



The Haven For Children Newsletter

Who We Are

The Haven is a temporary residential emergency shelter for abused, abandoned, and neglected infants and children through the age of nine, at time of acceptance. Our three homes provide a loving, secure environment for up to thirty children.

The primary goal of The Haven is to nourish and protect the children while starting them on a path of healing and positive self-growth. Through the loving staff of professionals and paraprofessionals, The Haven begins to break the tragic cycle of child abuse.

Since 1987 The Haven has taken a positive role in the lives of over 1000 children from Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. It is with the monetary support of our community that we can continue to care for our children.

Executive Director's Message

I can not believe that school has been in session for almost 4 months and Christmas is fast approaching us! We are still trying to get past the mounds of Halloween candy as our kids are writing their letters to Santa. This year we have 31 children with us and we are actively looking for "Santa's" to help fulfill our kids wish lists.

If you are interested in "adopting" a child's wish-list this Christmas please contact us at thehaven@cfl.rr.com or call us at 321-676-6888.

Published Quarterly by
The Haven Guild

Volume 23 Issue 4

December 2010

While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication we apologize for any errors or omissions.

Please call any error or omission to the attention of the editor and it will be corrected in the next issue.

A Magic Night at the Arena



Harris Corporation recently gave The Haven 20 tickets to the Orlando Magic pre-season game on Oct 10th. The children and caregivers had a wonderful time. The kids were able to be a part of a historical moment when the Arena opened for the first time. [Thank you Harris!](#)

Volume 23 Issue 4

The Haven for Children

Kim Straehla, Executive Director
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Susie Morris, The Lamb Shoppe
Mary Ann LaPorte, Shauna Brown, My
Huynh, Chef du Jour
Judy Roub, Social
Kaye Boggs, Bylaws
Volunteer Coordinator, Abigail Hughes
Historian, Pam Whittington
Kathie Dixon & Pat Donnell, Luncheons
Mary Gilbert & LeGay Carter, Donations
Nancy Seares, Directory/Invitations
Ellen Parda, Birthday Cakes

The Haven for Children newsletter is
published quarterly by The Haven Guild,
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Man Up!

Tracy Bacon, President
The Haven Guild

By the time you read this Newsletter, autumn (or at least our acknowledgment of it!) will have passed and we will be looking toward the winter holidays. The catchphrase of the past election was “**Man up**”, used by both parties and Independents to exhort sticking to something when the going gets tough. How does this pertain to the Haven Guild?

The Guild is finally “manning up” to the goal of communicating electronically with members in order to reach as many as possible, as quickly as possible. The objective is to get news, opportunities and Haven needs coming to you without delay. We are excited and thankful that Abigail Hughes and Pauline McKeone spent countless hours updating email addresses for as many of you as they were able. In addition to special notifications, we plan to begin sending the Newsletter electronically. We will still maintain and mail the print edition as needed, but members will be given the chance to receive an electronic version, print version or both. In light of increased mailing costs, we hope that many of you will take advantage of the electronic edition. As you know, all savings go directly to the Haven children.

Victoria Wilmarth and Carol Colombo “manned up” to chair this year’s Havenly Affair, which raised \$50,000, netting \$37,000 for the Haven. Cheers to you and your committee, Ellen Parda, Pam Whittington, Abby Riba and Terra May for putting this wonderful event together. Next year promises a different venue, with more fun for all! (Volunteers are always welcome!)

On Oct. 30, the Chef du Jour Coordinators, Mary Ann LaPorte, Shauna Brown and My Huynh, “manned up” to host an informative demonstration of how much food to prepare, how to package it and deliver it, as well as general questions about cooking for the Haven children. It is far less intimidating than it seems, and many have teamed up with neighbors, friends, church or civic groups to make the cooking more fun.

And, who else but Susie Morris would have “manned up” to increase Lamb Shoppe sales even more, by creating an October “Blingfest” to sell costume jewelry donated by Guild members. It was a HUGE success and money-maker for the Guild, and some customers came by every day to see what was new.

Last, but certainly not least, let’s think about “man up” in a literal sense and relative to the Guild: there are fewer than five men who are stalwart and comfortable enough with themselves to be members of the Haven Guild. It is not in the bylaws that members must be females. We recognize that many men help in cooking for the children, even though they are not Guild members. However, please know that **we welcome members of all genders!**

Sincerely,
Tracy Bacon

The 2010 Havenly Affair

This year's Havenly Affair, "A Toast To 20 Years", was held at the beautiful Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place on Saturday, October 2nd. We celebrated the Haven Guild's tireless fundraising efforts for the past two decades. The committee included Victoria Wilmarth and Carol Colombo as co-chairs, Haven Guild President Tracy Bacon, Pam Whittington, Ellen Parada, Terra May and Abby Riba.

