



Balloon Angels

Lifting Children's Spirits

Spring
2005

Quarterly Newsletter
For volunteers and contributors

Quarterly Update



— “So much has happened since our Fall Newsletter. Free balloons, more volunteers and opportunities for donations are topics of this quarter’s newsletter.” This was the opening to our Winter 2004 Newsletter, and nothing has changed! We continue to grow at a record rate. We were awarded our first two financial grants for a total of \$8,000! We’ve more than doubled the balloons we were taking to Kosair Children’s Hospital and looking to start taking balloons to other hospitals. Check out the details inside this month’s newsletter! We need our volunteers and contributors more than ever!

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.

Focus on our Volunteers...



Colleen Nethery is this month’s Volunteer of the Month! Colleen has been married to Howard for over 22 years. Since Colleen is one of our most active and involved

volunteers, a special thanks goes to Howard for his understanding and patience in supporting Colleen for the time commitment that she puts into Balloon Angels. Colleen and Howard have four children, Scott (33), Doug (31), Jackie (21) and Daniel (19) and enjoy spending time with



Colleen’s daughter Jackie is also a volunteer

their golden retrievers Chloe and Argo who Colleen affectionately calls a couple of “mischief makers”.

Colleen came to Balloon Angels through Northeast Christian Church where she has been a member for seven years. She found out about Balloon Angels through the ServeFest community outreach initiative in November of 2003. At that time, her girls were graduating and she was

looking for something else to get involved in. Since Colleen is the oldest of eight brothers and sisters, working and being involved with children was a natural fit.



Colleen and Vicki Campbell, RN at Baptist East Hospital.

Over the last year and a half, Colleen has stepped up her commitment to the Balloon Angels

organization. First, Colleen is a regular volunteer at Kosairs. She has also volunteered to be our lead volunteer with Baptist East Hospital. She takes balloons to that hospital every Monday and Friday with a small group of other volunteers. She has also volunteered to help work with new volunteers on large initiatives such as ServeFest or Griffin’s Big Balloon Day. Most recently, Colleen was asked to join the Balloon Angels Board of Directors. She accepted and became official January 1st, 2005.



Colleen leads a group of new volunteers through Kosairs

Thanks Colleen for all that you do!

Volunteer Alert – Please, please, please, check with your employer to see if they offer grants for supporting your volunteer service in the community or if they will match contributions that you make to non-profit organizations. This has the potential to greatly impact our fundraising abilities!

Welcome to our new volunteers!

The following volunteers have completed their TB tests and their orientation class (required by Kosairs): Jamie Clark, Meg Demuth, Ginni Gittli, Vicky Hoskison, Amanda Hsieh, Lynn Huffine, Mary Leep, Sherri Rose, Denise White, Debbie Hagan and Judi Sikes. Welcome and thank you for joining our team!

Kingdom Assignment II – In December and January, Balloon Angels, Inc. partnered with Northeast Christian Church for their Kingdom Assignment II community outreach initiative. Balloon Angels had 60 new volunteers sign up to help take balloons to Kosair Children’s Hospital. Of those new volunteers, about two-thirds have expressed interest in being part of Balloon Angels on a regular basis!

Grant Update – As a second part of Kingdom Assignment II, Northeast Christian Church made donations to non-profit organizations in the Louisville area. Balloon Angels submitted a



proposal and received a \$7,000 grant to help grow and expand our business and the impact that we have on the community!

We also received a grant for \$1,000 from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

One of Pfizer’s core values is Community and they encourage their employees to be active in the community and will support their volunteerism with financial contributions to those organizations.

If you are aware of any organizations, foundations or community groups that provide grants or funding to community non-profit organizations, please let us know!

Leadership Opportunities – With some initial success in obtaining additional funding, we are ready to start investigating expanding Balloon Angels to additional Louisville hospitals. If you have any friends, family or business contacts in hospital administration in local Louisville hospitals or if you are interested in helping us investigate opportunities to bring



Balloon Angels to new hospitals, call Gina at (502) 253-0855.

Spring Meeting – We’re planning on having a Balloon Angels meeting for all volunteers sometime later this spring. We’ll take the opportunity to update everyone on our current initiatives and set out our plan for the rest of 2005. It will also be a nice opportunity for everyone to get to meet all of the volunteers. Stay tuned for more details.

For our Volunteers – As you all know, our mission is to help put a smile on the face of a hospitalized child. However, as we walk into those rooms, we see the pain and suffering that many of those kids are going through. While our visit may help put a smile on their face, it can leave us feeling emotionally drained and even depressed. To help us deal with these feelings, we’ve worked with Cheri Sorley of North Springs Counseling Ministry to offer a Crisis Intervention Seminar. We’ll discuss topics such as listening and managing conversations, emotional struggles, spiritual approaches to helping others, and taking care of yourself. Our goal is to give each volunteer some information and skills to help us deal with these situations.

Crisis Intervention Seminar

Wednesday, April 13th, 2005, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

We strongly encourage every volunteer to attend if possible. What we discuss and learn will help to make your time spent with Balloon Angels a much more fulfilling experience. Please RSVP either by email or by phone (502) 253-0855. Hope to see you there.

Gina McQuillen
(502) 253-0855
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Comments – If you have an idea

for our newsletter, **please** contact Gary McQuillen at (502) 253-0855 or at 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 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 or send us your name and telephone number to the address below.

Contact Information. Make your check payable to:
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