



## Winter 20 Spring 15

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### 2015 Board of Directors

Jonathan Martin, Board Chairman

Amos Gray	Carol Freeland
Pati Trippel	Valerie Claar
Lee Richardson	Darren Hill
Kate Schaffer	Ann Prince
Martha Rodgers	Bob Woodall
Raymond Wright	Sharon Smith



It was an honor and a pleasure to chair the annual Ouachita Children's Center Mystic Krewe of Liberi Ball and Coronation. What a delight to work with such a creative and dedicated bunch as the Mystic Krewe of the Liberi. And what a fun, awesome event! I have retired my dancing shoes till next year's Ball in hopes my feet will heal by then. My sincere thanks go to all the Committee and staff members who worked hours upon hours to make this event a success. And also to those of you who donated food, drink, auction items, time...it could not have happened without your kind generosity. Our great sponsors were phenomenal and showed us a true heart for children. And of course, thank you to all who attended our Ball. We so appreciated your attendance and enjoyed your company for the evening.

You know, there are few Non-Profits that have such a profound effect on the health and well-being of a region like Ouachita Children's Center. For "as our children grow, the health and economic status of our community grows." Healthy families make healthy workers and contributing citizens.

I am touched by the way OCC staff and administration ministers to our children who have often been termed as "throw away" kids, those at risk youngsters who suffer from abuse and neglect. Those who have no place to go or no one to which they may turn. The stability that this short term shelter provides them is crucial to planting the seeds of hope and nurturing the possibility of a better life. In many cases, the OCC staff are the first ones to really show these children that they are loved and needed. The Board works tirelessly, juggling funds, volunteering, and searching for grants to maintain the facilities and provide more opportunities for the children.

I have a direct connection to OCC. As a small child, my foster grandson was one of the children who received shelter there. It was there he realized for the first time that there was a life different from one of abuse, neglect and addiction. This fall he will enter College, the next step to a productive and happy life.

It is imperative that we continue to tell the story of "Ouachita Children's Center" throughout the year and not just as a prelude to the annual fund raiser. The needs of the Center and the children are great and ongoing. The continuance of educational, recreational and mental health programs so important to these kids depend upon stable funding. And still, even with the growing demand for beds there are no funds for expansion or growth. It would behoove us all to join the OCC Board of Directors and staff in keeping the "tremendous story of Hope and Need" in the forefront of our community leaders and citizenry. After all, don't our kids deserve our best efforts?

Dr. Sally Carder

# Arkansas Gives

## Mark Your Calendars:

Be a part of the first annual State-wide giving day and support the Ouachita Children's Center on **April 2, 2015!!**

On Thursday, April 2, Arkansans from across the state will donate to celebrate Arkansas Gives. This program, created by the Arkansas Community Foundation and the Arkansas Non-Profit Alliance, is a challenge to all Arkansans to donate to their favorite causes in honor of the vital work done by the charitable organizations in our state. In order to emphasize this importance, the Community Foundation is offering a matching pool of \$250,000, which will be divided according to dollars raised by the various nonprofits. The more OCC receives in donor dollars, the more we will receive in matching funds. In addition, the Foundation will be awarding cash prizes in different categories, such as monies raised, number of donors, etc.

## One Day. One Easy Way to Give.



**ArkansasGives.org**  
G R O W   T H E   L O V E

## Donate Online April 2 Only

The event lasts from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on April 2 ONLY**, and all donations **must** be made ONLINE with a credit card by logging on to [www.arkansasgives.org](http://www.arkansasgives.org). MasterCard, Visa, and American Express are accepted. The minimum donation is only \$25 and there is no maximum! Also, donors are able to donate to up to 10 nonprofits in one transaction.

So be sure to mark your calendars to ensure you donate to your favorite nonprofit—OCC!

