

Guardian Angel Gazette

From the Founder/President's Desk



Anita Gilford, RN, MSN

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year. I would like to thank our many supporters, friends and organizations for, once again, helping Angels' Place provide a memorable and cherished Christmas to so many of our Angels' Place children, their siblings and their families.

We had a very busy November and December. We had our 2nd **Art for Angels' Fundraiser** hosted by **Chef Wanda McKinney** at

Café Gambino where most of our children's art work sold. I want to thank again our local artists **Joyce La-Porte** and **Sherry Francalancia**, the local artists responsible for the art classes that were given our children who provided the wonderful artwork for our fundraiser.

Angels' Place received several generous contributions during the holidays that helped us with our Christmas giving including a very good friend who wanted to remain anonymous, the **Saint's Coach, Sean Payton's Play It Forward Foundation** other good friends and generous supporters, **Brian Grosch** with **Allfax and Dianne Young**.



I also want to thank the many friends who, along with Angels' Place, donated toys and gifts for our children and adopted families including, **Mercedes Benz of New Orleans**, the **Apartment Association, 1st Lake Apartment Association, the Elmwood Business Association, the Louisiana 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, Wal Mart Store 541, Metairie Ridge Garden Club, New Orleans Depression Glass Society, Kenner Jazzercise, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Wegmann Dazet, LA WIC Program, RH Scarlet Sisters, Kiwanis 3rd District, Integrity Carpet, Kiwanis Metairie Dawnbusters, the Teachers of Parkway Pre-School, Jaume Family, State Troopers Office, and the Deep South Chapter Academy of Medicine Surgery Nurses.** Thanks to **St. Martin's Episcopal School** for the gift bags for each of our children and **Jared's Jewelers** for the boxes of lovely soft Teddy Bears which we gave to each of our children at the party.

We also want to thank all the individuals who made Christmas bright for our kids. A list of you wonderful people is on page 3 of this publication. A big thank you to **Earl and Al Hyman** with **Magnum Medical** who lends us office space for us to store, sort and wrap the gifts for our kids. They have been real lifesavers!

Our Angels' Place Christmas party was a very memorable occasion thanks to **Archbishop Rummel High School** staff: **Irv Barousse, Lisa Ross, Laurie Waltzer, Donna Mascari** and Archbishop Rummel High School faculty: **Jackie Weiss**, and retired ARHS staff: **Ralph Boudreau**, Archbishop Rummel High School Operation HeadStart Directors **Mark Firmin, Andrew Dinet, Russell Zimmerman**, and **Operation HeadStart students, parents and alumni.** Thank you, **LaBella's Restaurant & Catering**, for the delicious, kid pleasing, macaroni and cheese. And a special thanks to **Marie DeSalvo** who graciously donated the paper products, table decorations and delicious Christmas cake in honor of the DeSalvo children.

Santa was especially good to our children and their families this year.

Our sincere thanks to all the wonderful people who support our efforts to bring a little happiness and joy into their lives—we could *never* do this without you.



Mary Kantlehner, Children's Program Director



We were able to send many of our families gift cards for help with their Thanksgiving dinners thanks to generous donors.

Also, each year **Moisant Kiwanis Club** cooks entire Thanksgiving meals and delivers them to local AP families.



Christmas was magical for our children this year. So many wonderful people came forward in special ways to make the magic happen. Our generous gift donors, vol-



unteer wrappers, gift baggers, present transporters, Santa and his elves, Disney characters, **Operation HeadStart** students, **Archbishop Rummel High School** staff, parents and alumni were amazing. So many of our parents have expressed their gratitude and joy for their special Christmas. Seeing the smiles on the faces of our children and their siblings was well worth all the effort. We made sure that our children in **Children's Hospital** also had a wonderful Christmas.



Our volunteers were incredible and we would not have gotten the job done without them. The gift wrappers spent hours and hours, even into the night, wrapping toys. Then at the eleventh hour, our baggers filled the toy bags. On the day of the party, the Archbishop Rummel Operation HeadStart alumni and **Don Wildentels** transported the gifts from the office to the party—how's that for volunteer organization!

