

# Ozanam News

Helping Children and Families Since 1948

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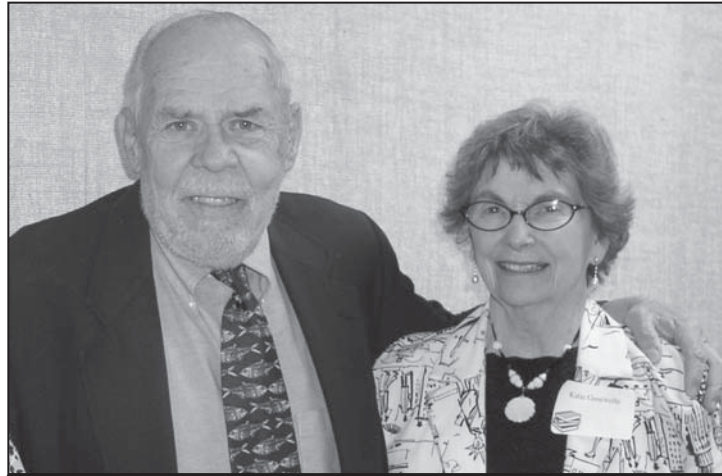
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## Charles Gusewelle Shares His Stories from the Heart

As a renowned journalist and worldwide traveler, Charles Gusewelle is recognized for his work as an author, documentarian, and longtime writer for *The Kansas City Star*. Naturally, he has accumulated an assortment of stories throughout the years. On September 28th, Charles served as the guest speaker for Ozanam's Annual Board Dinner and shared some of his most heartwarming tales with the children, staff and Board Members.

Charles graduated in 1955 from Westminster College and joined *The Kansas City Star* that same year. Since his start as a general assignment reporter, he has held various positions including the foreign affairs editor, associate editor and columnist.

He is the author of 12 books, and his stories have also appeared in *Harper's*, *American Heritage*, *The Paris Review* and many other magazines and journals. He was inducted in 2000 into the Writers Hall of Fame of America and was inducted in 2007 into the Missouri Press Association Newspaper Hall of Fame.



Guest speaker Charles Gusewelle puts his arm around his wife Katie at Ozanam's Annual Board Dinner on September 28th after sharing some of his favorite stories with our children and guests. The Gusewelles live in Kansas City and have two daughters.

He helped create a number of documentaries including "A Great Current Running" about the 1991 expedition from the source to the mouth of the Lena River in Siberia. His 1997 Kansas City documentary, "This Place Called Home," was awarded a regional Emmy.

Guests listened in awe as he spoke about his travels in other countries. He explained how he even helped a young individual obtain an education in America. Charles believes that all people

should have an opportunity to succeed in life. As a baby, he was abandoned and then adopted by a loving family. He considers himself to be very fortunate and understands the impact that positive role models can have on young lives.

At the end of his presentation, he donated a collection of his books for the library. Our students will surely enjoy them! Ozanam thanks Charles for spending time with us and continuing to serve as an inspiration for others! ■

## Volunteer Activities Make Fall More Fun for Youth

For many boys and girls, Ozanam is their home even during the holidays. Volunteers always make them feel special, whether they are beautifying campus or serving as mentors. With so many needy children and families in our care, we truly appreciate friends like you.

Ozanam would like to thank everyone who has volunteered so far this year! The following poem best expresses the gratitude our youth feel.

*Of all the people I'd like to care  
You are at the top of my list  
You take away the pain I can't bear  
When they're overlooked or missed*

*You brighten my day with your smile  
You make me laugh when I'm sad  
You're always so happy;  
you gave me a mile  
When an inch was all I had.*

- Written by an Ozanam boy

To learn more about how you can make a difference, please contact Una at 816-508-3607. ■



A boy proudly displays pumpkins decorated during a fall birthday party hosted by the Ozanam Guild volunteers.

## Upcoming Events

### Whole Foods Market Day Benefiting Ozanam

Thursday, November 12th at Whole Foods Market at 6621 W. 119th Street in Overland Park. Plan your shopping visit for November 12 at Whole Foods Market, where 5% of sales will benefit Ozanam! For more information, contact Lauren at 816-508-3723.

