



Balloon Angels

Lifting Children's Spirits

Fall
2005

Quarterly Newsletter
For volunteers and contributors

Balloon Angels Receives the President's Volunteer Service Award

On Monday, Sept. 26th, 2005, the Balloon Angels team was recognized by the Norton Healthcare system and received the President's Volunteer Service Award. While numerous levels of recognition are available, Balloon Angels was one of only two organizations that received the prestigious "Gold Level". This is the highest level of service award, given to organizations that contribute more than 1,000 hours or more of volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.



About the Award

Every day, millions of Americans volunteer, using their time, talents, and compassion to make difference in the lives of others. Americans are helping to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility for generations to come. It is through these acts of kindness and decency that we are able to demonstrate the true character and compassion of our country.



Lisa Lee, Brenda O'Bryan (Kosair),
Gina McQuillen

Background

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush issued a challenge to all Americans to make time to help their neighbors, communities, and Nation through service. He called on each person to dedicate at least 4,000 hours – or two years – to service over the course of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award program is a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

for twenty-two years. They have three children, Leah (18) is a freshman at Murray State University, Julie (17) is a senior at Eastern High School, and Mitchell (11) is a 6th grader at Crosby Middle School. Brenda works part-time at Westport Rd. Baptist Church Preschool and teaches one of the four year old classes. With three very active kids, you can usually catch Brenda driving to, watching or coaching a softball or basketball game. Besides that, Brenda enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and gardening. Brenda is also very involved in her church. She and Gary have been members at Northeast Christian Church for about nine years and Brenda was involved in the children's ministry program for about six years.



Brenda has been a very active Balloon Angel's volunteer for since the beginning, three years ago. Like most of our volunteers, Brenda volunteers one Tuesday night a month to take balloons to children at Kosair Children's Hospital. However, Brenda is also part of a small team of Balloon Angel volunteers that take balloons to children at Baptist Hospital East every Monday and Friday morning. When asked why she volunteers her time Brenda replied that, "I volunteer with Balloon Angels to let the children know that someone cares." Brenda knows that some of the children at Kosair Children's Hospital spend time alone and may not have the family support structure that all children need to feel loved.

Brenda is also responsible for one of Balloon Angels newest hospitals that we deliver balloons to. Brenda urged the board of directors of Balloon Angels to start delivering balloons to Louisville based Home of the Innocents. "I wanted to see Balloon Angels serve Home of the Innocents because all children are precious in God's eyes and none deserve to be forgotten. My blessings are too numerous to count and this is one way that I can give back. It's fun and rewarding." Brenda has volunteered to be the lead contact with the Home of the Innocents. In



Focus on our Volunteers...

Brenda Wood is this month's "Volunteer of the Month". Brenda has been in the Louisville area for the last 13 years and has been married to her husband Gary

July, Balloon Angels started delivering about fifty balloons each month to Home of the Innocents.

Thanks Brenda 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. If you have friends that are interested in becoming Balloon Angel volunteers, let us know!

Balloon Angels Starts Home of the Innocents

– We are happy to announce that effective July we started delivering balloons to Home of the Innocents. This organization opens its doors for children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. Some of the children live at their Joan E. Thomas children's village. While there, children receive round-the-clock care and counseling. Their Childkind Center also provides services throughout the Louisville metro area. They help families on the verge of breakup due to a variety of issues. They are providing in school and in home support to autistic children and their families. And their Therapeutic Loving foster Care program is dedicated to finding forever families for many of these displaced children.



Home of the Innocents is also there for children who are medically fragile, technology dependent, or terminally ill. Their Kosair Charities Pediatric Convalescent Center is this region's only long-term residential facility for kids, ages infant to 21, with physical and/or developmental disabilities. For 125 years, Home of the Innocents has been the answer for many of our community's vulnerable children.

Fall Repeat - Successful Yard Sale!

Earlier this year, Balloon Angel volunteers donated their unwanted treasures for the first ever "Balloon Angel's Yard Sale". Taking advantage of the Lake Forest subdivision's community yard sale, about 10 Balloon Angel families donated their goods and we raised almost \$1,300! We participated again in the fall Lake Forest yard sale and this time we raised almost \$1,800! A special thanks to volunteer Brenda Brackmann who donated about 25 boxes of items for us to sell!



THANKS BRENDA! NOTE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS – do your annual home and garage clean up this winter - we'll be collecting those "unwanted treasures" again for the next spring yard sale!

Balloon Angels Walk-a-thon – We are in the very early stages of planning a 5K Walk-a-thon fundraiser for the Spring of 2006. If you are interested in helping, give us a call at (502) 253-0855.

Winter Meeting – We're planning on having a Balloon Angels meeting for all volunteers this winter. We'll take the opportunity to update everyone on our current initiatives and set out our plan for 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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