



Ozanam News

SPRING 2010

Helping Children and Families Since 1948

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Upcoming Events:



Annual "Thyme for Kids" Plant Sale on April 23rd & 24th will be held from 9-6 on Friday and from 9-5 on Saturday inside Ozanam's campus greenhouse.



Kansas City Plaza Rotary Jazz Cabaret on April 25th benefiting Ozanam will be held at The Gem Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$60 each.



Ozanam's Golf Classic on Monday, May 10th at Sycamore Ridge Golf Course will open at 10:30 a.m. with a 12 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$200 per person.



Ozanam Disc Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 12th will be held at Thornfield Disc Golf Course in Stilwell beginning at 8 a.m. Cost is \$50 per person.

How to Participate:

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Allie Briley, Special Events Coordinator at Ozanam, at 816-508-3606 or e-mail her at Allison.Briley@ozanam.org. More details can be found at www.ozanam.org. We hope you will join us!

Ozanam's Basketball Team Enjoys Successful Winning Streak

Since the first official team was formed in 1998, basketball remains a popular part of the Recreation Program at Ozanam. This year marks the 12th official season that began in September with basic conditioning, which is open to all students. Boys who wish to be on the team must demonstrate good behavior and complete 3.5 miles on six different occasions.

"It's neat because we don't just take the best players," explained Randy Smith, Athletic Director at Ozanam. "We have kids who have never played before who join our team. One of the most impressive things to see is how our kids come together from so many different backgrounds, and they all get along and stick up for each other as a team."

Players participate in their first game in November and continue to play through February. Although the focus is never on winning, the Ozanam Eagles have enjoyed one of the best seasons in years! Out of 21 games, they have won 11. More importantly, they have gained confidence and memories.

"The team played well despite losing 6 players to graduation or other discharges," said Smith. "Other schools we play don't have to deal with this type of challenge. Most have players who have grown up together and who have practiced the sport for years, which is unlike the youth on Ozanam's team."

One of their best performances of the year, even though they lost, was against Metro Academy on January 28th. They were down 20 points at half time, but the Ozanam Eagles refused to give up and outscored the other team in the 3rd quarter. They closed within one point, but Metro Academy hung on for a final score of 52 to 47. The coaches were proud of the team's dedication and persistence.

"Basketball can be the best therapy program," said Smith. "Plus if some kids weren't on the team, they might not be



Ozanam basketball players work together during a recent game. Students have enjoyed one of the best seasons in years!

motivated to come to school."

In fact, two of the boys on the team made straight A's the entire year! Players must maintain good grades in order to participate, and so the overall team GPA was very good.

"I like watching the boys grow into men, and grow together to be part of a family," said Willie Hutson, Head Varsity Coach. "The basketball team may be the closest thing to a family that some of the boys have, and they learn to put others first instead of themselves." ■

Annual Basketball Game Brings Alumni Home

There is a proud saying among students and staff members who have bonded together through school spirit. They cheer, "Once an Eagle, always an Eagle!"

This proved to be especially true for the 21 alumni who returned to Ozanam on February 11th for the annual "Alumni Night" basketball game. They were welcomed home with open arms!

At half time, each was presented to the crowd of 138 spectators and met with loud applause as they shared their recent successes of attending college, obtaining their first job, or moving into their first apartment. One boy who is now participating in our Pathways Transitional Living Program insisted he had been waiting for this night for two months. Thanks to all who attended! ■



Staff member Ms. C (right) reaches out to hug one of the alumnae who returned on February 11th.

A letter from the President...

While the past month of winter weather has kept us inside, I'm thankful that we had the 2010 Olympics to watch. Ever since I was a little boy, I have looked forward to the Olympics - the majesty of the event, the talent of the athletes, and the opportunity for our country to come together at a time when we so desperately need to be hopeful.