### ★ Ozanam's 26th Annual Hollywood Holiday Gala!

Thursday, December 3rd at The Westin Crown Center. Join us for Ozanam's biggest event of the year! Enjoy one of Kansas City's most extensive silent and live auctions, as well as an elegant dinner followed by an exciting program. Tickets are \$125 each, and sponsorships are still available. To reserve your seat, donate an auction item or sign up to volunteer, contact Allie at 816-508-3606.

### Christmas at Ozanam

Provide gifts for a child, young adult or family. To find out how you can help spread holiday cheer to the boys and girls who need it most, please call Una at 816-508-3607.

### Ozanam Guild Events

Attend Second Fridays happy hours from 6-8 p.m. at a new location each month for only a \$15 donation. Meet other young professionals who care about Ozanam! Visit [www.ozanamguild.org](http://www.ozanamguild.org) to learn more.

### Main campus & Administrative Offices:

421 East 137th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64145  
816-508-3600  
Fax 816-508-3797  
[www.ozanam.org](http://www.ozanam.org)



**OZANAM**  
helping children and families since 1948

## A letter from the President of Ozanam

Dear Friends,

I recently read an article about 11-year-old Zach, founder of The Little Red Wagon Foundation. Zach arrived in Washington, DC on July 9th to deliver over 10,000 letters to President Obama. Zach began his journey to help raise awareness of kids in distressed situations and wanted to bring attention to the plight of homeless children and youth. He walked more than 680 miles – from Atlanta to D.C. – on the last leg of his “Walk to the White House”.

I thought this article was an incredible testament to what individuals can do in carrying the message of what challenges face children like those in our care. This year especially, Ozanam needs your help to meet the basic living needs of our boys and girls. Due to current economic conditions, state revenues and other funding sources have declined. Yet the needs of our children continue to grow whether it is for housing, food or clothes. We also want to make sure that they are able to enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

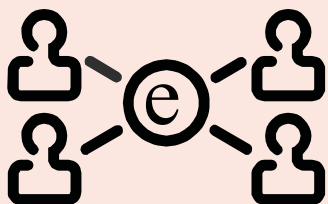
With Christmas rapidly approaching, our boys and girls will feel a heightened loneliness and awareness of their plight. Some will not have homes or holiday dinners to look forward to with excitement. With the expansion of our services over the past few years, Ozanam serves nearly 300 children, families and older youth on any given day. In today’s economic climate, I am concerned about having the necessary dollars to meet their basic needs. I know this is a challenging time for all of us. Despite recent events, it is heartwarming to have the support of our donor family. All of us at Ozanam sincerely hope that you will remember us in your year-end giving.

Your help means so much to the boys and girls. I look forward to seeing many of you at our 26th Annual Hollywood Holiday Gala at the Westin Crown Center on December 3rd!

Sincerely,



Doug Zimmerman  
President of Ozanam



**P.S. To stay informed about what's happening at Ozanam, check out our new blog at [www.ozanamhome.wordpress.com](http://www.ozanamhome.wordpress.com) or follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.**

## OZANAMA WISH LIST



### Help Them Have a Happy Holiday:

- Winter coats
- Fleece blankets
- New twin bedding
- Sports equipment
- Craft kits & art supplies
- Portable music players
- Robes & slippers
- Puzzles
- Books
- DVDs (PG-13 or under)
- Stocking stuffers

### You Can Make a Difference:

- Sponsor gifts for an Ozanam boy or girl during the holidays! Simply call us to sign up and receive a child's individual wish list to help you get started.
- Organize a holiday donation drive through your company or service group to collect winter clothing for our youth.
- Donate to our holiday fund that helps us provide basic essentials and at least one present to every boy and girl.
- Volunteer to organize a festive craft activity for an hour with a group of boys or girls.
- Deliver cookies or other treats for students to enjoy.

