

Guardian Angel Gazette

From the Founder/President's Desk



Anita Gilford, RN, MSN

Dear Angels' Place Supporters,
We are all waiting for the end of the 2007 Hurricane season in the Greater New Orleans area. May God's love and protection surround all of us during this season. I pray that our innocent children remain happy, healthy, and free from all harm.

We have good news to share! A local hospital has graciously offered for us to rent a "small house" they own for the Angels' Place Children's Starter Home. Our Board of Directors is in the process of negotiations with them. Our home will provide respite care for two of our seriously ill and/or dying children, Monday through Friday, daytime only from 8 AM to 4 PM. We will have a nurse on duty and a housekeeper at the house. Our main office on Division Street and our present staff in Metairie will remain at the same location.

Also, **Nia's Just for Kids**, speciality clothing store, at 3500 Severn Ave, Metairie, LA (504)457-0120 has agreed to an **Angel Heart Doll** raffle. Chances are \$1 each. Our first blonde haired doll is on display at Nia's.

Angels' Place continues to currently visit and help 84 children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses in our local hospitals and their homes. We also offer many events during the year for our Angels' Place children and their siblings. These events include the Spring Picnic, attending a Zephyr's game, School Supply give away, Thanksgiving gift cards or dinners, and a huge Christmas party at a local high school complete with Santa and his elves handing out presents to every child!

We welcome "self referrals" from parents of an ill child, birth to nineteen years of age, in the Greater New Orleans area and local hospitals diagnosed with a serious illness.

Lastly, I am asking for volunteer help for a fall fundraiser for Angels' Place. The New Orleans "**Saintsations**" have chosen Angels' Place as one of their charities this year. Together, we are in the planning stages of a fall fashion show in October with 10 to 12 Saintsations modeling local business attire and evening gowns. Any local fundraiser event planners who would like to volunteer and help, please call me. This fundraiser will defray the renovating and operating costs of our Angels' Place Children's Respite Starter Home and our present operations.

As always, God bless all of you and God bless our children.

During the past few weeks, Angels' Place has experienced the death of two little Angels. Very often, parents in their grieving seek for help. **Murray A. Swanson** gives advice for these parents, who will hopefully be helped by the following:

Advice to Those Who Want to Help—How can people help me?

Don't rush me...accept my timetable.
Don't try to take my grief away (I wish you could).
Don't play the waiting game; please don't stay away.
Don't offer me a quick fix; don't give advice.
"I know just how you feel."
"If there's anything you need, just give me a call."
"You must be strong now."
"You'll get over this...you'll see."
"You've just got to go on..."

Do be patient...give me time.
Do come and visit; the load is lighter when you're here.
Do let me talk (when I need to and want to).
Do listen without judgment. Allow me to repeat myself.
Do offer practical, "hands-on" help.
Do include me in your special activities and holidays.
Do say:

"I'm sorry..."
"I can't imagine how this must feel."
"I'll call you in a day or so and check on you."
"You don't have to be strong."
"It's Okay to cry. I'm not afraid of tears."
How are your days going?"
"I care about you."

Do talk with me about the memories that mean so much. Do mention my baby's name; most people won't. Do plant a seed of hope.

May God bless all of you.



Sr. Clare Gaynor, O.P.
Children's Program Director

An important rule:
When grief is new,
Words should be few.

Famous Restaurant Chooses Angels' Place for Charity

The historic and famous **Galatoire's Restaurant** in New Orleans, Louisiana

called our office and said Angels' Place had been chosen to be one of the charities to benefit from their annual table auction. After Katrina, Galatoire's began auctioning their tables for dinner on the Friday before Mardi Gras. Prominent New Orleanians, determined to dine the Friday before Mardi Gras at Galatoire's, will go to great lengths to procure a table that day. In the past, patrons would stand for hours in the long line outside the restaurant in whatever weather just to get a table for themselves, their families and friends. So, instead of people having to wait in long lines, Galatoire's decided to auction the tables before Mardi Gras to the highest bidders and give the proceeds to two local charities.

