



Balloon Angels

Lifting Children's Spirits

Spring
2007

Quarterly Newsletter
For volunteers and contributors

Focus on our Volunteers...

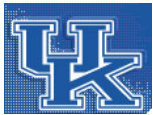


Andrew Lane and Tara Bottom are this month's "Volunteers of the Month". Tara is a Kentucky native and was born and raised in Pike County. Andrew was born in Burke, South



Dakota and moved to Northern KY at age 10. After growing up in the "Bluegrass State", Tara graduated with a BS degree

in computer science from Eastern Kentucky University in 2002 and Andrew first got his bachelor's degree in computer science & mathematics from UK in 2004 and then his



Master's degree in computer science from U of L in 2006 (wonder who he's cheering for this March Madness?). Both Andrew and Tara work in the computer field with Andrew working

as a software developer for Humana and Tara working for LeapFrog Interactive as a software developer.

EXCITING NEWS! In July of last year, Tara and Andrew got engaged! They met and were introduced by mutual friends at a dinner party in Northern KY in 2003. They have been together now for over three years and will be getting married on June 16th of this year! Congratulations Andrew and Tara!



For hobbies Andrew enjoys sports, reading and programming (sounds like work) and Tara enjoys reading and spends a lot of her time planning the wedding.



Tara and Andrew first got involved with Balloon Angels back in December 2005 when their life group decided to do a community service project and chose

Balloon Angels. They must have enjoyed it because they came back about six months later for ServeFest 2006. ServeFest is a community outreach initiative conducted by Northeast Christian Church (www.necchurch.org). Since then, they've been regular volunteers with Balloon Angels. We always ask our volunteers what their thoughts were after giving out their first balloon to a hospitalized child.

Andrew says that, "I felt very satisfied to be part of something that brings happiness to sick children," and Tara's response was, "I felt a great sense of joy at making a child in the hospital smile. I was also surprised at how easy it was. I was a



little nervous to walk into someone's hospital room for the first time, but the kids are so excited to see that big batch of balloons, and the parents are happy to see you too. So, the nervousness quickly faded away."

As you read this newsletter, we hope that you'll share Balloon Angels with your friends and family – Tara did. She shared her volunteer efforts with Balloon Angels with Lisa Thompson, a friend from Lexington. Since we were starting Balloon Angels at UK Children's Hospital in Lexington, Lisa and several of her friends were interested, contacted us, attended an orientation and are now ready to help us deliver balloons to hospitalized kids in Lexington. Thanks Tara for sharing Balloon Angels with your friends and family. Thanks to both Tara and Andrew for everything you do with Balloon Angels!

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

February 22nd, 2007. Balloon Angels had our first night of delivering balloons to children at Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington! We had seven volunteers that that walked through the hospital



and handed out about 75 balloons to the kids. We've got two volunteers who have stepped up and have agreed to be our "co-lead" volunteers for UK Children's Hospital. Tammy Tipton and Dominique Wales have made the commitment to help us start Balloon Angels in Lexington. THANK YOU! Initially



we'll be delivering balloons once a month until we have a few more oriented volunteers that are ready to go. Our goal is to be delivering balloons

each week at this hospital. We've had approximately 30 volunteers attend an orientation meeting and are in the process of completing their TB test requirements from the hospital. We still need more volunteers and will be planning additional orientations for Lexington, so if you know someone that may be interested in giving out balloons, let us know at (502) 253-0855 or at gary@balloonangels.org.



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 nurseries, 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?

One of our current Balloon Angel volunteers is relocating to Indianapolis this summer and has agreed to help us get Balloon Angels started up at Riley Hospital for Children. That's **EXCITING!** For those of you living in Indy or with friends & family in Indy help us spread the word and find volunteers for Balloon Angels for Riley Children's Hospital.



Balloon Angels Appears in the Southeast Outlook!

Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY has a weekly



newspaper that has a circulation of about 70,000 in the Louisville metro area. Ruth Schenk wrote the cover story for the February 22, 2007 issue titled "Lifting Their Spirits". Ruth met one of the Balloon

Angel teams at Kosair Children's Hospital and spent about an hour watching the volunteers and the children interact. Her article focuses on a typical visit to Kosair Children's Hospital by Balloon Angel volunteers. Read the complete article attached with this month's newsletter!

Pfizer, Balloon Angels & the United Way

The Balloon Angels United Way initiative is off to a great start in 2007. In 2006, 8 Pfizer employees made the decision to allocate part of their United Way contributions to Balloon Angels. Their contributions added up to almost \$4,000 in 2006. This year the number of Pfizer



employees almost tripled as 23 employees will make donations to Balloon Angels through United Way payroll deductions! This is now our #1



fundraising activity and will result in almost \$8,000 being donated to Balloon Angels this year! THANK YOU to all of those Pfizer employees that participate! Allocating a small percentage of your paycheck to Balloon Angels, Inc. through the United Way is a very easy and convenient way to make a regular donation to Balloon Angels. And YES, your contributions to either the United Way or directly to Balloon Angels are tax deductible!

Spring is here! That means its yard sale time! Balloon Angels will participate in the Lake Forest Spring Yard Sale in May. We never thought



that yard sales would be one of our best fundraisers – but it is! In 2005 & 2006 we've raised about \$3,000 from our spring and fall yard sales. We take your unwanted items, sell them, and then buy balloons for hospitalized kids – it's a wonderful gift, but **WE NEED YOUR STUFF!** ☺ We have a couple of months before the sale, be we need more! Call Gina at (502) 253-0855 and we will arrange a time to come to your house and pick up those items.

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