



# The Haven For Children Newsletter

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all of our special "Santa's" that helped make our children's Christmas so special. They woke up Christmas morning thrilled that Santa had not only remembered them but had read their letters! Some of our children were fortunate enough to be able to share Thanksgiving dinner at the Crowne Plaza and Christmas dinner at the Hilton Rialto. You can read below about a special Christmas Party some of our children were able to attend in Orlando as well. Many happy memories were made this Holiday season.

Thank you to all of you who helped make our children's Holidays so special!

Kim Straehla

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The Haven Guild

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Welcome,  
Kathryn Rudloff,  
New Editor-in-Chief

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.

## 2010 HAVEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

In December, Starwood's Vistana Resort in Orlando invited the Haven kids to a wonderful Christmas party. The kids were treated to lunch with pizza, chicken fingers, cupcakes and all the stuff kids love! Then there was a visit from Santa with a trivia contest, a sing-a-long and Santa even did the moonwalk!! Each child received a bag of gifts chosen especially for them. It was a lot of fun for the Haven Staff and kids alike. Thank you to the great people of Vistana Resorts for hosting such a fun holiday event.



## The Haven for Children

Kim Straehla, Executive Director  
JoAnn Petrone, Assistant. Exec. Director

### Board of Directors

Scott Kemps, President  
Patrick Hughes, Vice President  
Pam Whittington, Secretary  
Joe Bauman, Treasurer  
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Charla Myers, Adam Rathbun,  
Tiffany Sheffield,  
Melanie Sorensen,  
Rich Stroman, Judy Dolan Wood  
Alex Rudloff, Gracie Heim, Tracy Bacon,  
Victoria Wilmarth, Carol Craig

### The Haven Guild

Tracy Bacon, President  
Ellen Parda, Internal Vice President  
Carol Colombo, Community Vice President  
Carol Cook, Recording Secretary  
Judy Anderson, Corresponding Secretary  
Linda Moore, Finance Officer  
Deb Kemps, Asst. Finance Officer

### Committee Chairs

Pauline McKeone, Membership  
Kaye Cantrell, Education/Advocacy  
Susie Morris, The Lamb Shoppe  
Mary Ann LaPorte, Shauna Brown, &  
My Huynh, Chef du Jour  
Judy Roub, Social  
Kaye Boggs, Bylaws  
Abigail Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator  
Pam Whittington, Historian  
Kathie Dixon & Pat Donnell, Luncheons  
Mary Gilbert & LeGay Carter, Donations  
Directory/Invitations  
Ellen Parda, Birthday Cakes

The Haven for Children newsletter is published quarterly by The Haven Guild

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## If I could Save Time in a Bottle...

Tracy Bacon, Haven Guild President

If we could "save time in a bottle," most of us would put childhood memories in there to be cherished. My guess is that most of the Haven children would not save those types of memories, at least until they came to what is probably their first stable and nurturing home, The Haven.

Generally speaking, here are some of the reasons they might not want to save those memories, as cited in the National Child Abuse Statistics:

- Of the 6 million children abused in 2007, 59% were due to neglect, 15% due to physical or mental abuse, 8% sexual abuse, and the balance other abuse;
- Over 60% of people in drug rehabilitation centers report being abused or neglected as a child;
- About 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the vicious cycle.

Our mission as Guild members is to help make the Haven kids' "new" lives as normal as possible, and hopefully, breaking the cycle for their own future and their children's (as noted in the last two bullets above). This means:

- Helping to provide computers and other resources needed for school work, as well as enrichment programs such as summer day camps, through ongoing fundraising at the Lamb (Thrift) Shoppe and ad hoc fundraisers (Havenly Affair);
- Providing nutritious meals and saving money for the Haven via Chef du Jour;
- Supporting the efforts of Kim Straehla, JoAnn Petrone and their outstanding staff to provide structure, guidance, love and hugs to each of the children in their care.