Needless to say, Anita Gilford, Founder and Executive Director of Angels' Place, was thrilled to get the phone call. "It was so exciting, not only to be selected as a recipient of part of the proceeds, but to be invited to the event itself—well, that was just the icing on the cake!"

The night of the auction, light hors d'ouevres were served as the patrons positioned themselves to begin their bidding. "We were speechless when the bidding began to escalate higher and higher into amounts outside our imagination I couldn't believe my eyes or my ears. To say it was an exciting night would be an understatement. It was a blessed night."



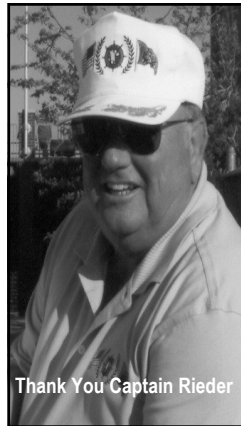
David Gooch, Manager/family member (far L), and Melvin Rodrigue, COO of Galatoire's, (far R) present Sr. Clare and AP Founder, Anita Gilford with a check



John Favalaro, Managing Director (r) and Eric Hite, Agency Sales Director (l) of Met Life Insurance Co., gave a generous donation to Angels' Place. Anita Gilford, Founder & Barbara Lane, Business Manager, received the check. Thank you so much, Met Life Insurance Co. for choosing Angels' Place as a recipient of your generosity.

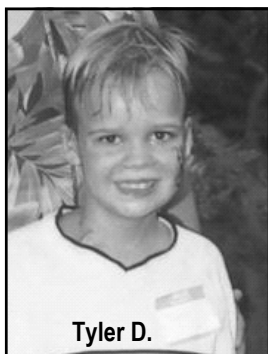
Let's Play Ball!

Each year, The **New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association** treats our Angels' Place children and their families to a night of baseball at **Zephyrs Stadium**. This year Angels' Place had a record crowd attending the game. One of our Angels' Place kids, **Tyler D.** was given the honor of throwing out the first pitch but was unable to be at the stadium on time due to his dialysis treatment. But he was absolutely thrilled to receive the plaque from **Captain Don Rieder** and the Pilots Assn. in remembrance of the event.



Thank You Captain Rieder

The Zephyrs defeated the **Memphis Red Birds** 3-2. Captain Don Rieder, with the NO-BR Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA), was on hand to give out tee-shirts and make sure our families were well cared for. The kids and caregivers were treated to



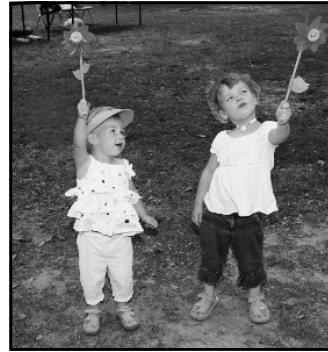
Tyler D.

hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks courtesy of the NO-BR Steamship Pilots Association. Anita Gilford was also presented a check from NOBRA by **Pat Brown**.

We want to thank Captain Don Rieder, Pat Brown and the New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association for their on-

going dedication to, and love for, the children and families of Angels' Place.

Update! Tyler recently received a kidney transplant and the operation was a complete success! We are ecstatic for Tyler!



Dear Angels Place Staff & Volunteers,
Just a note to say thanks for the wonderful spring picnic you threw for our family. We sure did enjoy all the games, puppet show and egg hunt. Watching our girls run around having fun made a lasting memory.

Thanks again,
Matt, Samantha, Elise & Marilyn



Hey Angels' Place,
Here are some pics we wanted to share. I loved Mrs. Barbara's Easter Bonnet. I remember when we had to make one in elementary school. We had such a great time at the Spring Picnic. St. Martin's was beautiful! The Halo Club girls (Am I right?) were very helpful. Juliett was so excited that she won the centerpiece...especially when she found

change in the pretty porcelain egg. Thank Ya'll for everything!
Jacklynn

(Juliett is a cancer survivor in remission.)



