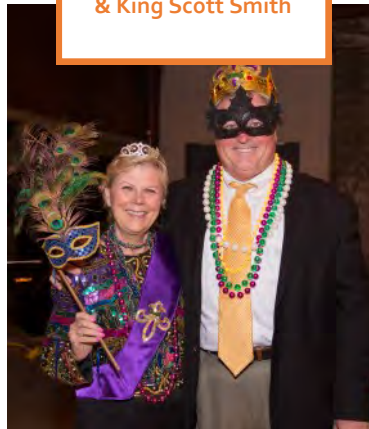




## Another Mystic Krewe of Liberi in the History Books!

Queen Susan Harper  
& King Scott Smith



Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mystic Krewe of Liberi is now history, but the \$25,420 raised has helped us to fulfill our mission to provide care and resources for children in crisis. Susan Harper was crowned as our 2017 Queen and Scott Smith was crowned our King. Thanks to all of our sponsors, our volunteers, those who contributed to our silent auction, and especially to our guests for making this year's charity ball so spectacular!

### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Linda Ragsdale Retiring
- 3 Drug Crisis / Employee of the Quarter / Hardy Disc Golfers
- 4 Legislative Reception / Spring Break / Schedule a Presentation or Tour
- 5 Thank you for your Gifts!
- 6 Wish List

### 2017 Board of Directors

Carol Freeland, Board Chair	
Dr. Sally Carder	Kate Schaffer
Capt. Belinda Cosgrove	Dr. Joyce Shepherd
Kim Edmonds	Dr. Kenneth Taylor
Dr. Hal Koppel	Pati Trippel
Ann Prince	Mike Tuohey
Michelle Ratcliff	Dr. Peggy Woodall
Martha Rodgers	Raymond Wright
Linda Ragsdale, Executive Director	

## We're Home!!

This spring, we welcomed three siblings into OCC who had been removed from their home. The youngest was seven. While they were awaiting placement in a foster home, our staff went to work to nurture and support them. After just a few days here, they began to brighten up, smile, and become playful children. One afternoon, they came running in the front door from the school bus and as the door opened, they exclaimed, "We're home! We're home!" If that doesn't give you *"the feels,"* nothing will! That's the work that OCC staff does every single day for youth in crisis. Thank you for making sure there is a place for these children to call home when they are at their most vulnerable.

## Retiring Executive Director Linda Ragsdale Reflects on Our 40 Years

Forty years of helping kids. Can you believe that? This year marks OCC's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday! In those forty years, we have cared for, comforted, and guided children who have had to deal with tremendous challenges in their young lives. Sometimes those challenges have led to poor decision making that has gotten them in trouble. Many times, our children are left in limbo and loss through NO fault of their own, but because of the actions (or inactions) of dysfunctional parents or guardians. However these youngsters arrive at OCC's doors, we continue our 40 year tradition and mission to bring resources, redirection, and hope for their futures.



For almost seven years, I've had the distinct honor and privilege to be part of this amazing organization. Although there have been plenty of challenges along the way, there have been many more rewards. I am especially inspired by the amazing staff who—in spite of low pay rates—give so generously of their hearts and souls to make a positive difference in the lives of our kids. I have discovered that even when staff move onto other opportunities (usually more remunerative), their experience working with our youth stays with them. For once a part of OCC—whether client or staff—I think maybe OCC stays in your heart.

Some years ago, we shifted our focus from being behavior monitors, to a more therapeutic care approach. Together we as OCC Staff have learned to stop asking, “What did you do?” or “What’s wrong with you?” and begin asking instead: “What has happened to you and how can we help?” This paradigm shift, resulting from our trauma-informed care training, has radically transformed our understanding and effectiveness with these children – something I am very proud of!

One of my great privileges as Executive Director is to have experienced the incredible support for OCC –specifically for our kids – from our community through funding and advocacy, from our volunteers who bring their unique talents and kind spirits to help our kids, and from our very active and committed Board of Directors. The generosity of our donors, of event sponsors, and those who bring in-kind support has filled my heart with deep appreciation for everyone who has kept OCC strong these past forty years.

So this June, as I take my leave from OCC for a much awaited retirement from my 45 years in human services, I look forward to joining this magnanimous community in continuous support of OCC and encourage its best efforts yet for the next forty years of serving youth in crisis. If I could leave you with my parting admonition, it is to encourage you to recognize that the youth who come to OCC are really amazing kids, resourceful survivors, have a determination to make it, and are quite literally our future. We must give them every opportunity available to succeed, which I hope becomes a reality that we can witness for each one.

