



RESILIENCE



Kids' Place Newsletter

Spring, 2007

Volume 3 Issue 1

Kids' Place Wishes Come True!

The fall Wish Upon a Star event was a huge success, raising over \$8,000 more than last year's event! The evening, filled with good food and drink, along with fabulous auction items, netted over \$24,500 to support the programs of Kids' Place. All this was raised through a combination of sponsorships, ticket sales and auction bids.

Over 90 supporters enjoyed the hospitality at the home of Macon and Peter Finley and placed competitive bids on the many auction items. Our auction tables included original art, sports tickets, jewelry and personal items, all of which were donated by many talented and generous people who support Kids' Place. And it was the addition of two fabulous vacation homes which really boosted our auction total this year!

We appreciate the efforts of event co-chairs Sandy Marsh and Ellen Langston. Special thanks to our sponsors:

Galaxy (\$2500 and above)

Emerson Motor Company and Parkview Gardens Neighborhood Association.

Shooting Star (\$1000 - \$2499)

Breitmeyer Community Ministry of *Grace United Methodist Church*, Jeffrey Demerath and Holly Blumeyer, Ed and Sigrid Renner and Nate and Kim Suddeth.

Astronomer (\$500 - \$999),

Aurora Consulting Inc., Enterprise Bank & Trust, Denise and Chris Herrington, Sandy and Steve Marsh, Mr. & Mrs. J. Kent McNeil, Oscar G. Roeder, Bill Solomon and University United Methodist Church.

Stargazer (\$250 - \$499),

AbstarTitle Company, Americom Imaging Systems, Inc., Fans of Steve and Sandy Marsh, Kids' Place Parents, Kids' Place Staff and Volunteers, Ellen and Randy Langston, and Jean and Glen Light.



Dine Out for Kids' Place

Thanks to the generosity of 609 Contemporary Asian Restaurant and U Lounge, located on Eastgate Ave. in the Delmar Loop, Kids' Place supporters will be able to dine out for Kids' Place during the entire month of April. Stop in for lunch or dinner, mention that you are dining in support of Kids' Place, and the program will receive 15% of the net profit.

To kick-off the month-long fundraiser, 609 and U Lounge is hosting an evening of cocktails on March 31st from 5:00—8:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to stay and dine following this event but reservations are recommended. To find specifics on the venue please visit their website at www.609u.com.

Half Way to the Goal!



Thanks to the generous investments from the many supporters of Kids' Place we are half way to our goal of \$98,000 for this fiscal year. As a privately funded program we rely heavily on this support to keep the services of Kids' Place available to many needy children.

We hope that if you have not yet made a contribution, you will consider making Kids' Place a priority in your charitable giving.

If you are interested in learning more about our vital programming or in making a gift, please contact Kids' Place at (314) 863-8055.

Donors can take a charitable deduction for gifts made to Kids' Place. Kids' Place is a charitable outreach program of University United Methodist Church. Kids' Place falls under the tax exempt status of UUMC as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Kids' Place is governed by our committed Board of Directors.

Director's Update



Executive Director, Emily Hopkins, MSW

One of the many things I love about the work that I do at Kids' Place is hearing stories about the impact the program has had on the lives of the children we serve. I was recently checking in with the parent of three children in the program (the family has been with Kids' Place since 2001), specifically trying to gauge the interest level of her 7th grader in continuing with the Program. She laughed, stating "Are you kidding? **He told me he plans on going to Washington University so he can come back and be an adult mentor. He loves it there.**"

Children need environments where they feel safe and where they are encouraged daily by strong mentors to set expectations for themselves and to meet them. Kids' Place is fortunate to have strong volunteer collaborations, especially with Washington University, that make creating this environment easy. Knowing that we are not in a shortage of volunteer support makes it possible to add 5 new students this spring, bringing the total number of children served this year to 43.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, two clearly defined goals are guiding the program

planning for this year; improving the literacy of every child and improving the children's civic and social responsibility. I recently attended two great workshops, "Girl Power: Empowering Young Women" and Working With Angry Youth". The knowledge gained from both of these experiences will be integrated into the curriculum this semester in the form of groups designed specifically for the student population at Kids' Place. I am excited about the benefits this will bring to the children.