Recreation is also an important part of the treatment program at Ozanam as it serves as a tremendous outlet for many of our youth. Basketball is a piece of this program, and it has been a great year for the Ozanam Eagles team. They have 11 wins and 10 losses so far this year, and we are so proud of their persistence!

Unlike the Olympics where winning is everything, our basketball program has never been about the number of points scored. Rather the experience focuses on the values our kids learn on and off the court about improving their skills, demonstrating good sportsmanship, maintaining good grades and behavior in order to stay on the team, and being a part of something larger than themselves.

Nellie Sims, a generous donor who passed away years ago, used to be able to provide financial support for special activities associated with our recreation program. While these are tough economic times for us, we feel it is important to continue providing these kinds of opportunities for our boys and girls.

In addition to playing basketball, our youth enjoy canoeing, cheerleading, fishing, playing disc golf, swimming, running in the KCI relays, and more. Whether competitive or noncompetitive, these activities are so important to their overall treatment. They provide immediate success experiences and help children identify their talents, learn valuable lessons about life, and develop a healthy way of relating to peers and staff.

Above all, our recreation program empowers youth to develop healthy lifestyles and long-term fitness habits that will help them lead balanced lives. While none of our kids may make it to the Olympics, they are true champions to all of us. Thank you for making these programs possible.

Sincerely,



Doug Zimmerman
President of Ozanam

OZANAM WISH LIST

Residential Program

Twin bedding
Pillows
Bath towels
Toiletries

Recreation Program

Frisbees, jump ropes
Life jackets for canoeing
Baseball gloves
Soccer balls, footballs
Pool sticks, volleyballs
Yoga mats, exercise balls
Sidewalk chalk
Bike helmets and knee pads

Horticultural Therapy

Gardening gloves
Aquariums
Clay pots and vases
Gardening books
Nature DVDs



School Supplies

Pens & pencils
Highlighters & markers
Spiral notebooks & paper
Folders & flash cards
Poster board
Adolescent books
Koosh balls, sensory toys
USB mouse for computers
Digital camera
Video camera and software

Creative Arts Program

Small percussion instruments
Karaoke CDs, blank CDs
Guitar picks
CD players/radios
I-tunes gift cards
Small filing cabinet
3-hole punch
Folders (2-pocket, 3-brad)

Pathways Program

Twin bedding
Microwaves
Dishes and silverware
Pots and pans
Shower curtains
Cleaning supplies
Bicycles

Ozanam Board of Directors

Jerry D. 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
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Dr. Meredith Dreyer	Thomas P. Ross
Jack Dunbar	Kelly Schoen
Shelley Elsberry	Marny Sherman
Holly Farkes	David A. Smith
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Lana Maudlin	Kalinda Tenborg, ex-officio
Todd A. McCullough	Tracy Faber, ex-officio

Hollywood Holiday Gala raises nearly \$375,000 for Ozanam!



(From left) Audrey Collins with her parents Eric & Angie Collins, Gala Chairs, greet John Krivas dressed as Santa along with Doug Zimmerman, President of Ozanam, and Sharon & Joe Whalen, Honorary Chairs of the Gala.



Jerry Smith, President of the Ozanam Board of Directors, mingles with Jeff Jernigan, President of the Ozanam Foundation, at the beginning of the evening during the silent auction portion of the event.



Ozanam cheerleaders perform for approximately 500 guests after dinner. They practiced their routine for many weeks prior to the event, and they were so excited to show everyone their new skills.



Master of Ceremonies Larry Moore (second from left) gathers together with the Nigro Brothers Auctioneers prior to the live auction program. They have been an integral part of our Gala since it began 26 years ago!



Julie Williams reaches for her new best friend, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, during the live auction. She and her husband, Louis, were the winning bidders of this adorable puppy from Pooch Parlor & Pet Resort!

Charles Gusewelle Shares Stories with Students



Charles Gusewelle talks with students in the school library and signs copies of his books that he graciously donated. He visited on February 23rd as part of the Breakfast Club Program to discuss his long career as a writer and world traveler.

