

Guardian Angel Gazette

From the Founder/President's Desk



Anita Gilford, RN, MSN

The weather for our annual Angels' Place Spring Picnic couldn't have been more beautiful. Once again, **St. Martins Episcopal School** hosted our picnic on their splendid oak filled campus on Airline Highway. The St. Martins students planned some great games for our kids including cup cake decorating that is always a favorite with the kids (and us too!) A huge thank you to our host representatives, **Chris Hamann**, special events coordinator and **The**

Reverend Debbie Scalia, Head of Lower School for making our event possible and a great success.

The **3rd District Kiwanis Club** fired up the charcoal grill provided by **Gibbs Construction**, and grilled delicious hamburgers and hot dogs for our families and volunteers. **Kiwanis Dawnbusters** donated cookies and chips and **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** served soft drinks and water. The Kiwanis Clubs and **Coca Cola** in Harahan are so very faithful every year to provide food and beverages to our annual event. Thank you so much for all you do for us. **St. Georges Episcopal School** gifted our families with free pajamas for our kids which is a BIG hit every year with our parents and caregivers. We had two new organizations participating in our picnic this year: **Integrity Carpet** who brought a huge space walk and invited the kids to have their fingernails painted with fun colors and designs by Integrity employees. The **New Orleans Department of Voter Registration** delighted our kids with arts and crafts including string painting and face painting. **St. Matthew the Apostle School** brought loads of goodies for our children to build their own Easter baskets and games for our children to play. Angels' Place sponsored the **Angels' Place Olympic Games** which included, tug-of-war, musical chairs, hopper race, and egg and spoon race. Our thanks to **Kelly Johnson** and **Larry and Hannah Reams** for overseeing the AP games and **Debra Lovell**, one of our AP parents, for donating eggs for our egg hunt. And, just when you thought the picnic couldn't get any better, members of the **Voodoo Football Team** and the **Voodoo cheerleaders** showed up thanks to Integrity Carpet's, **Joe LeBlanc**. They played with the kids, visited with their parents and took pictures with everyone. Thank you Voodoo players and cheerleaders for taking your time to brighten the faces of our kids!

We want to thank everyone for making our Spring Picnic another success. Thank you to **Ben Raspstine**, with St. Martins Episcopal School who breaks down all the tables and chairs and makes the campus sparkle again and to **Herb and Nellie Bergeron** for volunteering for our registration table.

Moisant Kiwanis brought Easter Baskets to our office for some of our children and **Crescent City Depression Glass Society** gave us gift cards for our families for Easter.

Stephanie Stock with **Whole Foods on Veterans Blvd.**, in Metairie stopped by our office with loads of natural products to be given out to our families who children are in treatment in the hospital. Angels' Place volunteers will put together the gift bags.

Thank you to **Sandra Crowell**, **Frances Earle**, **Emma Savoie** and **Fran Swan** for stopping by our office with a generous check from the **VFW 6640 Ladies Auxiliary**.



Mary Kantlehner, Childrens Program Director

To our Angels here on Earth, Josh's Journey:

In January 2009, Josh came and

said, "Mom I have a

lump under my arm." He showed no signs of being sick so cancer never entered my mind. I told Josh I made a doctor's appointment for him and then Josh said, "Mom, what if it is a tumor?" I couldn't believe he said that at nine years old. My mind was blown and was in an instant panic. Before we knew it, we were in Children's Hospital in New Orleans getting a biopsy. They sent us to 4 West where we were told on January 12, 2009 that my precious little boy had cancer—stage 4 non-hodgkins lymphoma. He had five tumors in his nine year old body. It was a miracle itself Josh told me about the lumps because, had he not told me, I would have lost him.

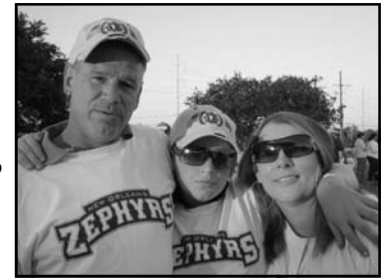
I felt so scared and terribly lonely. Most of the time, I couldn't even breathe—I felt as though I was under water. I felt Josh and I were all alone even though I know we weren't. It's hard to explain but, I just didn't think anyone could understand the pain and helplessness I felt knowing my beautiful little boy had this invisible disease and there was nothing I could do for him but pray! I still cry to this day when I think about all he went through—I would have traded places with him in a heartbeat. I remember thinking over and over, Why? Why, Josh and not me? I remember clearly the day the doctor told me he had cancer. I was walking down the hall to get to my mother and as soon as I saw her face, I fell to the ground. Michah's mom, the mother of another cancer patient in Children's, picked me up and said to me, "Honey, you can't do this. You have to be strong for your son." I will never forget those words. As I walked into Josh's room he asked, "Mommy am I going to die?" His words cut like a knife and I felt as though my heart was being ripped out. It was the most horrible feeling I have ever experienced. I kept saying to myself, "moms are not meant to bury their sons. If Josh is taken from me I can't go on living—no way! I adore Josh—he is my life and if he didn't make it, there would be no more life for me." Then, God sent my uncle Al to me—a true man of God—to pray with me often. He prayed for me, Josh and our whole family. He told me to pray, pray, pray and have hope and faith in Jesus that Josh was going to make it. And, that is exactly what I did. The Lord heard my prayers. Josh is going to be 14 years old this year. He is strong, healthy and doing great! I am finally at a place in my life where I'm secure in knowing Josh made it and the nightmare is behind us. Josh was a true soldier through it all—a real fighter! He has been in remission since February. All things are possible with God!

