Board Member Glen Smith for MCing. Special, heartfelt thanks to the sponsors at every level, and to the table designers, guests, and patrons.

What a lovely way to share hope!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Good Samaritan Center, entering 32nd year of service

Fall always brings a time of reflection, cleaning and organizing for me.

While straightening a file, I came across a stuffed folder of stories and thank you notes from families we have helped in the last couple of years. Taking the time to read through these and hoping to thin out the file, I found each note showed much insight into how much the Center means to families who have no place else to turn when life takes a tough turn. Needless to say, the folder remains crammed full of these memories and the folder is being moved to a spot where other staff and volunteers might have a chance to be reminded of how much this work means to our clients.

An unexpected memory was brought forward just yesterday as a volunteer was working with us to unload a large order of food and then helping to deliver to seniors and disabled households. Short of our usual Career Center helpers, all staff had come

on board to get the job done alongside the few volunteers. When the job was complete the volunteer came by my office to tell me that he never minded helping here because we had been there for him when he most needed us. Years ago, he was struggling with sobriety and we allowed him to come daily to volunteer. I'm not sure at the time we realized how very important this was for him, but he remembers!

This week, the Affinity Group, owners and developers of the Fishing River Market project, had a celebration to honor Pat Fish, who had owned and operated the Old Towne Mall at that site. As part of the sale of her business she was asked to name a charity which would benefit from the sale. We are so humbled that Pat chose GSC. Pat is a kind and generous person who spent her time in her business helping others that had needs of furniture and sometimes even financial support. We are also feeling grateful that Mike Wrenn and the Affinity Group have made this commitment of support.

As I hear the rolling along of carts in the hallway outside my office, I know how very many hands and hearts walk these halls to share kindness and hope with those who are led to seek help within these halls. I ask that you might consider taking a little time to help us during the fast-approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Good Samaritan Center will always need the support of this community both through the financial support, helping hands, and prayers of others.

Good Samaritan Center Staff and Directors

Staff

Martha Buckman, Executive Director
 Pam Hanser, Broadway Bargains Store Manager
 Jacinda Wiese, Volunteer Coordinator
 Michelle Vasquez, Caseworker
 Jennifer Chappel, Caseworker
 Leslie Brewer, Social Services Assistant
 Crystal Canfield, Custodian
 Dan Paige, Senior Home Repair Director
 Gayle Geiger, Senior Advocate
 Courtney Cole, Grant Writer

Directors

Dan Paige, President
 Ann Case, Vice-President
 Martin Conrad, Secretary
 Robert Hart, Treasurer
 Ambrose Buckman, Heather Gross, Samantha Kilgore,
 Don Ledford, John McGovern, Kelli Rice, Glen Smith,
 Eartha Taylor, Larry Tesar

GSC Summer Art Camp featured Japanese art

Children enrolled in the summer art camp learned about Japanese art and culture thanks to volunteer co-director Shino Meyer. Activities included print making, Japanese calligraphy, paper mache masks, origami, and polka dot painting. Roberta Hammer and Jason Cole were volunteer co-directors. Emily Massey, Delena Holtzclaw, and Mackenzie Cole were helpers. Funding for supplies comes from the Greg Williams Foundation.

During the school year an art class for elementary children is held on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. Adults can attend the Art Room on Mondays at 10:30 am.



Busy manager at Broadway Bargains

Pam Hanser has been managing GSC's thrift store for almost a year. Employed as a cashier at Broadway Bargains for the previous three years in a vocational services program, Pam was in place when a manager was needed. Her prior work experience has been in sales and customer service so she felt comfortable in both positions.

Many challenges face the Broadway Bargains operation and its staff. Primarily the days when donations pile up and there is no room to move in the back room. And those may be days when a volunteer or community service worker may be unavailable. Volunteers are so welcome!

But Pam says the rewards far outnumber the challenges! "Treasures!" she says. Salable items from donor's cast offs, including things rare and valuable. But, the real treasures are the people involved: customers, donors, volunteers... people from every station and walk of life. She considers these friendships to be the real treasures.

Moving to Excelsior Springs four years ago, dealing with the loss of both her parents and her husband, Pam has found "family" here. She shares her apartment with Charlie the cat, and loves to play Cryptograms and watch the History and Travel Channels.

Broadway Bargains provides a service to those in need of clothing and household items as well as a great shopping opportunity for our community and those who visit our town. It's a great way to financially support the emergency assistance programs at Good Samaritan Center. In addition, the store provides a job training program for seniors in our community, supplementing their incomes and providing work experience.



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Good Samaritan Center
of Excelsior Springs MO Inc
108 Thompson Street
Excelsior Springs MO 64024

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #31
Excelsior Springs
MO 64024

HELP!

Pantry helpers on M, T, W and F
Pantry stocking on M, T, W, T and F
Truck Drivers and helpers -
every other Friday afternoon,
occasionally M-F 9:30 to 10:30
Someone to pick up items in KC on
third Tuesday mornings
Thrift Store workers and cashiers
M-S
Custodial Helpers M-F
*For information about volunteering call
630-2718 ext 26 to speak with Jacinda.*

Community Connection: A Day of Hope

The community of Excelsior Springs is providing a day of services for those that are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or those wrestling with poverty. There will be programs to assist with housing solutions, jobs, and health. Soup and chili will be served, haircuts provided, warm blankets, etc. The list of services keeps growing! The planning committee is made up of The Housing Authority, the hospital, Job Corp, Optimists, City Council, GSC, Precious Blood, area churches, and many others. Friday, October 26, 10 am to 2 pm, held at GSC.

We are a



GOLF! Mark the date

May 3, 2019

2018's tournament, with 94 golfers,
raised over \$21,000 to support the
operations of the emergency assistance
programs.

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