

Save the Date

11th Annual Come Home for the Holidays

Friday, November 6th, 2009
6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Brookside Golf and Country Club
Silent Auction and Wine/Beer Tasting

More information coming soon—please contact Rozanne Landers at rlanders@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org for sponsorship or silent auction donation information.

Swan Cleaners Partners with HFF

The next time you stop into any central Ohio Swan Cleaners, take a moment to notice the counter collection boxes that benefit the Homeless Families Foundation! You can even save money on Swan services while contributing to HFF.

The Swan Cleaners Clean Break Discount Card is easy and saves you money! As a Clean Break Discount cardholder, you can earn a Swan sticker with every paid \$20 order. When your Clean Break Discount Card is full, you get \$20 worth of Swan services. If your order is close to \$20, you can receive a sticker by donating the difference to the Homeless Families Foundation (up to \$1.00).

Thank you, Swan Cleaners and Project Chairwoman Karen Houk!

We are grateful to Hopkins Printing and Northwest Printing for the design and printing of the newsletters.

www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org



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www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org

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The Homeless Families Foundation receives support from the Community Shelter Board and its funders, which include the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, and the United Way of Central Ohio, supplementing the most generous donations of numerous individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations.



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from the Executive Director...



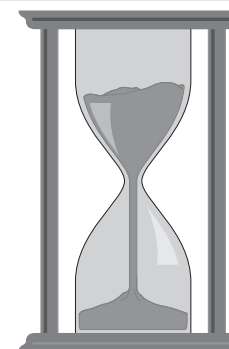
Dear Friends,

I, for one, am thrilled to say farewell to winter. Spring always brings a sense of new optimism that better times are imminent, and at the Homeless Families Foundation we look forward to this season of new beginnings. Churches and service organizations ensure that our children are visited by the Easter Bunny, and food is provided for families to create their own plentiful Easter meals.

Your ongoing support of our mission is especially critical this year. Our doorbell is always ringing. Families in our community are facing an uncertain future. This uncertainty is even more stressful because of the bleak economic picture. Families who never dreamed that they would need to seek the safety of shelter are now knocking on our door, hoping that it will open to a bright future of self-sufficiency.

We can provide this hope and promise of spring to families in need, with your continued support. Thank you for all you do to help homeless families in Central Ohio.

Adrienne Corbett



With the April 15 tax deadline looming and the economy headlines on the nightly news, personal money issues are in the forefronts of most Americans' minds. Estate planning is an important step in personal finances that many delay in completing; in fact, designating recipients of your tangible and financial assets is a gift to ease the burden on loved ones at a difficult time. The Homeless Families Foundation humbly accepts estate designations. For more information, please contact Rozanne Landers at 461-9247 or via e-mail at rlanders@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org

The Homeless Families Foundation is proud to welcome two new members to the Board of Trustees.

Bob Sorrell, President of Sorrell & Co. Realtors, comes to HFF with twenty years' experience in real estate and appraising. An OSU graduate, his interest in helping families in housing crises began long ago; Bob's fondest memories of his working years are those matching families in need with government-owned, repossessed homes. He is a former Board Director of the Upper Arlington Rotary Club, the Upper Arlington Civic Association, Upper Arlington Leadership Program, and the Franklin County Republican Central Committee serving the Upper Arlington ward. In his down time, Bob enjoys sailing and boating with his family on Lake Erie.

Subha Ramesh, Vice President of Real Estate for the Limited, returns to the HFF Board of Trustees after two years away. During her time with HFF, Subha has put her experience in research and strategic planning to work as Board Treasurer and member of the Strategic Planning committee. Outside of work, Subha enjoys spending time with her son, traveling and hiking.

The Homeless Families Foundation welcomes both Bob and Subha to the Board!

