



Harvest House

Happenings

Vol 18 No 2

June 2010

Happy Spring! I just love the bright green grass and perennials bursting through the earth. After being away for a month, we returned to find the grounds of Harvest House bursting with new life. Harvest House thrived while we were away thanks to loyal and hardworking employees and volunteers and committed board of directors. I often use the term *family* when describing anyone associated with Harvest House and the ministry center. When you sign on as a volunteer or employee or to work on a committee you are indeed part of the family. The statement is proven by the fact that past “family” members keep us in their lives. Past Vista worker, Abbey Dzedzic Baird stops by when she is in town bringing her husband and son for a visit. Rachel Cramsey, who came to Harvest House as a Catholic Charities Service Corps Volunteer but returned to her home in Illinois after her year of service, has been back to visit twice. Rachel, who currently lives in St. Louis where she is working towards her masters degree in social work, admits to thinking about returning to Buffalo some day. Abbey also went back to school for her masters degree and is currently working at a college in Pennsylvania as service work coordinator. She even brought students from her college to Buffalo for a work camp experience and of course they stayed at Harvest House. Gary and I were honored to be included in a special surprise birthday celebration for past employee June Dombrowski. We are so proud they still think of us. At Harvest House there are no strangers, just friends (and family) we haven’t met yet.

Linda

GARY'S

CORNER If you read the last Gary’s Corner, you know that Linda I took a two week TransAtlantic cruise from New York City to Venice, Italy and then toured Italy on our own for two weeks. For us, it was the vacation of a lifetime. To my amazement, I did very well leaving Harvest House for a whole four weeks! The cruise ship had great shows and entertainment and great hot tubs. We had stops in the Azores, Portugal and Spain. In Portugal, we visited Fatima. It was a spiritual high being where Mary appeared to the three children. In Seville, Spain, we had our first experience visiting a magnificent cathedral (third largest in the world). It made us wonder just how awesome and big St. Peters, the largest in the world, was going to be! The cruise ended in Venice. We had a wonderful time there and loved the canals, water taxis, water buses, and gondolas. The taxis were beautiful mahogany motor boats in mint condition. Linda put her foot down and wouldn’t let me bring one home. From Venice, we visited Padua and Verona and then moved on to Florence where we made side trips to Sienna and Pisa. I tried to straighten the leaning tower, but no luck! After Florence, we left for Rome and a side trip to Assisi, home of St. Francis. Traveling to Assisi was really special because St. Francis is the patron saint of Harvest House. St. Francis gave up the family fortune to live and minister with the lepers. To walk in his footsteps was incredible. Being able to pray in front of the cross in which St. Francis was told to “rebuild My church” is indescribable. Seeing the normal tourist sites in Rome was nice, but the city itself was too big for me and hard to get around. Crossing the street was an experience in itself. Half the vehicles in Rome are motor scooters and they are not required to *continued on page 2*

continued from page 1 stop for red lights. That's probably why we saw and heard 4 or 5 ambulances every hour. The side trips sometimes required us to take four trains, two subways, two buses and then after being totally lost, a taxi. We spent 8-10 hours a day walking. It is the first vacation where I did not gain weight! In all of our travels, we must have toured at least 20 basilicas. No words can describe the beauty of them all – centuries old buildings that take your breath away.

At every church we visited we prayed for the future of Harvest House, the Baby and Children's Ministry, Good Neighbors Health Care and New Hope Education Center. We prayed for God's wisdom to make each ministry grow to better meet the needs of more people and the wisdom to make the right decisions and to grow according to God's plan, not ours. As we made our pilgrimage from church to church, the moments spent with Christ brought several new thoughts to my mind, things I have not thought of in the past - things to help me see God's overall plan. It was a whole series of things to think about when making plans for expansion. I plan to examine these new ideas and implement them whenever possible. As with anything, when praying for guidance and wisdom, the hard part is determining which ideas come from God and which ones come from me. I don't want to go into details at this time, but please keep Harvest House in your prayers that God gives us the wisdom to do what is best for the ministries. I want to share a little story that applies to our prayers and how God answers them.