A special thanks to **Marion Schroder** for volunteering to enter computer data of all our children's Christmas wish lists. Thank you, **Terri Mannina** for sticking with me to the end and my sisters, **Susan** and **Diane** for their invaluable help.

I just returned from vacation to my home to visit my family in Ireland. We managed to visit the beaches and watched the huge waves from the storms pounding the coast. We even went swimming in the North Atlantic Ocean. It was a lovely holiday visit.

I hope everyone's holiday was filled with peace, joy and love. I look forward to the new year and the opportunity to serve the wonderful children and families of Angels' Place.

NOTE: The Excalibur carnival crew has invited some of our AP children to ride a float in their parade this year. We are gathering carnival beads for them to throw. Please contact us if you have any beads to donate.

Also, our art classes will begin on Saturday, January 28 from 9-11 AM. Any families interested please see the calendar of events and call me

(If we forgot anyone - please contact us - we are working hard to get everyone in)

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The three "Wise Men" Andrew Dinet, Mark Firmin, Russell Zimmerman, OHS, Rummel HS



.....and to all, a good night.

Cory had one too many chicken nuggets!

More pictures of our Christmas party can be seen on our website, angelsplace.org. Under the guidance of the three Operation HeadStart directors, Mark Firmin, Russell Zimmerman and Andrew Dinet, the Operation HeadStart Students play a major part in our Christmas party. The students served food and drinks to the families for their convenience, they entertained the children with their Disney characters, awed our children with Santa Clause and his elves and Disney Characters, prepared and decorated the Raider Room for the party, cleaned up after, and gave our children the very special attention they deserved. These students will one day be active members of our community. We are so proud to be the recipients of their graciousness and dedication. I am sure their parents are very proud to have raised young men of compassion and integrity. Thanks guys for a job well done!

Wing Claps!

If we have overlooked anyone, please let us know. You are all very special to us.

BFM Corporation for a kind donation
 James J. Balsamo, Jr. for a kind donation
 Rey Bienvenu for a kind donation
 Warren Bischof, Jr. for a kind donation
 Linda Cashio for a kind donation
 Alice Reese Cooney for a kind donation
 Country Club Home Gardners for a Christmas donation
 Francis Daigle for a kind donation to our fundraiser
 Laurie Rodosta Dupuy for a kind donation
 Mrs. H. D. Evans for a kind donation to our fundraiser
 Layth Gurley for a kind donation
 ICS Logistics for a kind donation on behalf of Pacorini Global Services Associates.
 Janet Keller for a kind donation
 Thomas & Connie Kitchen for a kind Christmas toy donation
 Kenner Central Lions Club for a kind Christmas toy donation
 Rickey Louis Lagasse for a kind donation
 James & Linda Mallard for a kind donation to our fundraiser
 Marrero Land & Improvement Association for a kind donation
 Beth Mims for a kind donation
 Nancy Mole for a kind donation
 Kevin & Nichold Mulligan for a kind donation
 Neurology Monitoring, LLC for a kind donation
 Ellen Odem for a kind donation
 Richard Palisi for a kind donation
 Glenda & Lionel Parria, Sr. for a kind donation
 Dr. Anita Prieto for a kind donation
 Marguerite Ricks for a kind donation
 Debbie Rood for a kind donation
 TECH Service Products, Inc. for a kind donation
 Terese Plescia-Smith for a kind donation
 Wal Mart Foundation & facility #2665 for a kind donation
 The Wilson Sexton Foundation for a kind donation
 Wayne Thomas for a kind donation
 Dalton and Marlene Truax, Jr. for a kind donation
 Dianne Young for a kind donation
 Milda Young for a kind donation

Christmas Toy and Gift Card Donors

Jennifer Augello and the staff of Wal Mart Covington	Karen Ledet
Charles Cusimano, III	Cliff Giffen
Angela Han	K.C. Ford
Sandra Folger	David Fos
Pat LaCrox	Herb & Nellie Bergeron
Debbie Levine	Sandy Shannon
Alfred Lotz	Heather Johnson
Suzette Marrero	Jeanne Ferrer
Joanne Fourroux	Ruben Paz
The Jaume Family	Gayle Martin
	Daniel Mattingly
	Ellen Murdock, Kiwanis, 3rd Dist.