**Help us win some awards for our children—please give to OCC on April 2!**

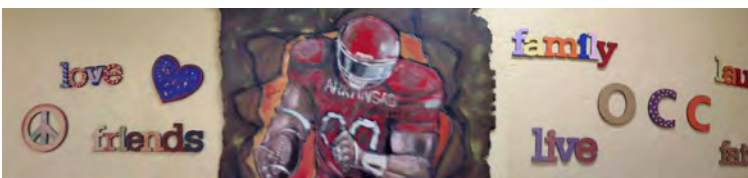
## Volunteer Spotlight



### Hot Springs Pet Therapy

There aren't many volunteer activities that allow you to include four legged friends, but the Hot Springs Pet Therapy Program is a wonderful exception. Pet therapy volunteers bring their dogs to visit many organizations, including Ouachita Children's Center. The dogs visit with the youth at OCC and provide companionship. The volunteers brighten the lives of our children through the shared love of animals. The

Hot Springs Pet Therapy Program has over sixty volunteers that strive to bring happiness and companionship to those who may not have that in other areas of their lives. Ouachita Children's Center thanks ALL the Pet Therapy volunteers for their dedication, compassion and love that they bring with them each month to our organization.



## 2014 Employee of the Year



### Cassandra Means

Ms. Cassandra could easily be the definition of the word "Perseverance". She has been a dedicated employee of Ouachita Children's Center since 2011, working as a Direct Care staff member and more recently as a Direct Care Shift Supervisor. Cassandra has also been an employee of Malvern School District for the past ten years.

When Cassandra is on duty, you can rest assured that the youth are in good hands! The kids at OCC often call her "Mama Cassandra" and are constantly asking when she will be working again. Ms. Cassandra has a genuine passion for working with youth, and it shows in everything that she does. Her calm, caring demeanor reaches the youth she works on a deeper level, and she is a leader and role-model to many of her co-workers.

Her colleagues adore her, have stated that she is a team player and is always there to provide guidance when needed. Her compassion shows in all that she says and does. During her down time Cassandra enjoys riding motorcycles, cooking, fishing, spending time with family and friends, and assisting her church. She also teaches the parent classes for OCC's Parenting in Action program and has been an active part in the OCC Wellness team!

It is an honor to have Cassandra as part of the Ouachita Children's Center family, and we know with her here, that our kids are receiving the absolute best care.



## From the Executive Director

### **Krewe of Liberi Charity Ball**

Ouachita Children's Center was pleased to hold its second annual, and very successful special event recently. In spite of a rather cool and dreary evening on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, some 200 guests were busy warming up the historic Hamp Williams Building and letting some good times roll at the *Mystic Krewe of Liberi* Charity Ball & Coronation. Honorary Chair Dr. Sally Carder led the charge for having some Mardi Gras-themed fun to help our kids. *Krewe of Liberi* translated (loosely) means Protector of Children, and so all those who participated did help protect the children—with their sponsorships, ticket sales, donated supplies, **auction items, auction bids, and even responses to Dr. Sally's pass the hat promotion!** Preliminary calculations of the full event indicate over \$40,000 was raised!



**The evening's fun included plenty of frivolity beginning with a presentation of the Royal Court comprised of Helen and Tim Bumpas, Dana and Don Gooch, Ann and Randy Hill, Rachel and David Mangan, Libby and John Vines and pages Reece and Ellie Vines and Maddie Hamby. Then by the luck of the draw—or rather the cupcake—Ann Hill and Tim Bumpas became the next presiding King and Queen! Last year's reigning Queen, Dorothy Morris, turned over her scepter and crown to ensure proper continuity.**

Emcee for the event was Hot Springs favorite Dick Antoine and live music was provided by Dean Agus and The Legacy. Wonderful New Orleans style cuisine was provided by Joey Godoy of Bleu Monkey Grill with special dessert fare from Jill Blanchard Catering and **Richard's Catering and Consulting. All of these festivities were adeptly coordinated by local event planner extraordinaire, Michelle Harrison, with support and guidance from the OCC Board and Staff "Krewe Committee".**

Presenting Sponsors The Morris Foundation, The Learning Institute, and Mr. Bob Edmonds were joined by many other generous individual and company sponsors including Dr. Suellen and Davis Tillman, Bear State Foundation, MHarrison Designs, The Sentinel-Record, Arvest Bank, Bank of the Ozarks, Dr. Sally Carder, Mr. & Mrs. Victor and Valerie Claar, Mr. & Mrs. Courtney Crouch, Community Counseling Services Inc., Ike Eisenhower State Farm, Attorney at Law Jonathan Martin, Bonnie and Bart Newman, Ouachita Financial Advisors, and US Stations. Thanks to nearly 20 very generous individuals and businesses, additional fun and fundraising for the evening included a live auction, led by Auctioneer Doug Westgate, and a silent auction that combined raised a over \$5,700.00.