SEEN & HEARD: *"Thank you for making my daughter's birthday special!"* –HFF resident family, after receiving UA Birthday Club gifts

SEEN & HEARD: *"Is that for ME?!"* –2 year old resident Aaliyah, upon seeing her birthday cake and gift donated by the UA Birthday Club



The Homeless Families Foundation Spring Benefit

Graciously hosted by Sharon and Michael DeAscentis

Thursday, May 7 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy food, wine, and opportunities to learn more about the Homeless Families Foundation. The Dowd Center Children's Chorus will perform. Board member Lou Seipel will speak on "Poverty: Not What You Think It Is."

For ticket and sponsorship information, contact Rozanne Landers at 461-9247 or rlanders@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org.

Platinum Sponsor	AEP American Electric Power	Friends	Bird-Houk Collaborative Kathy and Jim Rutherford
Event Sponsor	Limited Brands Foundation	In-Kind Supporters	Daisy Basket Hoggy's Catering Hopkins Printing Just Be Clutter Free Lifestyle Communities Parking Solutions
Event Partners	Battelle Columbia Gas of Ohio Hexion Specialty Chemicals	Event Co-Chairpersons	Sharon DeAscentis Jaqi Howard Michele McIntire Garnet Mitchell
Event Leaders	Amy and Jim Chapman Lou Ann and Buss Ransom White Castle Systems		
Benefactors	Grange Insurance Company Huntington Bank Nationwide Lynne and Steve Smith		

Going for the Gold

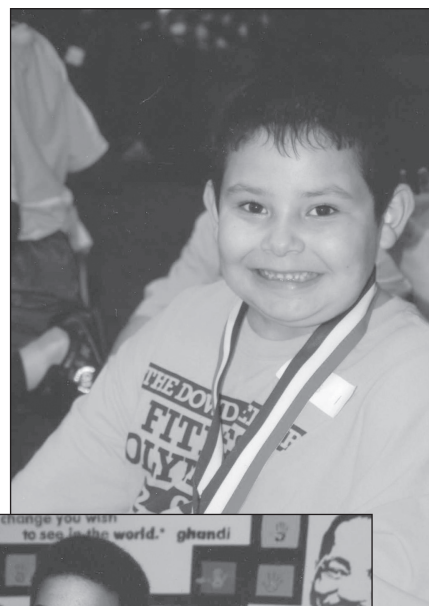
High fives and smiles abounded at the 2nd Annual Dowd Center Olympics held February 28th. Once again this year, over 40 children in grades K-8 donned brand new orange and blue uniforms to participate in physical fitness contests, health assessments, and nutritional education.

Enthusiastic participants trained up to 3 times a week, in conjunction with Children's Hunger Alliance's CATCH physical education program and including three Saturday afternoons, for events including the broad jump, sit-up challenge, and indoor sprints.

The day full of fun and fitness also included a full healthy lunch. At the end of the day, each child was recognized with participant medals to the roaring sound of cheers from friends, HFF staff, and family members, while top finishers received ribbons. The most valuable prizes of the day, though, were the lessons learned.

"These kids are learning how to cooperate, take direction, and focus on goals. They are learning how to get along together in a sports setting, and how to accept success and defeat. It all boils down to demonstrating good sportsmanship, and for many, this is their only exposure to team sports," noted Gale Hacker, Dowd Center Director. "It's great to see them challenging each other in a positive way, cheering each other on." Special thanks go to the following volunteers for making the 2nd Annual Dowd Olympics a success: David Zid of Columbus Health Works, Erin Spitler, Columbus Rotary, Sue Stillinger of the Winners' League Foundation, Jason Hill of Bohecker College of Nursing, and OSU Rotaract members.

For more information on how to get involved as a volunteer at the Dowd Center, go to www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org and click on "How You Can Help."



Volunteer Spotlight:

Karen Houk



What first interested you in volunteering at HFF?

A few years ago, my husband and son helped Columbus Rotary with the completion of the gym and basketball court. My husband continues to be involved today on the board and my son discovered his gift of helping others while tutoring students weekly and completing his senior thesis by

starting an indoor Olympics at HFF. Seeing the joy they received in helping others inspired me to help in my own way.