Over 115 people attended this elegant affair to enjoy a delicious plated dinner provided by the hotel's culinary experts: Bill Griffith, Food and Beverage Director and Executive Chef, Donald Edge. Peter Strazzo and Petty's Meats again graciously offered fine wines from around the world to accompany our dinner. Bottles were purchased to take home by many! Nothing like getting expert wine advice and direction from those who know it best!

Genna Jewelers was very generous for a second year in a row and donated his and hers Movado watches from the Esperanza collection. Ed and Melody Stillie were the lucky pair to go home with these incredible pieces.

Entertainment was provided by the talented Len Turner and The American Express Band and dancing went on well into the evening, filling the dance floor. Many chose to take home the little hands, (created by our children of The Haven as centerpiece décor) as a keepsake of the evening. In addition, our floral cen-



L-R Pam Whittington, Victoria Wilmarth, Carol Colombo and Tracy Bacon. Photograph courtesy of Wade Arnold.

terpieces creatively designed by Kreations Florist, Roses Are Red, All City Florist and Flowerful were a prize to take home for one lucky winner sitting at each table. Link Johnston owner of Eau Gallie Florist, provided the beautiful grand piano centerpiece. We encourage you to frequent these fundraising partners to show gratitude for their support.

This year's event raised close to \$50,000, netting \$37,000, and we are looking forward to next year already. We hope you will consider attending if you haven't been able to in the past. We offer a heartfelt thank you to all who participated in making the Havenly Affair 2010 a success!

Eagles Auxiliary Grants Haven Wish



Carol Green and her husband, Larry, have been faithful supporters of The Haven for a number of years through the Palm Bay Eagle Riders, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who support charities. They have organized fundraisers

to benefit the Haven, purchased individualized Christmas presents for the kids, and sent in checks from time to time to be used for the children. Due to Carol's perseverance, she was able to secure a \$2,000 grant through the Eagles 4249 Auxiliary. Carol pre-

sented the check to The Haven Guild at the September membership luncheon.

The Haven will use the money to benefit "Project Haven Computers". Living in the computer age, creates the need for children to have access to computers for their education. Currently, we have 29 children in school and only three computers to serve all those children. Very simply put, this means that we are in desperate need of more computers. The grant through the Eagles 4249 Auxiliary will make this happen for our kids!

Thank you, Carol!!!

This project is funded in part by the
State of Florida, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free, within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State. 1-800-435-7352

Membership

Welcome new Haven Guild members!

Ms. Kurt Bacchiocchi
Regina Bleau
JoLynn Cerepani
Bernice Coruzzi
Patrick Cunningham
Pat Cuny
Susan Dafoe
JoAnn Edwards
Lynda Emery
Billie Harris
Hue Healy
Judi Jones
Stacy McGinty
Kathryn Rudloff
Nancy Spotz
Helen Stuart
Tamara Thomas
Carol Veneziano
Janet Wheatley

You will soon be receiving your renewal letter and membership envelope for 2011. Isn't it amazing how time flies? Renewals are due every January 1st. But, if you joined after October 1, 2010, your membership is active until January 2012. It's very important that you continue to support The Haven for Children through your membership dues.

We would like to extend a challenge to all members and ask that you invite your friends and family to join us as members of The Haven Guild for the minimal annual donation of \$25. The \$25 membership dues help pay for supplies and postage for mailings. Any remaining amount goes directly to The Haven for Children. In addition, your membership entitles you to a listing in the annual Guild Directory, quarterly newsletters and invitations to various special events. As a member, you will be invited to volunteer as a Chef Du Jour, at the Lamb Shoppe, or the many other volunteer opportunities offered. Remember, you may not be a volunteer for The Haven unless you are a member of The Guild.

I would be delighted to send an information packet to anyone who is interested in joining The Haven Guild. Please contact me at my e-mail address psmckeone@yahoo.com or by phone at 373-5579.

Pauline McKeone
Membership Committee Chair



The Haven Guild Volunteers Update

Contacting You

We have established an electronic list of Guild members who have shared their email addresses- which means we have an easy and convenient way to contact you when there is an unexpected need for your assistance. If you have changed your email address or would like to share your address, please send an email to: thehavenvols@gmail.com. Emails are sent as blind copies to you which means no one else can view your email address.



Do you know of a club or organization that might like to adopt The Haven for Children as a project?

