



Balloon Angels

Lifting Children's Spirits

Winter
2006

Quarterly Newsletter
For volunteers and contributors

Focus on our Volunteers...



Georgia McDaniel is this month's "Volunteers of the Month". Georgia was born and raised in Louisville, KY and has lived in Louisville most all of her life. She graduated from Eastern KY University with a major in Criminal Justice and went to work as a State

Probation and Parole Officer in Jefferson County in 1977. She held numerous positions in Probation and Parole and was finally promoted to the Assistant Director of Probation and Parole for the entire state and went off to Frankfort to work. Georgia says that her career was interesting and she enjoyed working with the courts, judges



and law enforcement. Georgia retired in 2004 with twenty seven years of service. Since retirement, Georgia has been a substitute teacher in Jefferson County elementary schools. She says that she especially loves kindergarten and first grade.



Georgia is very close to her two sisters and brother. She also has one niece and two nephews. While she doesn't have children of her own, Georgia loves kids. Georgia's #1 hobby is reading. She has been in a book club now for 10 years and reads about a book a week! A couple of her favorite books are *The Good Earth*, *The Poisonwood Bible*, and *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Georgia also loves to travel. She enjoys going to Florida, Maine, California and the Caribbean and would love to someday visit Alaska and Italy.



Georgia has been an active member at Northeast Christian Church since 2002. In her own words, "The church gave so much to me and helped me, I knew I needed to get out in the community and volunteer to help others." She began volunteering at Kosair Children's Hospital after the first Kingdom Assignment with Northeast Christian Church. She volunteers at the Gift Shop one night a month. She says, "I remember being in the gift shop and seeing all the

Balloon Angels pass by with hundreds of balloons. You have to smile; it is such a heart-warming scene! I asked Gina about Balloon Angels and I knew it was something I would enjoy." Georgia has been volunteering with Balloon Angels for approximately one year. When asked how she felt after giving out her first balloon, she said, "WOW! It warmed my heart and gave me goose bumps! It makes the children smile and the parents and nurses are so grateful." What keeps her coming back to help with Balloon Angels? "I love the children and seeing the happiness the balloons give them. It is so fun to help a child pick out the "perfect balloon" and it is fantastic to get a smile. Volunteer work helps me get the focus off of myself and on to others and God."



What is a Georgia balloon? We'll let Georgia tell you. "It is such a pleasure to work with the other volunteers. We have such a good time blowing up all the balloons! On my first night of volunteering, I did not tie the string on to the balloons tight enough and balloons kept escaping... NOW, every time we have an "escaped" balloon, even if I am not there, all the other volunteers say, 'well there goes a Georgia balloon!'" Georgia is always available to help with special events and all of our recruiting initiatives. Thanks Georgia for all that you do!



4 Year Anniversary...

November 2006 marks the 4 year anniversary of Balloon Angels! Back in November of 2002 a small group of volunteers from Northeast Christian Church went out and delivered 10 balloons to the pediatric unit at Baptist Hospital East in response to the Kingdom Assignment initiative at the church. That same simple idea – giving a hospitalized child a free balloon – continues today with Balloon Angels. Over the last 4 years we have given out approximately 30,000 free balloons to children in Louisville area hospitals. Thanks to all of you who have helped make this happen!

Balloon Angels in training...

Back in November, we received a call from a student at Morehead State University. Christy Howle was organizing a community service project



for a group of Morehead students. Their plan was to visit children at the

Kentucky Children's Hospital on November 29th, spend some time with the kids and take in goodie bags with activities, candy, coloring books, etc. They had been trying to get balloons donated and



were having difficulty because they were not a nonprofit organization. Christy contacted us and asked if we might be able to donate 60 balloons to them. Within a couple of days, 60 balloons were sent and the students from Morehead State gave them out to the kids at Kentucky Children's Hospital. Christy sent us some pictures and said that "Our day at the hospital was awesome! The kids loved everything and it was so nice to see them smile!" Who knows? Maybe some day one of those students will be a regular volunteer with Balloon Angels at Kentucky Children's Hospital.

Balloon Angels start at Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington!

We are launching Balloon Angels at the University of Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington! On November 13th, 2006 we held our first orientation for new volunteers and had about 20 new volunteers attend the orientation. We are planning



a second orientation after the holidays, probably in January 2007. If you, a friend or a relative are interested in volunteering with Balloon Angels in Lexington, call us at (502) 253-0855 or

email us at gary@balloonangels.org. Our goal is to complete the orientation process and start delivering balloons in January.

Kentucky Children's Hospital is part of UK HealthCare offers a comprehensive list of pediatric services under one roof. It includes a 12-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), 50 bed NICU, 44 acute care (non-ICU) rooms, 26 bed normal newborn nursery, and 8 -10 beds devoted to 23 hour admissions/observation. Each year, the pediatric clinic has over 46,000 patient visits.

Friends or relatives in Cincinnati or Indianapolis?

Still looking for volunteers to help us get Balloon Angels started in these cities. If you and 2-3 friends are interested – that's all it takes! The 3-4 of you can start delivering balloons once or twice a month at the children's hospitals in those areas. Balloon Angels will make all of the contacts and help everything get started – all you have to do is hand out balloons and watch the smiles ☺!!!



Visit our new Balloon Angels website!

Check us out at www.balloonangels.org. You can find out how we got started, about our volunteers and even some of our accomplishments. You can also find copies of all of our old newsletters. We're also trying to keep an updated calendar for future events. One of the best new features is our picture and comments section. You can view pictures of our volunteers and events and you can read comments from patients and their parents that have received our balloons.



You can also read comments from hospital administrators and from our current volunteers. So stop by and visit us at www.balloonangels.org.

Do you have a heart for kids? If so, we would love to have you on our team! We can always use your help. If you or someone you know has a heart for children and may be interested in helping us get started give us a call! If you live in Louisville, Lexington, Cincinnati, Indianapolis we need your help! If you live outside of this area and you or someone you know may be interested in helping get started in your area, let us know!

Comments – If you have an idea for our newsletter, contact Gary McQuillen at gary@balloonangels.org