While FUN was the overriding agenda of the evening, participants listened intently as Dr. Sally Carder shared her personal experience with and appreciation for a child who spent several memorable nights in OCC many years ago. She wanted others to know, she said, just how important and impacting the services of OCC are. Another special moment in the evening was a tribute and recognition of recently retired Juvenile Court Judge Vicki Shaw Cook, who was presented with a special and uniquely personal framed drawing, created by local artist Gary Simmons. Judge Cook, as it was noted, served passionately on this important bench for the past 20 years and has had a tremendous and positive influence in our community by channeling many thousands of youth to better choices and outcomes with her serious but encouraging approach with youth, and her tireless work to develop new community programs and services from the bench.

OCC wishes to express its deepest appreciation to everyone who supported and participated in this great event, making it such a success and feel-good evening, including the amazing Krewe planning committee members Dr. Sally Carder, Tracey Kinder, Jonathan Martin, Lee Richardson, Martha Rodgers, Kate Schaffer, **Michelle Harrison, and Liz Mathis. Now everyone please mark your calendar for next year's repeat, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Mystic Krewe of Liberi* Charity Ball on February 6, 2016!** Hope to see you then!

Linda L. Ragsdale, LMSW

## 2015 Krewe of Liberi Ball



## Alliance for a Healthier Generation



This past June, the Ouachita Children's Center Wellness team met for the first time as part of a pilot program with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. The Alliance is a project put together by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation that had previously been focusing on Health and Wellness in **our nation's schools. Last year, with the support of Chelsea Clinton, they launched** a pilot focusing on wellness in juvenile justice programs in two states, of which Arkansas was one. OCC staff enthusiastically joined the program with close to half of our staff participating.

The OCC Wellness Team used the Alliance six-step process to focus on increasing youth knowledge of healthy food choices and increasing the physical activity of our youth. Local art volunteers helped the OCC youth create beautiful health and wellness related art for the fitness room. Food and health components were also added to the Parenting and Life Skills curriculums. The staff at OCC also formed an employee wellness committee that

will focus on promoting health and wellness for all the OCC staff.

In January, several OCC staff attended the first Alliance for a Healthier Generation celebration at the Clinton Presidential library that included the CEO of the Alliance and other Arkansas Juvenile Justice programs participating in the pilot program. OCC was awarded a certificate of participation, as well as the "All In" award for the level of staff involvement. The Alliance will be continuing the pilot program in Arkansas and OCC is excited to continue the process over the next year, teaching both youth and staff the value of healthy eating and physical exercise!



## 2014 Holidays at OCC



The month of December is an absolutely wonderful time at OCC, thanks to the care and interest of so many FRIENDS of OCC! There is seemingly a Christmas party or special event every few days as special groups like Woodmen of the World, the Ouachita Travelers MRC, Hot Springs Lions Club & Walmart, Creative Life Church, Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Zeta Chi, Fun City Chorus, and many, MANY more



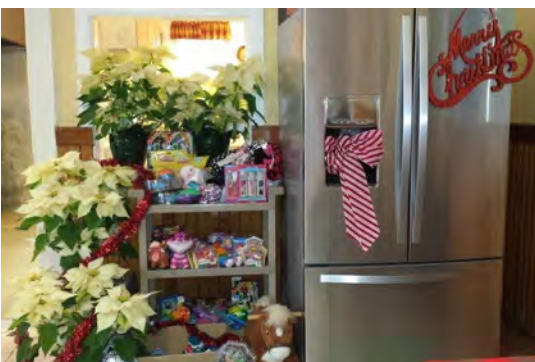
bring festivities, food and gifts for our kids, letting them know how much this community cares about them!