New Members and Volunteers

A number of Haven Guild members recently provided a brief presentation to the Pine Creek Woman's Club about the Haven Guild and the opportunities available to volunteer in support of our children. We had close to a dozen women who became members and volunteered for various responsibilities at this event. In addition, the Chef Du Jour coordinators provided a mini-workshop on cooking for our kids and three people have already joined and signed up to cook for the children!

Another presentation about the Guild is scheduled in November for The Army Wives at Patrick Air Force Base. If you know of any groups interested in hearing about our great work, please contact me, Abigail Hughes, at thehavenvols@gmail.com or call me at 321 327-8886.



Want to Cook for the Haven Children?
Contact:

Haven I: **MaryAnn LaPorte 752-9788**
Haven II: **Shauna Brown 258-2292**
Haven III: **My Huynh 724-3335**
haven3chef@gmail.com



The Haven for Children gratefully acknowledges the following donors
for September 1, 2010 to October 31, 2010

Individuals

David & Ginger Ballou
Joseph & Dorothy Brett
Agenes Cederlund
Beverly Currie
Janet Donnelly
Joye Eiker
Alyssa Hamman
Stephen & Claire Peffer
Ernest Pulliam
James Robertson
Marcia Sawczyn
Christine Witte

Corporate/Group

Allstate Giving Campaign
Bank of America United Way Campaign
DRS Tactical
Harris Corporation
Harris Foundation
Hobbs Electric
Hope Lutheran Church
Meredith's Bridal Shop
Paradise Pawn
Suntree United Methodist Church
United Way of Brevard
Women of Evangelical Concordia Lutheran Church



Remember When Christmas Meant ...



Remember when Christmas morning meant waking up to find licorice, a Jump rope, Tonka trucks, Barbie Dolls, Star Wars, an orange in the toe of your stocking, and more?

Well, our kids at The Haven need those special memories too. If you would like to make Christmas morning special for them, please contact The Haven at 321-676-6888. The staff will coordinate your gift giving with The Haven's needs.

Or, in lieu of something from the Christmas Wish List, you could think outside of the box and make a Christmas donation to the 2011 Haven Summer Camp Fund. Haven kids love to attend nature camps, sports camps, art camp, cheerleading camp, etc., but it takes donations from their wonderful supporters.

Give a Christmas gift that lets a child know they have something to look forward to next summer. Please make your check payable to The Haven for Children, and designate on it that it is for the 2011 summer camp program, and mail it to P.O. Box 327, Melbourne, FL 32902-0327.



Happy Ending!

Making A Difference One Child At A Time

March 9th, 2010 was a monumental day for 12 year old Zach. Even though he had been placed with a family since October 2009, this was the day that Zach's placement became permanent and he was given his forever family.

Zach had been cared for by The Haven for the previous 3.5 years, although he had been in and out of placements almost his entire life. The Haven provided Zach, as well as countless other children, with something he had been lacking. As his adoptive mother said, "the kids are the lucky ones because of the stability of The Haven."

The stability provided to Zach by The Haven was solidified when he was adopted by a couple of empty nesters. Zach's adoptive parents are also the adoptive parents of a 22 year old young man. They felt they were "getting old quick but realized they had a lot to

give". And give, they have! Zach has learned about the ability to bond with others and form relationships. He has learned about taking responsibility for his actions and the choices he makes. Most importantly, though, Zach has learned about being a part of a family. This sense of family has allowed Zach to feel as though he is the center of his new family's universe; a feeling that we wish every child could experience.

Zach's adoptive mother sings the praises of The Haven. She has said, "Without the significant patience and wisdom of Kim and Joanne, we may not have made it through this process." She feels that The Haven is a great organization and has a wonderful staff of people that truly care.

Congratulations, Zach, on obtaining your forever family.

Birthday Cakes



Amanda Bard is one of the student bakers who has been baking cakes for our Haven children in her "spare" time for about the last six months. Amanda is a senior at Melbourne Central Catholic High School, and says she is happy to have the privilege of making birthday cakes for kids at the Haven. Amanda particularly enjoys designing the cakes to fit each child's personality. The Haven provides the

name, date and theme that child has picked out, and the baker uses their creative talents to meet each request. Amanda is a very creative young lady who enjoys making jewelry, music, singing, dancing, playing sports, and is a Virginia Tech fan. She obviously has a lot of energy too! After high school graduation she hopes to attend Florida Southern College in pursuit of a degree in so-

ciology or criminology. Amanda has been working diligently towards this goal and has the motivation and drive to make it a reality.

Last year, Amanda had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Europe with People to People Student Ambassadors and visited many historical sites and learned about the different cultures and traditions that each country offers. She traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland, Wales, England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

We are so fortunate to have both of our student bakers, Amanda Bard and Brenna Fleis, and we sincerely appreciate their gift of time and, of course, the yummy cakes they provide to our Haven children!

