

# Guardian Angel Gazette

## From the Founder/President's Desk



Anita Gilford, RN, MSN

What a wonderful time of the year for New Orleans! Mardi Gras has come and gone and the spring weather is with us. We were blessed to have the invitation from the **Excalibur Parade** owners, **Dianne Brown** and her daughter **Missy**, to have two of our Angels Place children and one of their parents, and my husband and me ride in

their parade. We appreciate their generous and kind offer. The ride was great and we had an exciting time. The children had a wonderful time and were thrilled to be on a float. Thank you to all those people and companies who donated the Mardi Gras beads for our Angels Place children and their parents to throw out to the crowds along the parade route. Thank you, **Judy Stewart**, one of our Board of Directors, for your contribution of beads for our children and their parents. Also, a big thank you to **Brian Grosch** of **ALLFAX** for donating boxes of Mardi Gras beads.

Our Spring Picnic will be coming up April 9 at **St. Martin's Episcopal School** in Metairie. We are so grateful to the administration and staff of St. Martin's, once again, for hosting this event. The picnic will be held from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM under their majestic oak trees on the front lawn of their beautiful campus. We are blessed to have many "community partners" who make this event possible. Three Kiwanis Clubs contribute and participate in the picnic: **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans**; **Third District Kiwanis Club**; and **Metairie Dawnbusters Kiwanis Club**. They provide the delicious char-grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, all the condiments and paper products. **Mr. Tyrone Roussel** of **Louisiana Coca Cola Bottling Company** will once again provide the soft drinks, water and cups. Thank you so very much, dear sponsors. Angels' Place would not be able to hold this event without your continued help and support. **St. George's Episcopal School** will be giving away pajamas for the kids again this year. And **St. Matthew the Apostle School** and St. Martins will provide all the fun games the kids love so much.

We will have our **Annual Angels' Place Volunteer Luncheon** at **Don's Seafood Restaurant** on Veterans Blvd. on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Our faithful volunteers will be receiving an invitation soon.

I am always amazed at the generous outpouring of our community for Angels Place, our sick children and their families. It is truly a "community spirit" that continues to drive Angels Place.

May God richly bless you for your kindness and generosity to Angels' Place and our children.



Mary Kantlehner, Childrens Program Director



Our guys, in their costumes, with the rest of the Krewe of float 19.



Angel and Josh with Angel's mom and dad and Josh's dad in left foreground.



Josh and Angel on the Knights of Excalibur 2011 Parade float 19

Two of our Angels' Place children along with one of their parents were invited to ride in the **Knights of Excalibur Parade**. **Angel** and her dad, **Damon**, and **Josh** and his dad, **James**, **Anita** and **Marion Gilford** all climbed on board float 19 to begin their adventure. "Josh had a blast especially seeing people he knew along the way", his mom, **Lisa**, told us. "He would have never had the opportunity to ride in a parade if it hadn't been for the invitation from Angels' Place." The Knights of Excalibur rolled Friday, February 25. Thanks to **AT&T** and the **Kiwanis Clubs** for the use of their parade reviewing stands at Mardi Gras.

I just wanted to remind our Angels' Place families of our **Spring Picnic Saturday, April 9, 2011—11 AM-2 PM at St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie, LA**. We will have games for every age including, moms, dads and other caregivers. It is a **GREAT** family fun day! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Angels' Place currently has 106 children on our census. Thankfully, many are doing very well and are in remission. However, every time I visit Children's Hospital I see so many newly diagnosed children who are facing life threatening illnesses. For parents, it is devastating to receive such news and the thought of seeing your child suffer is unbearable. Parents feel overwhelmed and, at times, helpless, as their lives whirl out of control. One parent described feeling like she had been "dropped into someone else's life" as it happened so suddenly and was such a shock.

In addition to the well being of a beloved child being at stake, financial, psychological and logistical burdens loom large. The additional challenges include, managing home life and child care of siblings when they are in hospital with the sick child, work absences, potential and/or real job loss, loss of income, frequent travel and many nights in the hospital.