Ms. Emily & Akil share a friendly embrace
Schnucks' Escript Program

Schnucks has developed an electronic fundraiser for local charities and Kids' Place is fortunate to benefit from their generosity. The program is simple and easy to use. Donors and supporters of Kids' Place can designate 3% of their total grocery bill for Kids' Place. All you have to do is ask for an Escript Community Card the next time you visit Schnucks. Then register your card at www.escript.com by using ID # 500005281. This connects your card to Kids' Place. After it is processed you can swipe and donate. It's as easy as that!!

Dates to Remember

March 8th	Family Literacy Night Dinner 5:30 p.m. Program 6:30 p.m.
March 31st	Dine Out for Kids' Place 609 & U Lounge Kick-Off 5:00-8:00 p.m.
April 5th	Metro Theatre Company Presents "Stix and Stones"
April 17th	Day Around the World

Gambrill Gardens Makes Winter Break Enjoyable!

Gambrill Gardens Retirement Community brightened the faces of 35 children on December 12th when they donated over 200 books, many of which were specifically requested titles. The residents reached out to Kid's Place and asked how they could help. Then they purchased enough books so that every child could start winter break with 4 new additions to their personal libraries. Four young men (the top 'Caught Doing Good' recipients) were in attendance to thank the residents for their generosity.



Kids' Place students elated by the residents' generosity

Kids' Place Says Thank You

The ninth annual Kids' Place holiday party on December 2nd was an opportunity for all of the volunteers to gather for food, great conversation and relaxation. Around lights and decorations, volunteers set aside the continual work of giving of time and energy, to enjoy each other and tables filled with goodies. The purpose of the party is to say "thank you", as we acknowledge that Kids' Place is only as strong as the volunteers who work to implement our program.



Volunteers and staff exchange memories of the fall semester.

Volunteer Spotlight

Circle K Club at Washington University

Kate Pentak, Vice President of Washington University's Circle K Club approached the Director of Kids' Place about building a collaborative relationship between her club and the Kids' Place program.

Circle K International is a service organization on college and university campuses, whose members are dedicated to improving their schools and communities. Their service initiative, "Focus on the Future Children," was designed to involve all Circle K members in projects that address the problems and issues that face children worldwide, ages 6-13. Therefore, Kids' Place seemed like a good fit.

In the fall of 2006, nearly 25 Circle K members were trained as volunteers and mentors for the Kids' Place program. Their dedication has been a blessing. Susan Garverick, a club member, has even volunteered to provide her martial arts expertise teaching Tae Kwon Do to the children this spring.

When reflecting on her experience this past fall, Kate states, "I just hope that the children learned as much from me as I did from them."

Thanks Circle K for all that you do!



Trenton practices his Tae Kwon Do skills with Ms. Susan



Kids' Place
A Safe Place for All Children to Shine
6901 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63130
www.kidsplace-stl.org



Board of Directors

Glen Light, Chair
 Margaret Campbell-Davis, MSW
 Joel Emery
 Mya Emery
 Peter Finley
 Victoria Gonzalez-Rubio, Ph .D.
 Chris Herrington
 Emily Hopkins, MSW
 Ellen Langston
 Tom Mitchell
 Nora Porter, MD
 Bill Solomon
 Brenda Stobbe, M.Th
 Nate Suddeth
 Amanda Wilson Varner
 Myrtice Young

Honorary Board Members

Karen Greening, MSW
 Robert Paine, MD
 Jane Paine

KIDS' PLACE WISH LIST

If interested in making our wishes come true, please call Emily Hopkins at (314) 863-8055, ext. 19 or bring donations to University United Methodist Church, 6901 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63130.

Art and School Supplies

Book Bags
 Pencils
 Folders
 Kleenex
 Markers
 Crayons
 Rulers
 Scissors
 White Paper 11" X 14"
 Construction Paper

Pencil Cases
 Calculators
 Color Pencils
 Glue
 Dictionaries
 Journals
 Loose Leaf Paper

Sporting Equipment

Kick Balls
 Basketballs
 Footballs
 Jump Ropes
 Frisbees

Miscellaneous

Ponchos
 Umbrellas
 Coats