



Balloon Angels

Lifting Children's Spirits

Summer
2005

Quarterly Newsletter
For volunteers and contributors

Putting A Smile On The Face of a Hospitalized Child.



That's what Balloon Angels is all about. Hospitals can be scary places, especially for kids. 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 be a little brighter place to be.

Our "State of the Union" Update...

Balloons – After some dedicated follow up from founder Gina McQuillen, we've finally been able to establish a direct account with one of the nation's largest balloon manufacturers. What does that mean to Balloon Angels? In the past, our average balloon price has been about a dollar a balloon. Now, with a direct account, we'll have access to clearance balloons that are much less expensive, only about 25¢ per balloon. We'll also have a greater selection of balloons to choose from. It's really a win-win situation for us! Thanks Gina! On a different note, we are currently delivering about 1,000 balloons per month to kids in the hospital – WOW!

Volunteers – Our partnership with Northeast Christian Church and their "Kingdom Assignment II" initiative yielded about 40 new volunteers who were interested in becoming regular, monthly volunteers. Unfortunately, we have lost many of those volunteers. If you fall into that category – we'd love to have you back – give us a call and get on the schedule! The good news is that we have gained 10-15 great new volunteers that are helping us on a regular basis. We're looking to expand Balloon Angels to other hospitals so we always need more volunteers!

Finances – As most of you know, we deliver free helium balloons, to hospitalized or injured children in our community. There is no charge to the patients, the parents or to the hospitals that receive the balloons. This means that we operate completely through donations from individuals and corporations. In last month's newsletter, we asked

you to thoughtfully consider being a regular donor by making a contribution each quarter. Several of you responded to that request and we thank you for your commitment to a regular donation! Volunteers, please check with your employer to see if they offer grants for supporting your community service or if they will match contributions that you make to non-profit organizations. As an example of this, Pfizer has donated almost \$3,000 in grants and matching donations from its employees who are either Balloon Angel volunteers or donors.

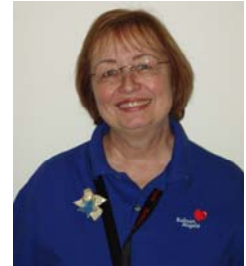


Focus on our Volunteers...



Twink Groft is this month's "Volunteer of the Month". One of the first things everyone asks Twink is, "Is Twink your real name?"

Actually, her name is Twila.



At a very young age her grandfather and her aunt called her Twinkle and it's been Twink ever since. Twink was born and raised in Louisville and has two children, John and Theresa. She also has three grandchildren that she loves and adores, Josh (17), Taylor (13) and McKenzie (8). Twink is an active member at her church Saint Athanasius on the Outer Loop.

Twink is also a member of and is the Vice Queen Mother of a local chapter of the Red Hat Society. Her local chapter is "Caught Red Hatted".

She describes the Red Hat Society as a group of ladies who meet once a month and like to have fun. As you might guess, they wear their red hats and purple dresses and enjoy each other's friendship.



Twink leads a group of new volunteers from Northeast Christian Church.

Twink found out about Balloon Angels through volunteers Sarah Dearing and Sharon Survance (way to go Sarah & Sharon!). Twink said that

Balloon Angels sounded like a wonderful organization and decided to give it a try. She "fell in love with it" that very first night. Twink says that the feeling that she gets is like when you hit that "perfect golf shot" – watching that one special child smile and light up when they get that balloon. She said that's what keeps bringing her back each time.

Over the last year and a half, Twink has really helped Balloon Angels to grow and expand. She is one of our most regular volunteers and is more than willing to help out on short notice if we are low on volunteers. She has also volunteered to help work with and help orient new volunteers on large initiatives such as Northeast Christian Church's "Kingdom Assignment II" where we had over 60 new volunteers.

Thanks Twink for all that you do!

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 are interested in being a lead person for a new local hospital or would be interested in volunteering more than once a month or on a different day of the week (Tuesdays are our weekly Kosair trips), please contact us about this opportunity. Also, 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 these opportunities, call Gina at (502) 253-0855.

Balloon Angels Starts Kosair's ER

– We are happy to announce that effective June 7th we started delivering balloons to Kosair Children's Hospital's Emergency Room. Kosair is the only free-standing, full-service pediatric care facility dedicated exclusively to caring for children in our area. In 2002 (latest data from website) they had 49,760 ER visits! That's almost 1,000 visits a week!



Think of the families that we could help and reach out to. Our 50 balloons each week to the ER seems so small compared to the need, but it's a start. We need more volunteers! Help us! ☺

Successful Yard Sale! – A quick and relatively simple fundraiser turned out to be very successful. The Lake Forest subdivision has two large community yard sales each year – one in the spring and one in the fall. Realizing an opportunity, a quick email to all volunteers resulted in about 10 Balloon Angel families donating their "unwanted treasures" for the yard sale. When the two-day sale was done, we had raised almost \$1,300! Since we count everything in "balloons" that will result in



about 5,000 balloons for hospitalized children! WOW! Thanks to all of the volunteers that contributed their unwanted items and to those volunteers that helped at the yard sale. NOTE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

– do your annual home and garage clean up this summer. We'll be collecting those "unwanted treasures" again for the fall yard sale!

Fall Meeting – We're planning on having a Balloon Angels meeting for all volunteers sometime later this fall. We'll take the opportunity to update everyone on our current initiatives and set out our plan for the rest of 2005 and into 2006. It will also be a nice opportunity for everyone to get to meet all of the volunteers. Stay tuned for more details.

A Group of Volunteers ... get ready to head upstairs at Kosair Children's Hospital. Most of our volunteers donate one Tuesday night a month to deliver balloons to children at Kosairs. We meet



at the hospital at about 6pm and are usually done by 8 or 8:30. Can you donate one night or 2-3 hours a month to help us put a smile on the face of a hospitalized child? If

so, please contact us at:



Gina McQuillen
(502) 253-0855
gary@balloonangels.org

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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