If you are interested in joining Amanda and Brenna as a baker for The Haven, please contact Ellen Parda at 259-0910.



The Lamb Shoppe

We have been really busy at the shop. The October Blingfest went incredibly well. That was quickly followed by the clean out/clean up/ get ready for Christmas days Nov. 1-3. We reopened on the 4th and it was the proverbial Christmas Rush! I want to thank all the volunteers who gave extra time to get the shop clean and ready for these events. If I name them, I will surely forget someone so suffice it to say Thanks to all.

We had arranged for the South Brevard Sharing Center to come and get all the things we cleared out of the shop. That did not work out and if it had not been for the generosity of Don Herndon at Classic Wood Flooring, you would have had to commit me to the nearest asylum. He loaned us his 16 foot box truck at just a moment's notice which we completely filled. We had time constraints so he really "saved" us. Please thank Don whenever and wherever you can.

We continue to accept holiday items so as you unpack all your decorations, keep us in mind when you decide downsize. The shop will be closed between Thanksgiving and the following Monday. We will also be closed from Christmas Eve to Jan. 3rd. We do this so our volunteers can be with family.

Come see us!

Susie



Thank you so much for your continued support of The Lamb Shoppe. It is so important for the financial well-being of The Haven and our precious children.

The Lamb Shoppe is a project of The Haven Guild.
So join up and join in the fun!

Contact Susie Morris
Lamb Shoppe Chairperson.
779-1615 for information.

**1765 S. Patrick Drive
Indian Harbour Beach,
Open Monday through
Saturday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
321-777-6606**

Haven Guild Fall Luncheon

We had an excellent turn out for the Fall Luncheon held on September 15, 2010 at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club. As usual, lunch was wonderful and we all enjoyed visiting with each other and catching up. Thank you so much to Kathy Dixon and Pat Donnell for coordinating this event and VP Ellen Parda for chairing it.

Everyone was treated to a fabulous fashion show, courtesy of Stein Mart, and make-up by Alicia Connor of Mary Kay Cosmetics. Our beautiful models were Judy Roub, Shauna Brown, Judy Anderson, Carol Colombo, Alice Mirth and Kathy Dixon. The ladies all looked gorgeous and Stein Mart did an excellent job with the outfits and accessories, as well as emceeing the fashion show.

Dessert for the luncheon was once again provided by the Patrick Air Force Base and the beautiful centerpieces were once again donated by Suntree Florist.

It was a fun filled event and we look forward to seeing everyone next Spring!

Lithograph Auction

The Lamb Shoppe recently acquired a donation of a Serigraph. It is titled "Two Sisters" and is shown in the picture to the right. It is signed by the artist, Barbara A. Wood and numbered 56/495. The print measures approximately 28 X 33 and is framed, 40 X 44.

The Lamb Shoppe is offering this work to it's guild members at auction. Opening bid is \$100.00. Bidding will end on December 1st at 3 PM.

You can view the piece at the Lamb Shoppe during regular store hours!



The Haven for Children
P. O. Box 327
Melbourne, FL 32902-0327

**We may not be able to change
the world, but we can start,
one child at a time.**



*The Tenth Annual
"Haven Challenge" Golf Tournament
March 26, 2011
Suntree Country Club*



The Haven will celebrate its Tenth Annual Haven Challenge Golf Tournament on March 26, 2011 at the Suntree Country Club. This year's event promises to be our best ever as we once again are privileged to have Nick Anderson and Bo Outlaw from the Orlando Magic playing in our tournament and participating in our evening social. If you were part of our event last year you will remember the fun and excitement they brought with them. While we cannot promise a repeat of last year's new car hole-in-one winner, we can promise that you will see first hand all of the good work done by all who support The Haven and our kids.

As always, the tournament has three divisions: Corporate Challenge, Open and Lady's Challenge. Corporate team members must all be employees of the company to qualify, and the winning Corporate team takes home the custom-made Swarovski crystal trophy presented by Wesche Jewelers in addition to prizes for each of its players. The winners of the Open and Lady's divisions receive individual prizes as well. There will be major prizes for a hole-in-one (car?), closest to the pin and longest drive winners.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start for the best ball scramble format. Players receive a box lunch, complimentary beverages, free range balls and gifts. The event culminates in an evening of cocktails, dinner and prizes for each player and his or her spouse or a guest—all included in your entry fee.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and very important to our success. Please call The Haven at 321-676-6888 or e-mail us at www.thehaven@cfl.rr.com for more information. You may also get your sponsors brochure on line at www.thehavenforchildren.com or on our Facebook site.