



# Balloon Angels

## Lifting Children's Spirits

Winter  
2004

Quarterly Newsletter  
For volunteers and contributors

### Latest Update

Wow! So much has happened since our Fall Newsletter. Free balloons, more volunteers and opportunities for donations are topics of this quarter's newsletter – make sure to read all of the details. It's really an exciting time for our organization as we are truly on the verge of some rapid expansion!

### Non-profit Status Update

As we reported in our last newsletter, we applied for non-profit status with the IRS. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004 it became official – we are now a fully qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization – hurrah! Having this status has already resulted with some tremendous donations from other organizations (see the balloon stories below) and will bring even more new and exciting opportunities for Balloon Angels. We're currently working with 3 different organizations (Northeast Christian Church, Pfizer Inc, and Kiwanis International) on different grants that could bring thousands of dollars to the company to dramatically impact our ability to purchase balloons and helium.



### Focus on our Volunteers...



Sharon Survance is this month's Volunteer of the Month! Sharon has been married to John for 16 years and is the mother of "sweet Drew" who is 11 years old. Sharon is a Louisville native and is has worked for Sysco for 21 years as an administrative assistant. The family enjoys bowling and Sharon also volunteers her time to the Special Olympics.



Sharon first heard about Balloon Angels about a year ago in the Northeast Christian Church newsletter when Balloon Angels was participating in NECC's ServeFest community outreach program.

Unfortunately, Balloon Angels was already full for this initiative. But Sharon persisted – she knew that she wanted to be part of Balloon Angels. You see, Drew had been born 6 weeks premature and had spent 2 weeks at Kosair Children's Hospital and she wanted to do something to give back to the hospital that had helped save Drew. She called Gina and got on the regular schedule.

She still remembers her first day – September 23, 2003. In her own words, Sharon calls her

experience with Balloon Angels a life changing experience. As she delivered the balloons to the kids at Kosair, Sharon felt, for the first time, that God



was with her. As she got ready to leave the hospital, Sharon sat in her car and cried. Sharon explains it, "As the mother of a special needs child, it was easy for me to have a 'pity party' and ask myself, why me? As I sat in my car and cried, I thanked God for Drew with his special needs. He was home and healthy. I really had a new perspective on my life." After that, Sharon talked to everyone about Balloon Angels, friends, family and co-workers at Sysco. She's brought in two of our other best volunteers, Sara Dearing and Twink Groft. Thanks Sharon for all that you do!

### Our 2nd Anniversary

November marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Balloon Angels! We've come so far in just a couple of years. Thanks to all of the donors and regular volunteers that have made this possible.

### Balloons, Balloons, Balloons!

Once we received our non-profit status, Gina McQuillen sent out a few emails to balloon manufacturers to tell them about Balloon Angels and to see if they would be interested in helping us out with our mission. What a great idea that turned out to be! Two of the three manufacturers were so impressed with what



our organization does that they agreed to send out shipments of free balloons! We received over 2,000 free balloons from Anagram Intl. and CTI Ind. by the middle of October. At the beginning of December, Anagram sent us another 3,300 Christmas balloons! Wow – over 5,000 balloons in just a couple of months!



## Special Events!

**Kingdom Assignment II** – On December 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> approximately 75 new volunteers from Northeast Christian Church will volunteer to serve with Balloon Angels. This is our third year of participating in NECC's community outreach programs. This year, on each of the three dates, volunteers will deliver about 200 balloons to



kids at Kosair. What's really exciting is that so far, about 80-90% of the KAll volunteers want to join Balloon Angels on a regular basis!

**Griffin's Big Balloon Day** – On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Balloon Angels team, members of Lisa Lee's family and volunteers from Middletown United Methodist Church got together for Griffin's Big Balloon Day at Kosair Children's Hospital. This



annual event is named in memory of Griffin Lee, son of Balloon Angels volunteers Rob and Lisa Lee. This event is unique because it is the only time that we deliver the large, colorful, 28-inch character balloons and the kids really love them! This event is also a great way to remember Griffin. It's quite a site to see over 200 large character balloons floating throughout the halls of Kosair.

## 1,000 Balloons to kids in the Month of December!

Thanks to the free balloons, we were able to really reach out to kids in the month of December. WE HAD OUR FIRST MONTH OF DELIVERING OVER 1,000 BALLOONS! What an accomplishment! Thanks again to all of our volunteers.

## The Balloon Angels Official Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide free helium filled Mylar balloons, cards and other small gifts to hospitalized, ill or injured children in our community. There is no charge to the patients, the parents or to the hospitals that receive the balloons. We pursue this mission through donations from individuals and corporations and the vast majority of donations received will go directly to purchasing, storing or delivering balloons. Our hope is that our gift of a balloon will help to lift the child's spirits, put a smile on their face and, if only for a little while, help make that stay in the hospital a little brighter place to be.

## Suggestions & Comments for our next Newsletter?

If you have any ideas for our newsletter, please contact Gary McQuillen at (502) 253-0855 or at [gary@balloonangels.org](mailto:gary@balloonangels.org)



### PLEDGE CARD – I WANT TO HELP!

I would like to be part of Balloon Angels. I am interested in:

Volunteering – call us at (502) 253-0855 or email us at [gary@balloonangels.org](mailto:gary@balloonangels.org) or send us your name and telephone number to the address below.

Contributing – We're able to buy balloons at greatly reduced prices. Our average balloon cost is about 50 cents. Please send your tax-deductible donation to the address below.

Helping start a local chapter of Balloon Angels – We're looking to expand Balloon Angels in other cities and we need your help. Call us at (502) 253-0855 or email us at [gary@balloonangels.org](mailto:gary@balloonangels.org) or send us your name and telephone number to the address below.

**Contact Information. Make your check payable to:**  
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