Once there was a man who asked God for a flower...and a butterfly...but instead God gave him a cactus...and a caterpillar. The man was sad, he didn't understand why his request was mistaken. Then he thought, Oh well, God has too many people to care for, and he decided not to question. After some time, the man went to check up on his request that he had left forgotten. To his surprise, from the thorny and ugly cactus a beautiful flower had grown, and the unsightly caterpillar had been transformed into the most beautiful butterfly. God always does things right! His way is always the best way, even if to us it seems all wrong. If you asked God for one thing and received another, just trust. You can be sure that HE will always give you what you need at the appropriate time. What you want...is not always what you need. God never fails to grant our petitions so keep on going for HIM without doubting or murmuring. Today's thorn is tomorrow's flower.

*In Christ love,
Gary*

Harvest House lost a good friend and long time supporter with the passing of Joseph Kolarczyk. Joe made sure Harvest House would continue to be taken care of by remembering Harvest House in his will. Thank you Joe. Your thoughtfulness is most appreciated. You too can remember Harvest House in the future by Leaving a Legacy.....



VAN WHEELCHAIR LIFT

A Harmar AL690 side door hybrid lift to be installed in a van was donated to Harvest House. The donor would like it to be passed along to someone who needs it. If you need this lift, please call Harvest House at 716-825-0929.

*Every sixty seconds you spend angry,
upset or mad, is a full minute of
happiness you'll never get back.*

LEAVE A LEGACY

REMEMBER HARVEST HOUSE
IN YOUR WILL.

To help Harvest House continue after you have passed away, you should state your intentions in your Will. You can even use your Will to ensure that your gift supports a specific program or service. It is important to remember that there is no such thing as an insignificant gift. Every gift whether small or large is appreciated.

BOTTLES FOR BABIES™

MOTHER AND CHILD CHALLENGE

In 2009, the Baby and Children's Ministry provided necessities such as nursery furnishings, toys cribs, playpens, etc. and clothing to over 5,500 underprivileged children. That figure increases each year. Every day, we see the effects of the economic downturn on the working poor. We also see at our door families who never imagined they would need to reach out for assistance.

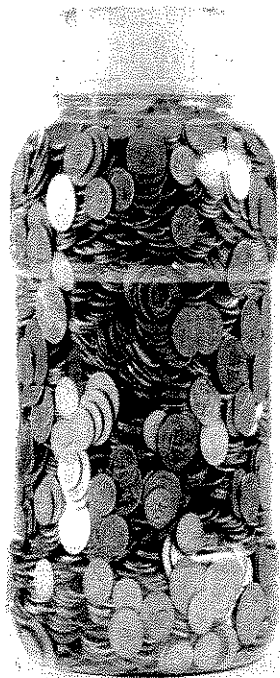
Thanks to our generous supporters, the Baby and Children's Ministry stockroom is full of clothing and baby items, but there is an urgent need for more space to accommodate the growing corps of volunteers working at the Baby and Children's Ministry and the longer lines of mothers and children waiting for a helping hand.

In an effort to expand the Baby and Children's Ministry, the Christos Foundation of Buffalo has issued a progressive challenge to Harvest House supporters participating in the Bottles for Babies™ campaign.

\$500 will be earned from the first 500 bottles received after June 1, 2010 and before December 31, 2010. \$2,500 will be earned from the next 2,000 bottles returned by December 31, 2010. An additional \$3,000 will be earned if 1,500 more bottles are received by December 31, 2010.

Thanks to of our friends at Immaculate Conception in East Aurora and St. Pius X in Getzville who participate in the Bottles for Babies™ campaign each year between Mother's Day and Father's Day, we are off to a good start.

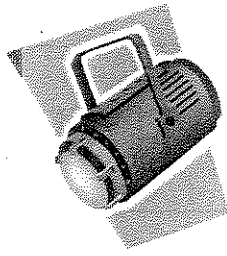
Help Harvest House "change a life". Help the Baby and Children's Ministry grow. Participate in the Bottles for Babies™ campaign and make your dollars and coins go even further! For more information, or to participate in this campaign please call or email Tony at 716-825-0929 or Tony@harvesthouse.ws.



St. Stephen School's Mission Club members recently collected money for the Harvest House Bottles for Babies™ campaign. The children and the parish families used baby bottles to collect coins to "Change a Life." Harvest House wishes to thank all those who gave their time, treasure, and talent to help the children and the families in our community.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



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Harvest House has been blessed to have Marion as a volunteer in the Baby and Children's Ministry for almost 13 years! Harvest House is not the only organization to benefit from Marion's generous spirit. She is also a volunteer at the South Buffalo Food Pantry having been there for more than 20 years!