Meanwhile, OCC Staff are busy planning Christmas for our youth also, including a special evening dinner party with turkey and all the trimmings, entertainment, and gifts galore provided by various donors throughout the year. Executive Director Linda Ragsdale notes, “several staff say this is their favorite event of the year, because Board Members and their spouses join all the staff and their spouses—along with



all our youth—for a unique night of fellowship and holiday celebration. We put on quite a spread,” says Ragsdale, “decorating and dressing tables for nearly 100, helping our youth dress up for the occasion, savoring Ms. Vickie’s delicious dinner, and then greeting Santa Claus who usher kids into a special room where a huge bag of specially selected gifts awaits each youngster.” Everyone present finds it a real ‘feel-good’ event, and our youth are surprised and incredibly touched there is such a celebration planned just for them.

Preparation for this year’s dinner had a pretty troubling development, however, one day before when our tired old commercial refrigerator decided to ‘act up’ and the temp went up some 30 degrees overnight causing 4 turkeys and 3 hams to spoil. While we managed to replace the food in time to cook and serve, the news of our losses and equipment failure got out—first via Facebook and then through a front page article in *The Sentinel Record* and on Channel 7 nightly news. And that’s when



Christmas *really* arrived at OCC—as immediate donations of turkeys, hams, cakes, cookies, checks and dollars, refrigerators and freezers (literally!) came pouring through the front door on Christmas Eve. Oh my goodness, we were so blessed, amazed, and appreciative! MERRY Christmas indeed!