We want to say how thankful we are that *Angels' Place* is in our lives. Thank you for all you have done for our son, Josh, and our family. I especially thank our dear, sweet Mary for comforting me and being so kind and concerned for me and my son! It made all the difference in the world to me knowing that she sincerely cared about Josh and what he was going through.

Thanks for being a part of our journey and for all your love and support. Angels' Place has a special place in our hearts and in heaven too! Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Josh, Lisa and James

NOTE: Non-hodgkins Lymphomas are an adverse group of blood cancers that include any kind of lymphomas except HL. Lymphoma is cancer in the lymphatic cells of the immune system and usually presents itself as tumors.



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Erik loves talking to the Easter Bunny



We think Joval enjoyed being surrounded by lovely Voodoo Cheerleaders



Free jammies from St. Georges



Ray Ray is ready for the 3 legged race



Ty says Hi!



St. Matthew the Apostle Students help build Baskets and play games



Avid sports fan, Dylan poses with the Voodoo players



Face painting by the NO Dept. of Voter Registration, is a big hit



We're glad Christopher and mom could come



Tug of War game looks like fun!



Thank you Kiwanis Clubs, Brother Martin Students & Voodoo Cheerleaders



Talk about a SUPER slide!



Kids paint works of art



Looks like Mr. Bunny was giving out kisses



And they're off to find the eggs!

Wing Claps!

Moisant Kiwanis Club & the students from **St. Edward the Confessor School** for the wonderful Easter Baskets for some of our children
Crescent City Depression Glass Society for Wal Mart cards for our families for Easter
East Jefferson Republican Womens Club for a kind donation
Earl & Loey Hyman for a kind donation for gift cards for families
Gloria S. Kabacoff for a kind donation
Kenner Lioness Club for purchasing three AH Dolls
Moisant Kwanis Club for Easter Baskets for our children
Wendy Luna for all her help in the office
Neurology Monitoring, LLC for a kind donation
Sandra Oubre for a kind Easter donation
Richard Palisi for a kind donation
Dr. Noel and Kathleen Pilie for a kind donation
Rebecca Rhodes for a kind donation
Capt. John and Peggy White for a kind donation

In Loving Memory

Tom and Mary Kennedy in memory of **Sis Carrere**
Richard and Ann Rushing in memory of **Elaine Marx**
Daniel and Sharon Morel in memory of **Faye Stubbs**



We were glad Brice and his dad could make it!



Cory getting a bit tired

NOBRA, New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association invited Angels' Place families to a baseball game at Zephyrs Stadium again this year. Our children and their families were treated to a baseball game, great food and beverages, T-shirts and baseball caps. **Captain Don Rieder** and his lovely wife, **Jackie**, hosted the event. The game gives our families an occasion to spend time together and catch up with other Angels' Place families.

Thank you so much Captain Rieder, and NOBRA for your loyal support. You are dear friends to the children and families of Angels' Place.



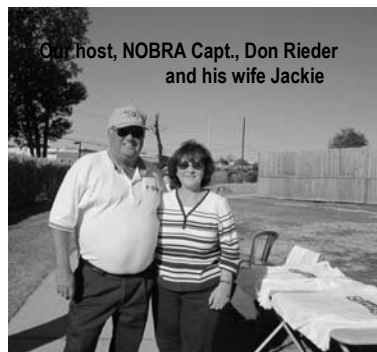
Angel W. was selected to throw out the first ball



Captain Rieder presented Anita with a donation from NOBRA



Lil Camille hams it up with big brother.



Our host, NOBRA Capt., Don Rieder and his wife Jackie



Eating hot dogs, hamburgers and just enjoying ball game



Family is ready for the big game



Jamie gets face paint from Starbrite the clown



AP Board member, Matthew Person, chats with Josh & his buds



Zeth and family meet Clotile



The New Orleans Zephyrs Bull Pen Club recently presented a check to **Anita Gilford**, Founder and Executive Director for Angels' Place. Pictured from left are **Mike Schline**, general manager of the New Orleans Zephyrs, **Marion Gilford**, Vice President of Angels'

Place; **Anita Gilford**, founder and president of Angels' Place; **John Vollenweider** and **Robert Chaisson**, members of the Bull Pen Club.

We want to give a special thank you to the members of the Bull Pen Club for their kind donation, for their continued support of Angels' Place and dedication to its children and families.

Calendar—2011

Volunteer Luncheon	May 21, 2011—NOON
School Supply Drive	May—July 2011



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School Supplies Needed for AP Kids

As our Angels' Place children and their siblings prepare for 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, index cards, pencils (large & small), erasers, water colors, pens with erasers & red pens, primary writing tablets, glue sticks, colored construction paper, Black marble composition books, white glue and glue sticks, pencils, pencil sharpeners, baby wipes, qt. & gal. zip locks, baby wipes, paper towels, liquid soap w/pump. and anything else you can think of that kids normally need for school.

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

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

The drive starts May 24, 2010

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

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