



Families & Friends

Summer 2010

from the Executive Director...



Dear Friends,

Have you been shopping and noticed the Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas merchandise already on display? It seems premature but I must confess that we at HFF are already planning for these special days.

Halloween will be here before we know it. One hundred children are hoping for that special costume. What child doesn't love to have the fun of make-believe?

Our friends at St. Joan of Arc parish are already gearing up for the Thanksgiving food drive. Last year these generous parishioners delivered more than 300 food boxes overflowing with all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner. The remaining food stocked our food pantry for many months.

It is never too early for you, your family, your place of business or worship, and civic groups to remember that homeless children are also dreaming of that "special gift" under the Christmas tree. HFF staff and volunteers transform a storage space into a magical holiday store. Parents "shop" for their children, volunteers assist with wrapping and everyone experiences the joy that giving brings to all of us.

Please consider HFF as the beneficiary of your Christmas giving plans. Help us stock a store with gifts for every child of every age. Please contact Karie at KGallegos@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org for more information. Our website will have a special link that will provide gift buying ideas, deadlines and opportunities to volunteer.

In the meantime, take some time to enjoy the beautiful autumn.

Adrienne Corbett

The difference you make...



The difference you make to the families we help is in knowing they are not alone. You make it possible for our resident support staff to welcome them and help them get set up in their unit. You make it possible for our case managers to work with the adults to find work, be connected with support services, and start the children at the Dowd Education Center (DEC). Staff is available to provide tours of the DEC where you will experience the joy, peace and cooperation among the teachers and students. You will be pleasantly surprised to see how your generosity is helping maintain a place of safety and comfort for the children.

BACK TO SCHOOL

It can't be time for school already . . . more than 100 children received new outfits, backpacks and school supplies for the first day of school. Several of the children also received haircuts donated by friends Kurt and Brad, local barbers. HFF staff and many volunteers shopped for the younger children and accompanied the teens when they shopped. The teenagers made the most of their allowance and turned out to be real bargain shoppers.

Some of the quotes from the kids:

Now that I have everything
I can't wait until the first
day of school.

My new outfit is in my
favorite color.

My new backpack is
beautiful.



Please visit our web site to link to our new video that premiered at our Spring Benefit on April 17, at the Dowd Education Center (<http://www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org/video.html>). The gym was transformed into a garden and friends enjoyed the music of Arnett Howard, silent and live auctions and a buffet of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Tom McNutt was on-hand to sign his book and provide advice.



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Summer Camp



Again, this summer, we had a very successful all-day program for 93 children ages 5 to 15. The children attended a weeklong overnight camp at Camp Wyandot. Most of the children have never enjoyed the adventures of hiking, late night campfires, smores and sleeping under the stars. They are already planning for next years adventures, hoping for another weeklong stay.

People gain so much
hope when they know
they are not
experiencing
something alone.

(Joyce Rupp, Alive Now, pg. 35)

The Success Continues

Last week we received a phone call from Michelle, a former resident with HFF. She wanted to report her status and thank everyone for the help she received to move on and leave an unhealthy relationship. It was 20 years ago when her boys Jason and Joseph were little. She had another little boy after she moved and he is now serving in Korea. With help and encouragement, she managed on her own until she met her husband of 13 years. When asked what she does, she happily replies "travel trailer." She wanted us all to know how very much she appreciates the help she received at HFF.

Save the Date:

Friday, November 5, 2010! Join us for our annual **Come Home for the Holidays** event at Brookside Country Club.



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www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org



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