I am proud, honored, and so very thankful for the opportunity I have had to serve. What a joy it has been to make a difference in and for the lives of these children, and to have served with the staff who care for them daily. I may be shifting my role here, but as they say--once you've been a part of OCC it is always in your heart. I know it will always be in mine.

*Linda L. Ragsdale*  
Executive Director

## The Drug Crisis Isn't Just About Street Drugs

When people discuss substance abuse, they often think about drug dealers in back alleys, but that is not the complete story. A major factor in the drug abuse epidemic involves legal, prescription drugs. In fact, in Arkansas, we have the highest rate of teen abuse of prescription pain medication in the entire United States. That's pretty alarming! By the time Garland County students reach their senior year in high school, 21% have abused prescription drugs – and guess where they get them? The answer is shocking: 71% were given, bought, or stolen from friends or relatives.

In other words, the family medicine cabinet is a major source of our state's alarming rate of youth prescription medicine abuse. What can be done to curb this disturbing trend? There are three simple steps you can take: (1) monitor and take inventory of your prescriptions on a regular basis, (2) secure your prescriptions in a locked location, and (3) dispose of your prescriptions properly. There are prescription drug drop boxes conveniently located at the Garland County Sheriff's Department (525 Ouachita Ave.), Hot Springs Police Department (641 Malvern Ave.), Hot Springs Village Police Department (113 Calella Drive), and Walgreen's (3631 Central Ave.).

The killer in your medicine cabinet can become less lethal by taking these simple actions that will restrict access by young people. The good news is that you can be part of the solution and help to prevent prescription drug abuse and the horrors of unintentional drug overdose deaths.



## William Butler—OCC Employee of the Quarter



We are proud to announce that Mr. William Butler was awarded Employee of the Quarter in March. He serves as Direct Care staff and is absolutely fantastic with OCC kids. He has a big heart for the kids and for OCC. Congratulations Mr. William! We are VERY proud of you!

*Residential Services Director, Megan Goldman (pictured left) beams with pride as she presents Employee of the Quarter to William (pictured right).*

## Disc Golf Tournament—Rain or Shine!

Even though it was cold and rainy, the Spa City Disc Golf Club and leagues from around the state came together at Cedar Glades Park in March for a Disc Golf Tournament that benefitted OCC. With great enthusiasm they not only played in the miserable weather, but also raised over \$1,300 to help OCC!



## Legislative Reception at OCC

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, State Senator Bill Sample hosted a Legislative Reception at OCC. State Representative Marcus Richmond and State Senator Alan Clark took time from their busy schedules to learn more about OCC, what our needs are, and how we work with the state to care for Arkansas's children in crisis. The legislators also shared how they work and the challenges they face as they make important decisions that impact all of us. It was a great exchange of information and perspectives.



Alan Clark (front row, left), Marcus Richmond, and Bill Sample Listen to an OCC presentation



Bill Sample and Linda Ragsdale share a light moment during the Legislative Reception

## Spring Break was AWESOME!!



Our kids had an amazing Spring Break thanks to our generous and talented community who brought a variety of experiences to them throughout the week. They were able to enjoy the VOV Music Festival Park Concerts, Arts and Crafts class with Pati Trippel, an Ice Cream Social and Dance Party with Jose Pallen, a Juggling Workshop with Justin Chastant, a tour of the backside of Oaklawn to learn about horse care thanks to Marianne Wilson, Book Making and Guided Writing at Emergent Arts taught by Erin Holliday and Kai Coggin, an Improv Drama and Writing Workshop taught by Annie Cooksey, a Fun Fair at Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and cheered on the Mid-America Indoor Pickleball Championships at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Thanks to everyone who helped make Spring Break awesome!

## Schedule a Presentation—Schedule a Tour

We would love the opportunity to give a presentation for your church group, organization, or club about the mission and work of OCC. We would also love to have your group come tour our campus and historic building! We can configure our presentation to meet your group's schedule and format.

Please contact Sallie Culbreth to schedule either of these: [sculbreth@occnet.org](mailto:sculbreth@occnet.org) or 501-623-5591