Toy Sorters and Baggers

Terri Mannina, Don Wildentels, Dianne Ballintine, Susan Sawyer, Tim Tamm, Meaghan and Leslie

In Loving Memory

Royann Avegno *in memory of* our children Laurie, Gabrielle, Katie and Matthew
 Barbara C. Fontenelle *in memory of* Janet Dares
 The Dinner Belles *in memory of* Janet Dares
 Therese L. Paliaro *in memory of* Jules and Carman LeBon
 Penelope Mendez *in memory of* her sister, Stephenie Mendez
 Nancy Mole *in memory of* Juliette Faith Molina
 Steve and Susan Shelley *in memory of* Juliette Molina
 Therese L. Paliaro *in memory of* Dominic Paliaro, Jr.
 Robert L. Perez *in memory of* Bonnie Perez
 Joy and Kevin Anaston *in memory of* Joycelyn Tramuta Stacey

In Honor of

Judee Morovich *in honor of* her daughter
 Anna Rickoll *in honor of* the marriage of Nancy and Leo
 Sharon Flores *in honor of* my mother, Muriel Reinhard's 92nd birthday
 Joe and Judy Toups *in honor of* the birth of Daniel Ramos Richards

Volunteer Gift Wrappers

Mel Ankrum, AP Volunteer
 Rose Armstrong
 Brenda Bastone and her Christ the King Luthern Church youth group
 Herb & Nellie Bergeron, Dawnbusters Kiwanis/ AP Volunteer
 Anne Garrett, Charlann Kabel, Cindy Landry, Debbie Lavine-Laureate Alpha Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority
 Mallory Guntner and Kellen McConnell, LSU
 Carol Wesham
 Anne Cerniglia, Kiwanis Club
 Margery Colbert
 Judy Dusong
 Carolyn Edwards
 Jeanne Ferber
 Barbara Cozic, *Christ the King Lutheren Church*
 Meghan, Kristin & Collin Dias
 Toni Duffrene
 Pat Duplantis, AP Volunteer
 Weezie Gautier, AP Volunteer
 Cliff & Linda Giffin, Dawnbusters Kiwanis
 Wendy Luna, AP Volunteer
 Suzette Marrero, AP Respite volunteer
 Peneope Mendez
 Ellen Murdock, Kiwanis Club 3rd District
 Lena Pardo
 Susan Richards, AP Volunteer
 Donna Goodman, Jeff Segnerm, Sarah Hicks, Amelia Walchm Jenna Griffon, Connie Lewis, Kristen Knight, *Benchmark Research*
 Terri Mannina
 Carol Weysham
 Debbie Younger, *Apartment Association*

A Mercedes Benz Christmas



Mercedes Benz of New Orleans adopted several of our children and their siblings for Christmas. Our kids are always excited to open the wonderful, thoughtful presents given to them by Mercedes Benz. The event was hosted by Mr. **Jamie Moll**, the General Manager and organized by **Julie Hilburn**, Customer Service Manager. The money was collected by the staff and Mr. Moll matched it. Mr. Moll shopped for all the gifts. Thank you for your kindness and generosity and for making a very special Christmas for our children.



The **New Orleans Zephyrs Bull Pen Club** recently presented a generous check for \$3,345.00 to **Anita Gilford**, Founder and Executive Director of Angels' Place. Pictured from left are Anita Gilford, **Robert Chassion**, **Bull Pen Co-Chairman**; **Brandon Puls** and **Jeff Booker** of the **New Orleans Zephyrs staff** and **John Vollenweider, Sr.**, **Bull Pen member**.

We want to give a very 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 our children and families.

Calendar—2012

School Supply Drive—On going
 Art Classes—Saturday, January 28, 2012
 Saturday, February 25, 2012
 Date of 3rd class TBA
 Spring Picnic—March 31, 2012



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