Christina Larson Inspires Healthy Lifestyles



Christina Larson, owner of His & Her Fitness, shares tips with students to keep their minds and bodies healthy through regular exercise and proper nutrition. She demonstrated basic workout techniques during her visit on February 17th.

Fun Activities Honor Black History Month



(From left) Jo Patrick, Co-Chair of Ozanam's Cultural Enrichment Committee, presents Lisa Henderson and Wendy White with a certificate for a pizza party for their classroom. Their students won the "Who Am I" contest during Black History Month that recognized key historical leaders.

Thanks to our Friends for Making Holidays Bright



Ozanam staff members enjoy wrapping children's gifts on December 16th. Thanks to our generous community friends, every child had at least one package to unwrap on Christmas morning! They were so excited, and we are grateful to everyone who made a difference!

Honors & Memorials

Memorial and honor giving has become an established source of regular support for Ozanam. Anyone who wishes to remember 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 by an appropriate card, and the names will be listed in the next issue of our newsletter.

Honor Gifts

In Honor of Hugh Andrews,
Truman Christopher,
Keith Copaken &
Kevin Grooms
Mr. & Mrs. William Esrey Jr.
Ms. Erin Hill
Ms. Kristen Kvam
Ms. Diane Levin
Ms. Joy Murphy
Ms. Laura Redmond
Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Stoker
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Yost

In Honor of Cathi & David Brain
Southern Theatres, LLC

In Honor of Ann Dickinson
Dr. & Mrs. Earl S. McHugh

In Honor of Gary Engmann
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ellis

In Honor of Norma Fieker's Birthday
Mr. John Fieker

In Honor of Thomas E. Gleitsman
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Lins
Texor Petroleum Co.

In Honor of John Grissingier
Ms. Susan Wintz

In Honor of Todd Hitchner
Ms. Susan Mooney

In Honor of Derek Price
Matthew and Jessica Brandmeyer Family
Charitable Fund

In Honor of David Ross' Birthday
Ms. Gretchen Ross

In Honor of Suburban Lawn & Garden
Sandweiss Advertising

In Honor of Vince Vogel
Ms. Virginia Schaefer

In Honor of Louis Williams & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Mohrman

In Honor of Bette Wisniewski
Mr. & Mrs. James Morrow

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Frank Grimaldi
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gemeinhardt
Ms. Judy Hart

In Memory of Dr. Wayne Hart
Mr. & Mrs. Harry McLearn

In Memory of Walter Hermansen
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Lundstrom

In Memory of Jesse R. Johnson
Mr. George Lynn

In Memory of Shirley McHugh
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Hartel Jr.

In Memory of Lucy Riley
Ms. Judy Hart
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Koenigsdorf
Mr. & Mrs. George Stone

In Memory of David Sergent
Ms. Jill Braithwait
Ms. Steph Hart

In Memory of Janet Smith
Ms. Sandra L. Wylly

In Memory of Glen Tehel
Ms. Judith France

In Memory of Marietta Zimmerman
Dr. & Mrs. Glen Knosp

5 Reasons to Highlight Someone Special with a Donation to Ozanam:

- * Mother's Day / Father's Day
- * Anniversaries
- * Graduations
- * Special Achievements / Good Deeds
- * Memorial Day

There are many reasons to honor or memorialize loved ones. Simply complete the form at the bottom of this page and return with your donation. Any amount is appreciated.

NEW Recognition Program for Supporters of Ozanam:

A gazebo has been constructed in the center of campus to provide a focal point and a place for people to gather. From the gazebo, there will be bricks and benches engraved for people who have supported Ozanam. If you would like to learn more about this recognition program and fundraising campaign, please contact us today at 816-508-3608.

Thank you!

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.

I would like to learn more about Ozanam's brick and bench campaign. (Please circle) **Y / N**



Ozanam

helping children and families since 1948

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