*Children's Program Director (continued on page 2)*

# Wing Claps!

ALLFAX CAPITAL, LLC. For a kind donation  
Apartment Association of New Orleans for Christmas gifts for our kids  
Anne and David Batt for a kind donation  
Joe Barbera for a kind donation  
Linda Bergez for a kind Christmas toys donation  
Burnett & Company for a kind donation  
Rey Bienvenu for a kind donation  
Warren and Elizabeth Bichof, Jr. for a kind donation  
John H. Burke, Jr. for a kind donation  
Carolyn F. Butler for a kind Christmas donation  
Joyce B. Cooper for a kind Christmas donation  
Wayne and Carol Crochet for a kind Christmas donation  
Francis Daigle Jr., for a kind donation  
Saramae Dalferes for a kind Christmas toys donation  
Janet & Irvin Dares, Jr. for a kind Christmas donation  
Janet Degrazio for a kind Christmas donation  
Jack Duvernay, Eagan Insurance for a kind donation  
Kurt Evans for a kind donation  
William Feaheny for a kind donation  
Joyce Fontenelle for a kind donation for our kids  
Kathryn (K.C.) Ford for a kind Christmas toy donation  
Rudy W. Gorrell for a kind Christmas donation  
Brian E. Grosch for a kind donation  
Judith Fontenelle Himel for a kind Christmas donation  
James and Carole Hritz for a kind donation  
Kiwanis Club of New Orleans for a kind donation  
Thomas & Mary Kennedy for a kind Christmas donation  
Kenner Central Lions Club for a kind donation  
Kenner Professional Business Association for a kind donation  
Ladies Golf Assn Colonial Golf & Country Club, for a kind donation  
Lakeside Toyota for a kind donation for our kids  
Rickey Lagasse for a kind donation  
Richard Palisi for a kind donation  
Pepsi Cola General Bottlers, Inc., for a kind Christmas donation  
Cynthia Perrerr for a kind Christmas donation  
David & Lynn Marcel for a kind Christmas donation  
Neurology Monitoring, LLC for a kind donation  
Marrero Land & Improvement Assn. for a kind donation  
Jayme Miller for a kind donation for our kids  
Beth Mims for a kind donation  
Sandra Oubre for a kind donation  
Pacorini Global Services for a kind donation  
Richard Palisi for a kind donation  
Robert Perez for a kind donation  
Cyntha & Dean Perrerr for a kind Christmas toy donation  
Sharon Lipscomb Rojas for a kind donation  
Judy Schwing for a kind donation  
Carroll Suggs for a kind donation toward Art for Angels FR  
Charles and Marguerite Ricks for a kind donation  
Chris Trapani, Eagan Insurance Agency for a kind Christmas donation  
Dalton and Marlene Truax for a kind donation  
William H. Shane, Jr., for a kind Christmas donation for toys for our kids  
Joy Shane for a kind donation of Christmas toys for our kids  
Wayne E. Thomas for a kind donation  
Munholand United Methodist Women for their kind donation  
Felicia Usner for a kind donation  
Capt. John and Peggy White USN (ret) for a kind donation  
Kathy and Thomas Zimmerman for a kind donation

## In Loving Memory

Anna Rickoll in memory of Maija Buconic  
Anna Rickoll in memory of Charlene Marie Conrad  
Harold (Dean) & Shirley Hochhalter in memory of Stella Dauenhauer  
Nancy & Charlie Broiullette in memory of Stella Dauenhauer  
Carol Kirkland & Rob Logan in memory of Stella Dauenhauer  
Carol & Donald Picou in memory of Stella Dauenhauer  
Ron and Sue Maestri in memory of their grandson, Joshua Dobson  
Thomas & Mary Kennedy in memory of Robert I. Guste and Roy Guste  
Thomas & Mary Kennedy in memory of Lydia Grych  
Her nanny, Julie Folse, in memory of Lauren Grace Rossi  
Thomas & Mary Kennedy in memory of Dr. Steven Kraus  
Thomas and Mary Kennedy in memory of Dr. John Megison  
Thomas & Mary Kennedy in memory of Dr. Bill Roeling  
Dr. Noël and Kathleen Pilié in memory of Ms. Bernedette Smith  
Thomas & Mary Kennedy in memory of Milton Phillip Saling  
Jodi Schwing in memory of Lauren Schwing  
Judy and Darryl Soignet in memory of Lori Soignet Serio  
Thomas & Mary Kennedy in memory of Mrs. Sylvia Whitson

## In Honor

Katherine Ferrara in thankful gratitude for the honor and blessing of healthy grandchildren  
Bonnie Osterholf in appreciation of the generosity of Jenna & Rob Masson

*Children's Program Director (continued from page 1)*

The severe emotional strain takes its toll. Every family's circumstances are unique and I see parents putting one foot in front of the other to cope with such devastating news. I see parents cope with their child's illness with great courage and while they cannot take away their child's pain and suffering, their love and dedication helps comfort, nurture and heal their child. Parents receive their strength from their children.

We offer support by providing respite volunteers, a listening and compassionate ear, pre-paid gas cards, Wal Mart gift cards, and referrals to other agencies that may be able to assist them. We accept donations of gift cards and they are always greatly needed and appreciated. Some families are struggling to pay utility bills and put food on their tables as well as take care of their ill child. So, any break we can offer them physically, emotionally, or economically we try to accomplish.