# Donors January - April 2017

Stephanie Alderdice  
 Nan Alexander  
 Teresa Allen  
 Phyllis Baltz  
 Stephanie Beakey  
 Gwen Bendixen  
 Donald & Brandie Benton  
 Gary Bettis  
 Clayton Blackstock  
 Maxwell Blade  
 Lynn Blankenship  
 John & Dawn Bonham  
 Floy Borland  
 Donald Brady  
 Henry Browder & Janice Morrison  
 Tim & Helen Bumpas  
 Lanie Carlson  
 Becky Chote  
 Vicki & Ken Cook  
 Belinda Cosgrove  
 Tim & Sallie Culbreth  
 Nancy Cummings  
 Rick & Denice Davis  
 Tammie Diggs  
 Lawrence & Caren Dodd  
 David & Melissa Draper  
 Angela Dugger  
 Larry & Amy Ebner  
 Kay Ekey  
 Janet Enders  
 Max English  
 RuthAnn Fikes  
 Howard & Carol Freeland  
 Anne Fulbright  
 Jorge & Karen Garcia  
 Melinda Gassaway  
 Brian & Laura Gehrki  
 Neal & Rose Gladner  
 Don & Dana Gooch  
 David & Ann Hair  
 Shane & Leslie Hardin  
 Chappy & Susan Harper  
 Sarah Harris  
 Ronald & Judy Harrison  
 Eric & Becky Hart - In Memory of  
 Ms. Betty Jagoditsh  
 Gerald Hatley  
 Craig & Tina Hendrix  
 James & Sharon Hess  
 Larry & Shelly Hill  
 Randy & Ann Hill  
 Tammy Hill  
 Tori Hill  
 Barry Horner  
 John & Jordan Horner  
 Lise Huckaby  
 Tuyet Huynh - In Honor of Ms. Shirley Wallace  
 Lisa Irby  
 Jeb Jarrell  
 Janet Jenkins  
 Caprice Jonas  
 Glen Jones  
 Sonya Jones - In Memory of Ms. Betty  
 Jagoditsh  
 John & Sarah Kabealo  
 Lynda Kass  
 Madelyn Keith - In Honor of Ms. Linda  
 Ragsdale  
 Travis & Tracey Kinder  
 Martin & Linda Koehn  
 Hal & Sue Koppel  
 Jacqueline Lacy-Diggins  
 Rebekah Lazalde  
 Nancy Lilly  
 Dave & Melody Lindhag  
 Ronald & Ladell Looper  
 Wayne & Sue Lucky



Henry & Jane Luschen  
 Steve & Sandra Mangan  
 Michelle Mariencheck  
 Court Mathey  
 Liz Mathis  
 Janet McAdams  
 Glen McClain  
 Tom & Barbara Mitchell  
 Betty Moon  
 Joe & Carla Mouton  
 Martha Jane Murray  
 Steve Nawojczyk  
 Bart & Bonnie Newman  
 Carol Norton  
 Dean Norton  
 Bernard & Zina Nugent  
 Robert & Susan Okroglic - In Honor of  
 Miss Lillie Grace Okroglic  
 Helen Oliver  
 Donna Osborne  
 Ray & Kerry Owen  
 John Payne  
 Larry & Gail Pennington - In Honor of  
 Dr. Tommy Roebuck  
 Ann Prince  
 Linda Ragsdale  
 Mike & Michelle Ratcliff  
 Brian & Lisa Reilly - In Memory of  
 Mrs. Brenda Robbins  
 Thomas Riggins  
 Joseph & Melissa Rigsby  
 Mark & Sarah Robbins  
 Martha Rodgers  
 Tommy & Johnnie Roebuck  
 Wayma Rowe  
 Cynthia Saalfeld  
 Rob Saettele  
 Daniel Sampson  
 Edward & Donna Sanders  
 Joann Sayardarian  
 Greg & Kate Schaffer  
 Hayden Shamel  
 Gene & Farideh Shelby  
 Rosemary Sherrard  
 Todd & Margaret Shiver  
 Lou & Susan Siegel - In Honor of  
 Mr. Terry Wallace  
 Gary & June Simmons  
 John & Donna Simpson  
 Frank & Sheryl Staggs  
 Carol Stanfill  
 Charles & Shirley Swanson  
 Anthony Taylor & Michelle Strause  
 Tom & Brenda Tirrell  
 Alan & Pati Trippel  
 Gary & Michelle Troutman  
 Steve & Marilyn Trusty  
 Mike Tuohey  
 Tom & Nancy Vandegrift  
 Diane Vasica  
 Haley Villines  
 Cynthia Wagstaff  
 Jean Wallace  
 Nancy Weaver  
 Benjamin & Danielle White  
 Blake & Laura Whitley  
 Toma Whitlock  
 Danny & Ann Whitt  
 Greg & Amy Whorton  
 Pamela Williams  
 David & Lisa Wilson  
 Marian Wilson  
 Wisely Family Trust  
 David & Kathleen Witchger  
 Robert & Peggy Woodall  
 Charles & Jan Wright  
 Trent & Candace Young