## Donors October 2014 – February 2015

Sue Allen - Christ of the Hills UMC  
 Steve & Rhonda Anderson  
 Gloria Angel  
 Doug & Lori Arnold  
 Jill Blanchard - Oaklawn Chaplaincy  
 Nancy Blevins - Christ of the Hills UMC  
 Harvey & Barbara Bradstreet  
 Donald Brady  
 Jesse & LeAnne Branch  
 Robert Bridewell & All of the employees at Berry Plastics Corp.  
 Henry Browder - In Honor of Linda Ragsdale - In Memory of Mary Louise Huffman Lampman  
 Dr. William & Jane Byers  
 Paul Calcagno - The Defenders MC  
 Beegie Caroom  
 Alicia Cass  
 Bud Chambers  
 Brian Childs - Embassy Suites  
 Victor & Valerie Claar - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Phillip & Ceci Clay  
 William & Ruth Cluck  
 Martin & Janie Coco - Coco Beverage  
 Ken & Judge Vicki Cook - In Memory of Alexander N. Hall & In Memory of Jeffrey Alan Bell  
 Wade Cook  
 Courtney & Brenda Couch  
 Luck & Mary Cox  
 James & Sally Crawford  
 Michael Crihfield  
 Opal Davis - D & D Moving  
 Lawrence & Caren Dodd - **Dodd's Dragonfly** Designs  
 David & Melissa Draper - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Amy Ebner  
 Max English  
 David & Jackie Fastenow  
 Katie Ferrell - First Baptist Church - Median Adult II Ladies Sunday School  
 Dennis Fitzgerald - RRTIF Oil & Fuel  
 Howard & Carol Freeland - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Anne Fulbright  
 Millie Fuller  
 Dena Garza  
 Melinda Gassaway  
 Sarah Goodeaux  
 Tom & Diann Green  
 Jeffrey & Ann Hair  
 Mike Hale  
 Joel & Leslie Hardin  
 Dr. WM & Susan Harper  
 Sue Harris  
 Kay Harrison  
 Neil Harrod  
 Ray Hawkins  
 Michael & Lisa Hickman  
 Larry & Shelly Hill  
 Tori Hill  
 Dallas & Margie Hite - Gate Operator Installation & Repair  
 George & Kay Holland  
 Geary Hufstедler - OFRBC  
 Julie Isenberg  
 Donald & Malka Ivy  
 Betty Jagoditsh - Jagoditsh Family Trust  
 William & Marilyn Janser  
 Janet Jenkins  
 Roger Johnson - Zero Tolerance Softball Team  
 Debbie Kilby - R L Kilby Sales, Inc.  
 Dr. Martin Koehn  
 Rita Kolher - Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce  
 Dr. Harold & Sue Koppel - In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Jack Porter and Dr. & Mrs. Lance Porter  
 Bill Kurst  
 Brent Lakey - Lakey Insurance  
 Carol Lane  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Langston  
 Gladys Larson  
**Conrad "Wil" Lewis** - Hot Springs Gay Pride  
 Celia Little  
 Chad & Laura Lockwood  
 LaDell Looper  
 Larry Loudon & the South Hot Springs Lions Club  
 Anne Marcus - Toy Chest  
 Michelle Mariencheck  
 Wally Marroy  
 Jonathan Martin - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Margaret Maryan  
 Kye Masino - KYE-YAC, International  
 Liz Mathis - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Brenda Matthews & Family, Sarah Robbins & family, & Steve Fisher  
 Phillip & Janet McAdams  
 Pam McDaniel & the Hot Springs Emblem Club #194  
 Dan & Sherri McDonough  
 Paul & Saundra Meeks - In Honor of Gary & Clyda Sexton & In Memory of Salli Summer Sexton Redding  
 Jamie Merriman  
 Deborah Miller  
 John Morgan - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Donald Munro  
 Rosanne Murphy  
 James & Brenda Nesbett  
**Lowe's**—Wayne Neufer  
 Bernard & Zina Nugent  
 Todd Orr  
 José & Annette Pallen  
 Alma Parker  
 Brian Parkinson - Allstate Insurance Co.  
 Ted Parks - Walmart  
 Sam Pitner  
 Dwayne Pratt - West Central Arkansas Planning & Development  
 Ann Prince, CPA  
 Abigail Quesinberry - In Honor of Bobby & Dawn Geiger and John & Phyllis Geiger  
 Linda Ragsdale - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Latoya Randle - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Andie Reynolds  
 Lee & Brenda Richardson - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Mary Anne Riehart  
 Tommy & Beverly Riggins  
 Melissa Rigsby  
 Richard Riley - Methodist Outreach  
 Martha Rodgers - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Daniel Sampson  
 Greg & Kate Schaffer - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Charles & Sarah Schweinle  
 Dr. Gene & Farideh Shelby - In Honor of Ken & Vicki Cook  
 Gayle Shelton - In Honor of Linda Ragsdale  
 Dave Sieh & The Ouachita Travelers MRC, Central AR  
 Barbara Smith  
 Richard Smith  
 Sharon Smith - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Karen Soerens - Christ of the Hills UMC Faith & Hope Circle  
 Jason & Tanya Spavins  
 Larry & Peggy Stanley  
 John & Denise Steinhaus  
 Kimberly Stronczek  
 Carson Taylor  
 Darrin Taylor  
 Kelly Thomason - Hot Springs Board of Realtors  
 Davis Tillman & Dr. Suellen Hales-Tillman  
 Cindy Trammell  
 Alan & Pati Trippel  
 Mike Vail - Cross Road Bike Fellowship  
 Gary & Laura Vaughan  
 Mary Velazquez - Village UMC Sew for Service  
 Sirena Vessel  
 Peggy Vincent  
 Rep. John Vines  
 Glenn Waits  
 Bea Wallace - Garland County CASA  
 Terry Walton  
 Michelle Watts - Delta Kappa Gamma  
 Gary Welch & Jordon, Woosley, Crone, & Keaton, LTD  
 Tina West & the residents of The Good Samaritan Society  
 John & Rebecca Whelan - In Honor of John **Whelan's Birthday**  
 Benjamin & Danielle White  
 Patricia White  
 Gregory & Amy Whorton  
 Pamela Williams - Christ of the Hills UMC Naomi Circle  
 Buzzy & Sherri Williamson - Williamson Boat Docks, Inc.  
 Sherri Williamson - Class of 1980  
 David Witchger  
 Mike & Joy Wolf  
 Raymond Wright - In Memory of Mary Lou Lampman  
 Jane Yahoda  
 Suzanne Young  
 Robert Zunick  
 Arkansas Counseling & Psychodiagnostic, Inc.  
**Bennett's Auto Service**  
**Busy Bee's (EHC)**  
 Carmike Central City 10 Cinema  
 Cash & Carry Liquors  
 Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church  
 Christ Lutheran Church  
 Christ Lutheran Church Women  
 Dairy Queen  
 First Pentecostal Church  
 First Presbyterian Women - First Presbyterian Church  
 The Garland County Juvenile Court  
 The Good Samaritan Society  
 Hot Springs Giving Circle  
 Hot Springs Masonic Lodge No. 62  
 Hot Springs Oaklawn Lions  
 The Jackson House  
**Jimmy John's**  
 Lake Hamilton Jr. High School  
 Oaklawn United Methodist Women  
 Passport Center  
 Plaza Carmon Dental Associates & Staff  
 Presbyterian Kirk In the Pines  
**Red Hat Lady's 'n' Red**  
 Sanders Supply, Inc.  
**St. Mary's Catholic Church** - Hands of Mary  
 Statco-Palmer, Inc.  
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs  
 United Way of Garland County

