

Balloon Angels

Lifting Children's Spirits

Winter
2005

Quarterly Newsletter
For volunteers and contributors

Making Impact – Changing Lives

While Balloon Angel volunteers routinely get to see the smiles, the impact and the difference that they make with their gift of volunteerism, as donors, some of you may wonder how your donations impact the lives of the children that receive our simple gift of a free balloon. We would like to share with you a story about one of these children.



The 7th floor of Kosair Children's Hospital is the oncology unit and as you can imagine, many of the children that are patients in this unit end up considering Kosair Children's Hospital "home" because they can sometimes be there for months at a time. One of those patients was a young 14 year old girl that had been diagnosed with cancer at 12 and had been up on the 7th floor for months. She absolutely loved balloons and every Tuesday she would receive another balloon from Balloon Angels. She always picked either a "smiley face" or a "star" balloon. In late January, God called her home and she passed away, but before that happened, she decided to make a difference for other children at Kosair Children's Hospital. For her funeral arrangements, she asked her parents to ask friends and family members to send balloons instead of flowers to the funeral. After the funeral, she then asked her parents to donate the balloons to Balloon Angels so that they could take them to other children at Kosair Children's Hospital. And that's what we recently did – we gave over 200 "smiley face" and "star" balloons to kids at Kosair's. We considered it an honor and privilege to help one of her final requests come true. Wow.



As we begin our 4th year of delivering balloons to hospitalized children, we would like to say thanks to all of you who make donations and to our great team of volunteers!

Focus on our Volunteers...



Lisa Lee is this month's "Volunteer of the Month". Lisa was born and raised in



Kentucky, graduated from Eastern Kentucky University and married her college sweet heart, Robb Lee. They have four children, Hannah, Griffin, Malone and Garrett. Lisa teaches at Middletown Christian preschool.

For the last 3 years, Lisa has been an integral part of the Balloon Angels team. As one of the original team of volunteers, Lisa's contributions to Balloon Angels are unmatched in our organization. In early 2003, Lisa played a critical role in helping Balloon Angels incorporate into a nonprofit organization. She passed on her enthusiasm and excitement about Balloon Angels to her friends, family and fellow church members – and they responded. Lisa's bible study group at Middletown United Methodist Church "adopted" Balloon Angels as their charity for the year and together, they raised over \$2,500 for Balloon Angels that first year in 2003. We also gained numerous volunteers from MUMC. Lisa's family has also been very involved and supportive of Balloon Angels. In fact, Doug Lee, her father-in-law, donated the funds for our very first helium tank back in the spring of 2003. Each year, Lisa and Robb's families turn out for Griffin's Big Balloon Day – a celebration of the life of Lisa and Robb's son, Griffin Lee, and the anniversary of the start of Balloon Angels. Since the incorporation of Balloon Angels, Lisa has served on the Board of Directors and has served as both President and Vice President of the company.



It is with very mixed emotions that we announce that Lisa and Robb will be relocating out of the Louisville area. While we are happy for the opportunities that this relocation will bring for them and their family, they will be greatly missed by the rest of the Balloon Angels team.

Thanks Lisa for all that you have given to Balloon Angels!

Angels "Reach Out" Initiative – "Why did I receive two Balloon Angel newsletters this quarter?" The answer is simple. We would like you to share Balloon Angels with a friend, family member or neighbor. Give them the newsletter and share with them why you donate your time or

Angels "Reach Out" Initiative (cont).

– financial support to our organization. We are always in need of financial support and more volunteers and you can help us "Reach Out" to the community you live in.

Our mission is to provide free helium filled Mylar balloons to hospitalized 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.

If you are one of the "friends, family members or neighbors" of one of our current volunteers or donors, we hope you enjoyed this issue of our quarterly newsletter and would love to have you join our team, as either a volunteer or as a donor. We deliver balloons each Tuesday night and most of our volunteers serve one night a month. It's a great opportunity to serve your community and to meet some really neat kids. There is nothing like the smile that appears on the face of a child as they watch a huge bouquet of balloons go down the hospital hall and learn that their room is the next stop for the Balloon Angels – they even get to pick their own balloon! If you are one of our regular volunteers or donors, thanks for "reaching out" and helping us spread the word of what we do at Balloon Angels.

Spring is almost here! That means its yard sale time! We never thought that yard sales – but it has! In 2005, we raised about \$3,000 from our spring and fall yard sales. Think about it, we take your unwanted items, sell them and then buy balloons for hospitalized kids. Some have already donated items for the spring sale - but we need more! Call Gina at (502) 253-0855.



Kiwanis helps the Balloon Angels team – Ron Soellner, Lieutenant Governor of the St. Mathews chapter of the Kiwanis club, presents a check for \$500 to Balloon



Angels president Gina McQuillen. Kiwanis International is an organization of service-minded men and women who respond to the unique needs of their communities and address worldwide issues by "Serving the Children of the World." Thousands



of Kiwanis clubs support Young Children: Priority One — a continuing service program focusing on the needs of children. As you can see, their work fits in perfectly with the goals and mission of Balloon Angels. Thanks Ron for working with your organization and ensuring that the grant went through.

Winter Get Together

Many volunteers serve only one day a month and rarely get to meet or know the rest of the team. On Sunday, December 11, we took the opportunity to get together, meet each other and celebrate the Christmas holiday!



We Want YOU... Not for the Army, for Balloon Angels! We need your help. We're looking to expand to additional hospitals in the Louisville area and even possibly to other metro areas such as Indianapolis, Cincinnati or Lexington. If you or someone you know has a heart for children and may be interested in helping us get started, 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 would like to be part of Balloon Angels. I am interested in:

Volunteering. I would like to become a volunteer. Contact me at:

Name:			
Address:			
City:	St.	Zip	
Phone:			
Email:			

Contributing. Balloon Angels is able to buy balloons at greatly reduced prices. Our average balloon cost is about 50 cents. I want to help by donating enough to purchase the following number of balloons:

<input type="checkbox"/> 20 balloons = a \$10 donation	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 balloons = a \$25 donation	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 balloons = a \$50 donation	<input type="checkbox"/> other amount: \$_____
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Make your pledge card and/or check payable to:
Balloon Angels, c/o Gina McQuillen, 910 Bridgecreek Rd., Louisville, KY 40245