Jennie Bryant, Chairman, Community Service of the Metairie Woman's Club, stopped by Angels' Place to present our President and Founder, **Anita Gilford**, with a generous contribution.

From all of us at Angels' Place, thank you, Metairie Woman's Club, for your generosity and support.

DONATIONS GIVEN IN MEMORIAL

Frances Adams in loving memory of her grandson, **Bryan Adams, Jr.**
Joe & Carol Bandera in memory of **Katie Clark**
Dr. Noel Pilie in memory of **Bob Cole**
Tom & Betsy Nolan in memory of **Edward Freeman**
Carolyn Palermo in memory of her great niece **Ashley Renee Mills**
Judy Soignet in memory of **Lori Soignet Serio**
Ron & Sue Maestri in memory of **Naomi Zichichi**

DONATIONS GIVEN IN HONOR OF

Nick Chetta in honor of **Mirille Pike's 90th birthday**

American Association of Retired Persons for a kind donation
 Jane Armato for a kind donation
 Rey Bienvienu for a kind donation
 Joseph Rotolo for a kind donation
 Crescent City Depression Glass Society for gift cards for our families.
 Mr. & Mrs. Horace Evans for a kind donation
 Janice Jeansonne for a kind donation
 Janet Keller for a kind donation
 Kiwanis Club Dawnbusters of Metairie for a kind donation
 Isabella Gill for a kind donation of toys from her birthday
 Ladies of Charity of Archdiocese of New Orleans for a kind donation
 Diane & Charlie LeBlanc for gift cards for our kids & families
 Living & Loving Beyond the Loss Support Group for the lovely children's books
 Katherine Schauer, Ochsner Hospital for donating percussion machine
 Janet McCormick for a kind donation
 Stephen & Mary Lou Shannon-Fuerst for a kind donation
 Ludovicum Auxiliary for a kind donation
 Byrne McKnight for Walmart cards for our kids & family
 Pamela Marks for a kind donation
 Mrs. Henry Mestayer for a kind donation
 Beatrice Mestayer for a kind donation
 Faye Madere for a kind donation
 Myles Steib for a kind donation
 Geraldine Saucier for a kind donation
 NO/BR Steamship Pilots for a kind donation
 Rubye Noble for a kind donation
 Sandra Oubre for a kind donation
 Gerald C. Pelias for a kind donation
 Brady Perniciaro for a kind donation
 Wally Pontiff, Jr. Foundation for a kind donation
 H.J. Romero, II for a kind donation
 Joseph & Ann Rotolo for a kind donation
 Rhonda Russo for a kind donation
 St. Benilde Elementary School Cub Scouts Pack 227, Den #3 for the wonderful packages of colors & coloring books for our kids.
 Myles B. Steib, Attorney at Law, for a kind donation
 Julie Tyrolf for a kind donation
 Felicia R. Usner for a kind donation
 Walmart, Covington for a kind donation
 Susan Waters for Walmart cards for our kids & families
 Patty Willhite for Walmart cards & toiletry bags

Our Volunteers are Worth a Million to Us



Thank you Blue Cross/Blue Shield of LA for printing our newsletter

Blessed with Priceless Memories of



Cyndi "Amari" Gaines

In Loving Memory of Amari G.

Eleven year old "Amari". left this earth to be with her Heavenly Father, Friday, May 4, 2007. Her body is fully healed and she is dancing and laughing with the angels-full of the joys of heaven.

Sunrise 12:20-95 Sunset 5:4-2007

Our condolences go out to her beloved mother, Cynthia and the entire family.

May the Lord's peace comfort you and may He keep you in the palm of His mighty hand during this time of tremendous grief.

In Loving Memory of Amber Bertus



Amber quietly left this life Monday, May 14, 2007 to dance with the Angels in the presence of her Heavenly Father. All Heaven is rejoicing because Amber is home.