Many Guild members come home tired at the end of the day after working in the Lamb Shoppe, or after working a job, only to cook for "the kids" and deliver that hot, nutritious meal. While it is a hard thing to do, please remember that each of your daily efforts and sacrifices is helping to make a difference in improving the quality of lives of these children. And your support is paying off: in the first semester of this school year, ALL of the 17 Haven children in traditional education classes were on the Honor Roll!

Through YOUR combined efforts, the Guild has made a difference for these kids: hopefully given each of them happy memories from the Haven and dreams to save in their own bottle.

Thank you!  
Tracy Bacon

## How Does a Child End Up At The Haven?

You all help to support these children, and many of you may wonder how they have come to be at the Haven. Although all their circumstances differ, the path by which they come to the Haven is the same.

It all begins with a call to the Abuse Hotline (800-962-2873). Within 6 hours, a Protective Investigator (PI) goes to the child's residence. If the PI finds the child to be in imminent danger, he/she can remove the child from the premises. The family must appear before a judge within 24 hours. If the judge deems that the child should be removed from their family, the courts first look for a family member with whom the child can reside and if no family members are suitable then the child is placed in a foster home.

So, how do kids end up at the Haven? The Haven takes children who have been placed in foster homes multiple times and/or have significant mental health needs. One of the residents had 41 foster placements before coming to the Haven, and he recently completed his third year with us. Currently, most referrals are children with significant behavioral problems: destruction to themselves, others or to property, or mental or cognitive impairment (e.g. autism). Currently 5 of the 31 residents have autism of varying degrees.

It is a testimony to the wisdom, patience and loving care that Kim, JoAnn and the caregivers provide, which molds the Haven children into students who strive to achieve academically, as well as participating in extracurricular activities such as sports teams and clubs.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP 2011 GUILD MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewals were sent out in November, before the Holiday rush. But just in case you overlooked your renewal, accidentally threw it out with the holiday wrapping, or simply forgot to send back your response, here is a friendly reminder that there is still time!

We value your support and hope you will consider the many ways your involvement in the Guild helps bless the children of the Haven. Please take a moment today to renew your Guild Membership for 2011 by mailing in your \$25 dues, check payable to the Haven Guild, c/o:

Pauline McKeone  
3543 Osceola Drive  
Melbourne FL 32901

Be sure to include a note indicating if there is a particular committee you'd like to help with.

**Don't let this be the LAST newsletter you receive; please renew your membership TODAY!!**

## THANK YOU TO THESE SPECIAL SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR RECENT DONATIONS

Gifts Received November 16th 2010 Through February 10th 2011

David & Nancy Antommarchi	Patrick & Nancy Higgs	Amy Chocolaad & William Murphy
Joseph & Rachel Arazashvili	Mara Hixon	Patrick O'Grady
Beatriz Barredo	Salvatore Sottile & Vernon Hooks	Michael Pelosi
Michael & Andrea Bortner	Beverly Currie & Bonnie Hoos	David Peters
Tracy Brower	Rita Huff	Jeff & Pam Peters
Robert & Karen Buck	Nancy Janokaitis	Daniel & Donna Peters
Joseph & Mary Bullock	Rick & Cindy Kane	Constantinos Philips
David & Lisa Chase	Martha Kirby	William & Dianne Potter
Dr. Sheldon & Sandra Coe	Joe Langford	Susan Roberts
Michael & Carol Dana	John Lauper	Carol Ann Rubino
Michael & Julie Darr	Lisa Mangino-Friedland	William Ruff
Alfonso & Josephine Dato	Andres Marin	Dr. Bradley & Rhonda Schiff
Robert & Maryann Dragoon	Janet & Regina Marquardt	Sheryl Shapiro
Margaret Binz Foundation	James & Margaret Martin	Robert & Lois Shapiro
Robert & Eileen Furton	Jay & Gwendoline Martin	Stephen & Susan Shub
Barbara Gill	Thomas Millward	Scott Sorensen
Karen Hamman	Elizabeth Moore	Joel & Carmen Toro
Wendy Handy	John & Jane Mordas	Judith & Robert Ufferman
Allen & Sandra Henry		Marina Weston
Kay Hess & Family		