What projects have you worked on during your time with HFF?

Last fall, I helped organize a "tailgate" at HFF to cheer on the kids for the new school year which allowed friends from our community to tour the Dowd Center and see what HFF does on a daily basis. The HFF kids loved the brats and hot dogs and participated in a "Script Ohio" performed by past Ohio State band members. Many of our guests, as a result of the tailgate, chose to donate their time, talent, and treasures to HFF. Most recently, I coordinated the placement of cash

boxes to 30 Central Ohio Swan Cleaners locations. Each month, I pick up the donations from the cash boxes and forward to HFF.

Why do you enjoy your volunteer experience?

Even though I am not interacting directly with the families of HFF in my current role of collecting donations from the Swan Cleaners boxes, I feel I am making a contribution to HFF by exposing more people in the Columbus area to the needs and circumstances of homeless families.

What would you say to someone who is considering volunteering with HFF?

By all means, do it! Volunteering at HFF is a great way to involve the entire family. In addition, I recommend that you use your gifts and talents to create something unique that can make a difference. I am always impressed by the HFF staff's openness to new ideas that fit each individual's abilities and time availability. As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a family," and if we each do our own part, no matter how big or small, we all contribute to the success of HFF and the families served.

Resident Support Manager:

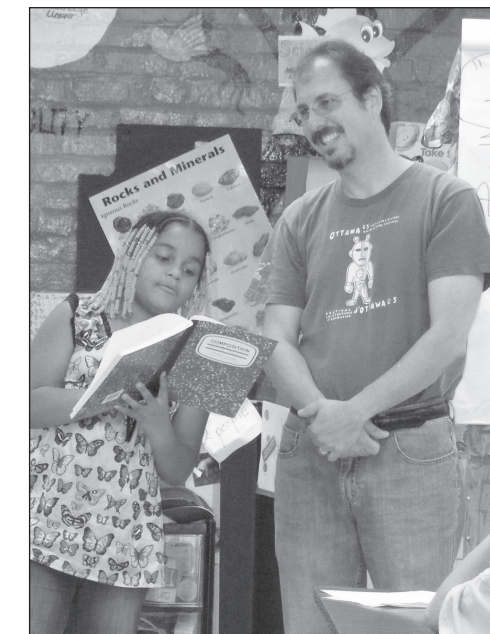
Karie Gallegos

Nearly nine years ago, when Karie Gallegos began at HFF, the organization was much different. Karie has filled the roles of Case Aide, Office Manager, and is currently working as HFF's Resident Support Manager, a position that encompasses anticipating and fulfilling residents' needs while coordinating many special donor and volunteer projects. "I've seen a lot of changes, from the structure of the staff and programs, to the structure of the HFF office itself," Karie notes. "My favorite part of the job is developing personal relationships with the residents. Former families call now and then just to check in and visit, and it's great to know that they consider me a friend."

Karie plays a large role in donor relations, too. As the leader of special holiday projects for residents, Karie coordinates donations and deliveries of Thanksgiving dinners, Easter baskets, and most notably, the HFF Holiday Store items. "This will be the fifth year for our store; last year we had over 180 volunteers and 150 groups work together to provide holiday gifts for 200 children." Karie also coordinates furniture item pick-ups, on-going supply donations, and supervises office volunteers.

While wearing many different hats can be hectic, Karie truly has a heart for her work. "I have really enjoyed the time I've spent at HFF, and look forward to many years to come."

For questions about donations of food, supplies, or furniture items, please call Karie at 461-9247 or e-mail kgallegos@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org.



Thurber House Children's Writer in Residence Alan Silberberg during a teaching session with Dowd Center students. This summer will be the fourth year that Thurber House sends their Children's Writer in Residence to work with Dowd Center 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

SEEN & HEARD: "Keep your spirits high because winners never quit and quitters never win." –Antoinette K., HFF resident

SEEN & HEARD: "If you can't say anything else about yourself, you can definitely say that you are a survivor." –Eumie C., HFF resident