If you have any information regarding low income or affordable housing please contact Angels' Place ASAP as some of our families are facing the real possibility of homelessness in the very near future. Our contact information is: (504)455-2620, or e-mail me at [Marykantlehner@bellsouth.net](mailto:Marykantlehner@bellsouth.net).

## Angel's Journey



Angel's journey began January 29, 2007 at the age of 10, the day a bone marrow test was done at Children's Hospital in New Orleans. That same day she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Before the diagnosis, Angel had symptoms of fever, a swollen left eye, and was not able to walk. I will never forget that particular day—the day I found out my little girl had cancer. I thought my life

had ended and God had given up on me.

Angel was admitted to Children's Hospital and then moved to 4 West the children's' cancer floor. I had never see that side of the hospital and didn't know so many innocent, sick children existed. Angel started chemotherapy right away and in March of 2007 she went into remission. She continued her treatments, blood transfusions and blood platelets. When her counts were low, she still fought hard.

Until this day she remains in remission and is two years clear of treatment. Now, at the age of fourteen, and in middle school she wrote a poem, "As I See Myself in the Mirror."

*When I look in the mirror, I see beautiness, prettiness and glamourousness. I see life filled with so much love, hope, faith and joy. I see potential in a young, vibrant, little girl who has grown into a sweet teenager. God has healed my body to be free of sorrow, hurt and pain, with lots of laughter—loving myself fearlessly, yes that's me!*

Angel is my inspiration. Through the tough times we never forgot to pray. God was, and will always be, number one in our lives. My faith in Him kept me strong, no matter what I was facing. Angel is extraordinary and we, as parents, gave her extraordinary care.

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There are so many awesome people that showed love and support whom I would like to thank. At this time, I would like to thank Angels' Place for all you have done. When Hurricane Katrina destroyed our home, it took us some time to get Angel's room back the way it was. Angels' Place directed a benefactor, a man and his wife, our way to help us for Christmas and they decorated Angel's room just the way she wanted. Thank you for the things you do all year long for the children.

"I will never forget your kindness. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, for all the wonderful opportunities you give us. "

"My mom always told me that sometimes you have to go through darkness before you can see the light", Angel wrote.

*Note: Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) requires prolonged treatment—usually involving a few weeks to months to get the patient into remission, followed by an intensification phase and then prolonged therapy (2—3 years). Because of bone marrow transplants and immune suppression, children with ALL are more susceptible to infection than healthy children.*

*After completion of therapy, survivors of ALL should be carefully monitored for delayed effects of treatment.*

Angels' Place

## Happy Birthday Wishes!

Cory Bickham  
Tyler Dominic  
Arron Delaune  
Genesis Flores  
Josh Guidry  
Brice Haydel  
Tayla Hunter  
Ty Inman  
Karton Jones



Eric Kjorling  
Alex Manning  
Alexis Moore  
Savannah Pedro  
Jordan Prince  
Tiara Roy  
Katelyn West  
Lauren Wright

Best wishes for a wonderful year from Angels' Place

*In Loving Memory*

**Ahliyah Carter**

10/14/2000—02/09/2011



*Ahliyah's Heavenly Father quietly summoned her on Wednesday, February 9, 2011.*

*Ahliyah touched everyone around her with her bright, winning smile and bigger than life personality. She was a little shining star, that everyone who met her will never forget.*

*Ahliyah is dancing with the Angels, rejoicing in her heavenly Father's boundless love, and making all of heaven smile.*

*Our deepest sympathy to her mother Ashley and Ahliyah's entire family. May the peace of God which passes all understanding be with you and may He hold you in the palm of His mighty, loving and compassionate hand.*

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Many of our children continue to need blood and platelets. If you wish to donate for a child, please call us for more information at (504) 455-2620. *Please* consider our children when you decide to donate blood or platelets.

There is a need for pre-paid gas cards and Wall Mart gift cards for our families.

Also, anyone with low income or affordable housing information please call us.

Thank you so much,

Mary Kantlehner, Childrens Program Director

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**Calendar—2011**

- Volunteer Luncheon— May 21, 2011—NOON
- Spring Picnic—Saturday, April 9, 2011—11 AM-2 PM
- Zephyrs Game—Saturday, April 16, 2011—5:30 PM
- School Supply Drive—July 2011



Angels' Place  
4323 Division Street, Suite 206  
Metairie, LA 70002  
(504) 455-2620  
Fax 504/ 455-2622  
[www.angelsplace.org](http://www.angelsplace.org)  
Email: [office@angelsplace.org](mailto:office@angelsplace.org)

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