### Corporate and Community Organizations

Community Chapel of Melbourne Beach	National Assoc. Registered Nurse First Assts.
Emmanuel United Methodist Church	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	Trisel Corp.
Harris Corporation	Truist Altruism Connected
Harris Foundation	United Way of Brevard
Junior League of South Brevard, Inc.	United Way of the Greater Triangle
KSC- Activation & Turnover Office	Women of the Moose
KSC- Configuration Management Office	

## Haven Guild Gives \$60,000 to the Haven

During the December 2010 Guild Board of Directors meeting, the Guild presented \$60,000 to the Haven. The funds were proceeds from the Havenly Affair fall fundraiser, as well as Lamb Shoppe sales.

THANK YOU to all the people who worked so hard to make the Havenly Affair a success, as well as to all the Lamblets who toil diligently, day after day, to keep the Shoppe's inventory up-to-date and to display the merchandise in such an enticing manner. Your efforts truly do add up to make a BIG impact!



The Lamb Shoppe is a project of The Haven Guild.

**So join up and join in the fun!**

Contact Susie Morris  
Lamb Shoppe Chairperson.  
for information.

779-1615

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

**321-777-6606**

## FROM THE FIELD: LAMB SHOPPE UPDATE

Thank you so much for continuing to support the Haven by supporting the Lamb Shoppe through your donations and your shopping. We had a very successful Christmas season and thankfully we are staying busy in the New Year. Our volunteers had a much-deserved respite between Christmas and New Years as the shop was closed. The donating public however, was very busy cleaning out closets and toy bins because the porch was filled up four times. Thanks to some very committed volunteers who helped clear this up, we were ready to reopen on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I wish to begin 2011 by thanking each and every one of our volunteers who generously give their time. It is truly an act of love for the Haven because they work very hard. In fact, I think sometimes they do things at the shop that they would never do at home! Thank you also to the men who chip in and help when it's needed.

A special thanks to our "cookie man" Don Peters who I am told has baked over 260,000 cookies these past few years, first with his wife Marge and then on his own. What a blessing he is!

Happy New Year to all and let's make 2011 the best year ever.

Susie

## VOLUNTEER CORNER Contacting You Via Email

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. Using email to communicate has also saved us money (no stamps or printing costs)! If you have changed your email address or would like to share your address, please send an email to [psmkeone@yahoo.com](mailto:psmkeone@yahoo.com) our Membership Coordinator. Emails are sent as blind copies to you which means no one else can view your email address. Thank you for your cooperation!

Abigail Lizabeth Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator

## COOK'S CORNER

### Chef du Jour Program

The Chef du Jour Program provides dinner for the children and caregivers of all three Havens, every day of the year. Meals are delivered hot and ready to serve, alleviating the responsibility of cooking from the caregivers and saving The Haven a great deal of money. Each house has a coordinator to make sure a volunteer guild member is assigned to cook for each house every night.



Haven I Coordinator: Mary Ann La Porte, 752-9788, [malaporte@aol.com](mailto:malaporte@aol.com)

Haven II Coordinator: Shauna Brown, 258-2292, [Haven@drimplant.com](mailto:Haven@drimplant.com)

Haven III Coordinator: My Huynh, 724-3335, [Haven3chef@gmail.com](mailto:Haven3chef@gmail.com)

## The Calendar of Assigned Cooks for Haven II and Haven III Can Now Be Viewed On-line!

Go to: <http://www.google.com/calendar>

Enter email address: [thehavenflorida@gmail.com](mailto:thehavenflorida@gmail.com)

Password: thehaven2

This calendar is continuously updated so you can look up your scheduled date to cook, see what days are left if you are trying to select a date, and view the menus of other cooks. (Haven II is in blue and Haven III is in red.)