Our deepest sympathies go out to her loving mother, Nichole, her brother Sam, and the entire family. May the peace that passes all understanding be with you and may He surround you with loving comfort during your time of great sorrow.

If you would like to make a donation to Angels' Place, please make check payable to Angels' Place, Inc. and mail to: 4323 Division Street; Suite 206, Metairie, LA 70002

CALENDAR

School Supply Drive—July 2007

Isabella's Birthday Wish

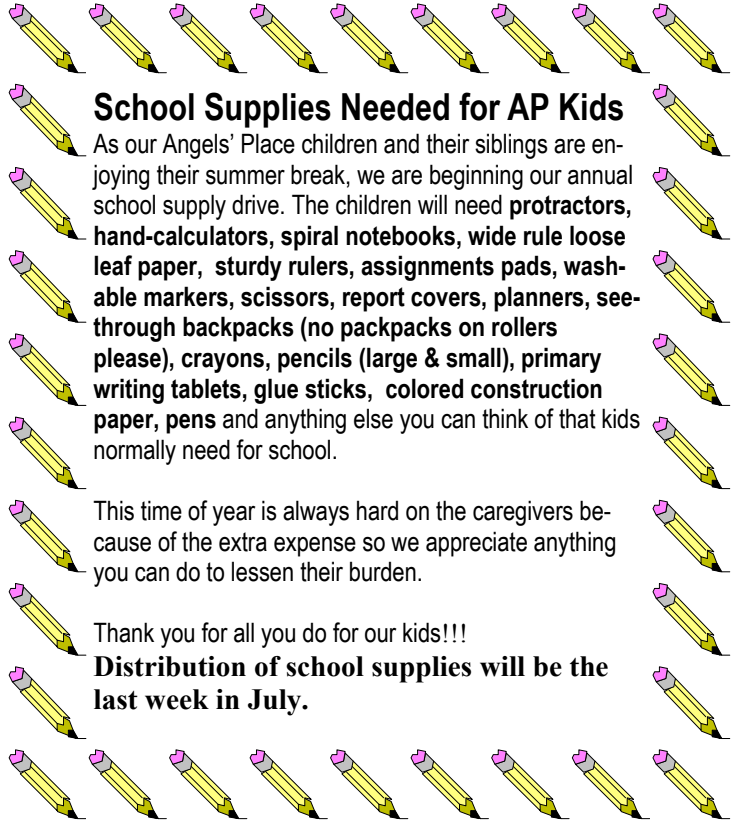


Little **Isabella** celebrated her 4th birthday last month with her friends and family. She received lots of gifts at her birthday party but instead of keeping all those treasures, she wanted to donate her gifts to the children of Angels' Place. What a wonderful, thoughtful and caring thing for Isabella to do and how proud her parents must be of her.

The Cabbage Patch Doll, that Isabella so unselfishly gave, quietly lies besides her new "mom", **Alexis**.

While Alexis is undergoing "chemo" treatments, she has her doll beside her to keep her company and it is all because of little Isabella and her birthday wish!

Thank you Isabella. You're as beautiful on the inside as you are on the outside!



School Supplies Needed for AP Kids

As our Angels' Place children and their siblings are enjoying their summer break, we are beginning our annual school supply drive. The children will need **protractors, hand-calculators, spiral notebooks, wide rule loose leaf paper, sturdy rulers, assignments pads, washable markers, scissors, report covers, planners, see-through backpacks (no backpacks on rollers please), crayons, pencils (large & small), primary writing tablets, glue sticks, colored construction paper, pens** and anything else you can think of that kids normally need for school.

This time of year is always hard on the caregivers because of the extra expense so we appreciate anything you can do to lessen their burden.

Thank you for all you do for our kids!!!

Distribution of school supplies will be the last week in July.



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Email: office@angelsplace.org

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A non-profit organization that provides supportive services to seriously and terminally ill children and their families.