**For more information about how you can help, please contact Una at 816-508-3607 or [info@ozanam.org](mailto:info@ozanam.org).**

## Ozanam Board of Directors

*Jerry Smith, Chairman*

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matthew Aberle         | Tim B. Mesecher           |
| Catherine A. Boyd      | Monica Ningen             |
| Cathi Brain            | Thomas J. Preuss          |
| Eric Collins           | Terry Putney              |
| Greg Davis             | David L. Rambo            |
| Julie Davis            | Rudolph R. Rhodes IV      |
| Dr. Meredith Dreyer    | Thomas P. Ross            |
| Jack Dunbar            | Kelly Schoen              |
| Shelley Elsberry       | Marny Sherman             |
| Holly Farkes           | David Smith               |
| Neil Grant             | Jerry Smith               |
| Don Greenwood          | Rachel Spear              |
| Chris Hotop            | Mark G. Stingley          |
| Joseph Houlehan        | Randy Stock               |
| Jason Houseworth       | Matthew Tidwell           |
| William F. Koenigsdorf | Charron Townsend          |
| Brenda Kumm            | Sheryl White              |
| Alan Lowden            | Louis S. Williams         |
| Lana Maudlin           | Clara Maingi - ex-officio |
| Todd McCullough        | Matt Mayer - ex-officio   |

## Enjoying Etiquette at "Chez Oz"



Staff members and helpers gather around gourmet dishes that they prepared on August 5th in an effort to bring a fine dining experience to the boys and girls at Ozanam. The inside of Smith Hall was transformed into an elegant restaurant, and children practiced their manners as they enjoyed the cuisine at "Chez Oz".

## Bringing the Community to Campus



Kate Delehunt teaches students at Ozanam how to perform water quality tests as part of the Blue River Watershed Association's T.R.U.E. (Teaching Rivers in an Urban Environment) Blue Program.



Anthony Hall, Athletic Director at Avila University (center), huddles with members of the Avila team and the coaches at Ozanam after a successful basketball workshop for Ozanam boys on September 25th.



Joe Bisogno, President of Mr. Goodcents (second from left), gathers with Stephen Wylly, Doug Zimmerman and John Garrison on October 13th after speaking to students as part of the Breakfast Club Program.

## Through Ozanam Eyes:

*A rare glimpse into one child's story*

When PJ was a young child, he was separated from his biological parents. They were addicted to drugs and alcohol, and their living conditions were unsafe for him and his younger brother.

PJ entered foster care when he was 10 years old, and he lived in multiple placements before being adopted nearly 5 years ago. He had trouble adjusting to his new circumstances, and so he began to act out at home and at school.

"I had a bunch of hate, depression and anxiety," he explained. "I was mad at the world. I had trouble concentrating in school and was defiant with my parents and teachers."

He arrived at Ozanam in 2007 only four days before Christmas. He felt angry and alone, but staff members provided comfort and support. PJ began to open up to his therapists about the feelings of neglect and abandonment that he felt as a young child, and he learned how to cope with his emotions.

"Not everyone is meant to be a parent," he explained. "You can't hate someone who tried to love you but didn't know how."

His grades in school improved, and he became involved in many activities on campus. He attended Learning Lab on Tuesday evenings and obtained an on-campus job through Ozanam's Work Program. He especially appreciated the chance to join Ozanam's basketball team.

"Before coming to Ozanam, I never played basketball on a team or even a pick-up game," he said. "I worked with everyone here and got better."



He had to do well in school in order to participate, and so it served as an incentive for him. His favorite memory is traveling with the team to St. Louis for their annual tournament.

In the two years since he arrived at Ozanam, PJ has made many wonderful memories and has shown much improvement. He credits his success to his mentor and staff members. He also claims that his brother provided the most compelling motivation for him to change.

"The turning point for me was realizing that I wanted to be a good example for my little brother," he said. "We will always have each other."

Preparing to turn 18 years old in January, PJ is busy making plans for his future by seeking out college advisors and scholarships. He will graduate from high school in December and will take the ACT. He hopes to learn more about construction management and carpentry, and he is also interested in becoming a chef.

"Happiness is having a family that I can support and being able to do what I enjoy," he said. "I would tell the other kids here to never give up, to follow your dreams, and to be who you are but in a mature and responsible way. Each person has a different life, but you've got to live it to the fullest and put the past behind you." ■

# Honors & Memorials

Memorial and honor giving has become an established source of regular support for Ozanam. Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a departed friend or loved one, or to honor an individual or significant event, may send a gift to Ozanam in their name. Individuals or families of those who are honored will be notified of the contributions with an appropriate card, and the names will be listed in the next issue of our newsletter.

