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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. 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!

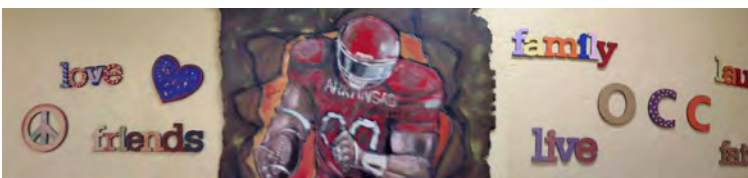
Volunteer Spotlight



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 31st, 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 3rd 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 & Sandra 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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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
 Corelle 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