Jared & Courtney Zeiser  
 1st Network Insurance  
 501 Angels Productions  
 Adrienne Kahn Fine Jewelry & Design  
 Afamilytree.com  
 Ambrosia Bakery Co.  
 B J Smith Realty  
 Baldwin Dentistry  
 Bennett's Oaklawn Service, Inc.  
 Berry Plastics Corporation  
 Bonnerdale Seventh Day Adventist Church -  
 Primary Class  
 Carmike Cinemas  
 Chaney Law Firm  
 Chef Johnna's At Desoto Club  
 Christ Lutheran Church  
 Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church -  
 Exercise Group  
 Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church  
 Christway Unity Church  
 City of Hot Springs  
 CL Knives & Leather  
 Cooper-Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center  
 Corner Liquor Store  
 Creative Life Church  
 Delta Kappa Gamma  
 Doc Bryce Productions  
 Epsilon Sigma Alpha International -  
 Zeta Chi Chapter  
 First Presbyterian Church -  
 Presbyterian Women  
 The Five Star Dinner Theatre  
 Fox Pass Pottery  
 The Glory Barn Church - Ladies Ministries  
 Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute  
 Hot Springs LGBT Alliance  
 Hot Springs Masonic Lodge No. 62  
 Hot Springs Music Festival  
 Hot Springs National Park Dental Group  
 Hot Springs Village POA  
 Low Key Arts  
 Luna Bella  
 Magic Springs Water & Theme Park  
 Maxwell Blade Theatre of Magic  
 Merle Norman Cosmetics & More  
 Mid America Science Museum  
 The Morris Foundation  
 NMF, Inc.  
 Oaklawn United Methodist Church  
 Oaklawn United Methodist Church -  
 United Methodist Women  
 Pacer, Ltd  
 Piney Grove United Methodist Church -  
 United Methodist Women  
 Piney Grove United Methodist Church  
 Pizza Hut  
 Red Light Roastery Coffee House  
 Road Riders for Jesus  
 Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church -  
 Ladies of Sacred Heart  
 Sandy Sutton's Design Center  
 Scenic 7 Rotary Club  
 Signature Events, Inc.  
 Spa City Disc Golf Club  
 Special Touch Catering  
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
 Stop Animal Cruelty  
 Striped Bass Adventures  
 Superior Bathhouse Brewery & Distillery  
 Tenth Episcopal District Church of the  
 Living God  
 U.S. Army Recruiting  
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs  
 US Stations  
 Walmart - HSV  
 Walt Disney World Co.  
 Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society



339 CHARTEROAK  
P.O. BOX 1180  
HOT SPRINGS, AR 71902

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



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT



Community Partner

## WISH LIST

### Items in Continual Need

- Twin size Sheet Sets & Pillow cases
- Bath Towels, washcloths & hand towels
- Lice Treatments
- Hygiene Products (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, etc.)
- Fingernail polish
- Flat Irons
- Electric shavers & hair clippers
- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Medicated foot spray 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
- New Men's & Boy's briefs & boxers
- New Women's & Girl's underwear & bras
- White t-shirts
- Socks & shoes (Boy's & Girl's)

- Sweatpants & Sweatshirts, all sizes
  - Graphic t-shirts
  - Special event tickets or passes
  - Gift Cards to Wal-Mart, Old Navy, TJ Maxx, Journeys, Hibbett Sports, Shoe Stores, etc.
  - School Supplies (pens, pencils, notebooks & paper)
  - Backpacks
  - Current Books & Magazines with Youth Appeal
  - Sofa set or sectional set
  - Cat Food for Tiger (OCC's therapy cat)
  - Summer bathing suits & towels
  - Stainless steel forks & spoons
- \*\*Due to space constraints at our facility, we now refer used clothing donations to Jackson House or Salvation Army, where we "shop" as needed\*\**

### Special Items We Currently Need

- New Pillows
- Window Treatments (curtains)
- Plastic or Fabric Wall Hangings
- Storage Shelves & Racks
- Outdoor plastic stackable chairs
- New matching comforter sets

- Outdoor benches or wrought iron chairs
- Unbreakable plates & bowls
- Magnetic wall boards with magnets for resident rooms
- Paint
- Area and throw rugs
- Trendy wall-Motivational quotes
- Board games
- Perfume & Body sprays

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Special Events Volunteers (for upcoming festivals, charity balls, etc.)
- Poetry, Writing & Arts & Crafts
- Volunteer barber or beautician services (Haircuts)
- Dance or Music classes
- Organized sports or games
- Assistance with painting and organization
- Academic tutors
- Maintenance assistance
- Construction of a nature trail around the property
- CPR and First Aid Trainers