This calendar is READ ONLY. You may not add to it yourself. Please contact the Chef du Jour coordinator for the house you would like to cook for, or if you need to change a date. You can also send us your menu information if you would like it added to the calendar. Double click on any cook's name to view their menu for the evening!

If you are interested in cooking for the Chef du Jour Program,  
please contact one of the coordinators listed above.

Thank you for your support of The Haven!

## THANK YOU!

On Behalf of the entire Guild, we must thank all who helped plan and those who attended the Chef du Jour Open House on 10-30-10. This event was held to recruit new cooks for the Chef du Jour Program and was a great success!



# WELCOME!!! NEW GUILD MEMBERS

Ms. Birdie B. Boudreau	Mrs. Tammy Rickard
Ms. Jane E. Feldman	Mrs. Pam Schultheis
Mrs. Alda Gilliam	Mrs. Janel Singer
Mrs. Jeanie Hicks	Mrs. Mirriam Slovik
Ms. Amy Ho	Ms. Jessica Stover
Mr. Jason McAninley	Mrs. Maureen Thomas
Ms. Katie Pekkarinen	

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
2011 Havenly Affair Date Set

The 2011 Havenly Affair has been set for November 5th, 2011 at the Melbourne Hilton Rialto Place

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

Anyone Interested on working on the committee Please Contact

Ellen Parda at

259-0910 or [bparda@yahoo.com](mailto:bparda@yahoo.com)

**All Hands Are Welcome!!**



## HAPPY ENDINGS

### Siblings Find Their Forever Family

Currently living at The Haven we have 7 sibling groups of 3, and 3 sibling groups of 2. As you may have guessed living at The Haven without a sibling is a rarity.

While most siblings know they are bound together by a special and unique family bond, families in foster care are often split up – especially when there is a sibling that is considered "special needs" and require more complex care.



Unfortunately, for this reason, separation of siblings is very common. Giving children the opportunity to grow up with their siblings is something that we believe in fostering at The Haven. We have had so many siblings come and live with us for the first time since they have been removed and separated and we know first hand how special this is for our children.

About a year ago we surprised one of our 12 year olds by having her two younger siblings come and live with us. She was overcome with emotion and told us that she never thought that she would be able to live with her brother and sister again. This past November they met a new Mom and Dad that love the idea of having 3 children to complete their family. By Valentines Day 2011, they will have their new forever family with a Mom and Dad and all 3 of the siblings living together!

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.**

[www.thehavenforchildren.com](http://www.thehavenforchildren.com)



We're on Facebook!!  
[www.facebook.com/  
thehavenforchildren](http://www.facebook.com/thehavenforchildren)

*Tenth Annual*  
**Haven Challenge Golf  
TOURNAMENT**  
*With guest appearances by the*  
**ORLANDO  
MAGIC**  
Saturday, March 26, 2011  
Suntree Country Club  
Melbourne, Florida

**The Haven**

1 p.m.  
Shotgun Start

The poster features a green background with white and blue text. At the bottom, there is a large image of a golf ball on a tee, decorated with colorful smiley faces and the words 'The Haven'.

## **SOLD OUT!!!**

The Haven Golf Tournament Committee is proud to announce that as of January 26th, the Tournament was officially, 100% completely SOLD OUT!

This unprecedented level of support is thanks in large part to the overwhelming response from local businesses to participate in the Corporate Challenge.

The Committee is still seeking Sponsorships, Prizes and Auction Items. This is a great opportunity to contribute to making the day a success. Please call The Haven at 321-676-6888 or email [thehaven@cfl.rr.com](mailto:thehaven@cfl.rr.com)

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**29th Annual  
Downtown Melbourne  
5k Run/Walk  
Saturday April 2nd 2011**

All Proceeds To Benefit The Haven

Certified Race Management By  
The Running Zone

Volunteers Needed To Help Plan  
And Work This Fun Event!

For more Information visit  
[www.thehavenforchildren.com](http://www.thehavenforchildren.com)