**Our Community, Our Children**



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P.O. BOX 1180  
HOT SPRINGS, AR 71902

Phone: 501-623-5591  
Fax: 501-623-4226  
E-mail: info@occnet.org



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT



## WISH LIST

### Items in Continual Need

Twin size Sheet Sets & Pillow cases  
Bath Towels, washcloths & hand towels  
Lice Treatments  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Hair Gel  
Lip Balm  
Deodorant (non-aerosol)  
Soap & Body Wash  
Lotions  
Toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, & floss  
Electric shavers & hair clippers  
Anti-bacterial hand soap  
Medicated foot spay or powder  
Female sanitary products  
Hair brushes (both boar bristle & plastic)  
Wide tooth combs  
Hair grease, pomade, pink oil, moisturizer & relaxer kits  
Wave caps, shower caps & head scarves  
Small Black rubber bands, barrettes & ponytail holders

### Men's & Boy's briefs & boxers

### Women's & Girl's underwear & bras

White t-shirts & sleeveless undershirts

### Socks & shoes (Boy's & Girl's)

Sweatpants & Sweatshirts, all sizes  
Gift Cards to Wal-Mart, Old Navy, Shoe Stores etc.  
School Supplies (pens, pencils, notebooks & paper)  
Backpacks  
Books & Magazines with Youth Appeal  
Art Supplies (brushes, canvases, paint, etc.)  
Sofa set or sectional set  
Area Rugs

### Cat Food for Tiger (OCC's therapy cat)

Special event tickets or passes  
Winter gloves, hats and jackets  
Summer bathing suits & Towels  
Flip Flops  
Stainless steel forks & spoons

### Special Items We Currently Need

New Pillows  
Window Treatments (curtains & heavy duty blinds)  
Plastic or Fabric Wall Hangings  
Storage Shelves & Racks  
Outdoor plastic stackable chairs  
Outdoor benches or wrought iron chairs  
Indoor potted & outdoor bedding plants  
Corolle or Melamine plates & bowls

Magnetic wall boards with magnets for resident rooms  
New matching comforter sets  
Bookcases  
Paint  
4WD Vehicle  
Area and throw rugs

### Volunteer Opportunities

Adult Mentors for our youth  
Assistance with the OCC Vegetable Garden  
Assistance with OCC Flower Beds  
Academic tutors  
Maintenance assistance  
Construction of a nature trail around the property  
Volunteer barber or beautician services (Haircuts)  
Yoga or Zumba classes  
Dance or Music classes  
Organized sports or games  
Poetry, Writing & Arts & Crafts  
Piano playing volunteers for sing-alongs  
Assistance with painting and organization  
CPR and First Aid Trainers