## Honors

**In Honor of Matthew Aberle's Birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Milo Karnik

**In Honor of Kathy Couch, Diane Muren, Laura Muren, and Teresa Wollen**  
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Muren

**In Honor of Thomas Sims' High School Graduation**  
Ms. Xenia Thomas

**In Honor of George Stone's 80th Birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gemeinhardt

## Memorials

**In Memory of Gretchen Burford-Dernetz**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Day

**In Memory of Rhinehart Bunting**  
Ms. Laura McDaniel

**In Memory of Shirley Cockrell**  
Ms. Lauren Frechin

**In Memory of Dorothy Dent**  
Ms. Sheree Murphy  
Ms. Joan Resch  
Young & Associates, LLC

**In Memory of Mike DoHon**  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Patterson

**In Memory of Lois Goforth**  
Mr. & Mrs. George Bollman

**In Memory of Shirley J. Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Adams  
Ms. Marcia Roberts

**In Memory of James L. Jolly**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Colyne  
Union Savings Bank of Sedalia, MO

**In Memory of David McCoy**  
Mrs. Judy Hart  
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Koenigsdorf  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Zimmerman

**In Memory of Franklin McMillan**  
Mr. & Mrs. De Onidus Hendrick

**In Memory of Leo J. O'Brien**  
Mrs. Judy Hart

**In Memory of William O'Brien**  
Ms. Laura O'Brien

**In Memory of Tom Redmond**  
Ms. Laura McDaniel

**In Memory of Mary Redmond South**  
Ms. Laura McDaniel

**In Memory of Greg Schlicht**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gemeinhardt

**In Memory of Roger J. Schroeder**  
Burns & McDonnell  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carlson  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Chaffee  
Mr. & Mrs. Courtney Drumm  
Mr. H. Davis Ege  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Goertz  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gray  
Mrs. Judy Hart  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Herrmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Hockett  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kalis  
Ms. Shirley Lytle  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mauntz  
Mr. & Mrs. Emil Schutzel  
Mr. Jack W. Vetter  
Ms. Nancy Wigton  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Zimmerman

**In Memory of Shirley Segal**  
Mr. Donald M. Lieberwitz

**In Memory of David Sergent**  
Ms. Steph Hart

**In Memory of Lora L. Spence**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gemeinhardt  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Finney

**In Memory of Dale Tinberg**  
Mr. Willis H. Hart

**In Memory of Susie Ellen Ward**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Finney

**In Memory of Ethleen Whitlow**  
Dr. & Mrs. A. L. Biggs

**In Memory of Linda Wick**  
Mr. Donald M. Lieberwitz

**In Memory of Matthew Wohlers**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wohlers

## Featuring the Ozanam Foundation



### New Website Resource:

To find examples of how planned giving can work for you, please visit our new website for the Ozanam Foundation at [www.ozanamfoundation.org](http://www.ozanamfoundation.org)! You can read about changes in the economy in the online [Reading Room](#). You can even create your own plan and view presentations that show benefits for you!

### Weekly E-Newsletter:

Sign up to receive our **FREE** weekly personal finance e-newsletter for the latest news, popular "Savvy Senior" column, gift stories, and more! Simply complete and return the enclosed insert about giving to charity through an IRA, and we will send you a brochure and our free weekly e-newsletter featuring helpful planned giving tips.

## Ozanam Honor & Memorial Gifts

Given by: Mr. / Mrs. /Ms./ Mr. & Mrs. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### E-MAIL

My gift is: (check box) In Memory of  In Honor of

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Event Honoring (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send Cards to: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive memorial forms (in booklets of five). Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ booklets.



The Ozanam News is published three times each year by Ozanam.

Please return all honor and memorial gifts to Ozanam Development at:

421 E 137th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64145  
816-508-3600

For more information about Ozanam, upcoming events or to see the latest issue of the newsletter online, log onto:

[www.ozanam.org](http://www.ozanam.org)