Marion has been a member of St. Teresa's Church for 47 years where she has been a member of the choir. She has seven children, 22 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Marion says "I really enjoy serving people especially when the need is there and the clients really appreciate it. I also enjoy the time spent with my co-worker volunteers. We are like one big family."

Marion, Harvest House is blessed to be a part of your family.

Life is short, Break the rules, Forgive quickly, Kiss slowly, Love truly, Laugh uncontrollable, and never regret anything that made you smile.

*Don't let your worries get the best of you;
remember, Moses started out
as a basket case.*

MEDAILLE COLLEGE FOUNDERS' DAY AWARD

Medaille College hosted the first Founders' Day Celebration on Thursday, April 15 at its Buffalo Campus, featuring the Fr. Medaille Awards for Service and Citizenship.

The event, co-sponsored by Phillips Lytle LLP, celebrated the achievements of two local nonprofit organizations who were nominated in an open process throughout the winter.

Harvest House was honored to receive 1st place, which brought with it a cash award of \$5,000 to be used towards enlarging the Baby and Children's Ministry.

Board of Directors' Chairman, Don Cuddihy and Board Secretary Donald Wach accepted the award on behalf of Harvest House.



Image Courtesy of Clark Dever Photography / clarkdever.com

From left: **Don Wach**, Harvest House; Dr. Michael Cropp, Olmsted Center for Sight; John Trojanowsky '75, Lancaster Youth Bureau; Michelle Fried, Adoption STAR; Henri L. Muhammad '04, Muhammad School of Music; **Don Cuddihy**, Harvest House; Robert F. Moss, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County; Dr. Richard T. Jurasek, Medaille College.

HARVEST HOUSE MINISTRY CENTER

175 JEFFERSON AVENUE

Good Neighbors Health Care 716-856-2400 New Hope Education Center 716-855-0654

GOOD NEIGHBORS HEALTH CARE

GOOD NEWS FOR GNHC

The Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund whose mission is to help alleviate the medical-related needs of the working poor of Erie County has awarded Good Neighbors Health Care a one time grant of \$7,500. This generous gift will be used towards purchasing diabetes medicine and testing supplies for the patients. Thank you to the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund for their faith in this program.

DENTAL BLITZ

by Judy Randall, volunteer

The greatest commandment: "love God and one another" was in full practice on Saturday April 10th at Good Neighbors Health Care when 28 patients were treated with examinations, x-rays, extractions, fillings, etc. Since it was Saturday, their day off, it was a great opportunity for working single parent families, without insurance, to get service.

One young boy's teeth were growing out of line due to an extraction done several years ago. One tooth was extremely crooked, but the dentist was able to help him and even suggest a way for the family to look into braces.

continued in next column

Dental Blitz continued

They were very grateful. Another gentleman's problem was found not to be his tooth at all, but a growth in his mouth. He was referred to an Oral Surgeon. Without the exam, he would have continued thinking he had a bad tooth, perhaps never receiving any help for the real problem!

The patients were very pleased with the staff, and many commented about their treatment, about how the staff would take the time to talk to them and explain how they were going to treat the problem. Each patient would then add, all the while smiling, "they felt cared about".

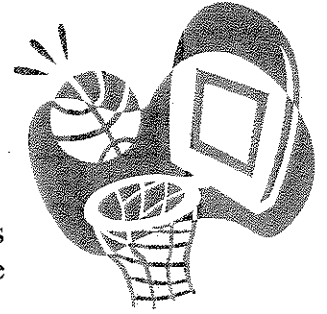
The staff working this extra day consisted mainly of University at Buffalo dental students, oral surgeons, dentists, dental assistants and even a medical doctor. The dental students had a benefit prior to April 10th and raised \$200 which was used for supplies. The physician had H1N1 flu vaccines which was given to those who wanted and needed it. Several insurance applications were filled out with the possibility of getting hospitalization insurance.

Everybody was moving, moving, moving from 8am to 3:30pm. It was a great experience for patients and providers alike and resulted in Good Neighbors Health Care receiving more volunteer help. It was such a wonderful day, another one is being planned in the fall. If you would like to be a part of this special experience or volunteer at Good Neighbors Health Care, call Good Neighbors at 716-856-2400.

NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTER

ONE STOP CENTER - IT WORKS! A patient came to Good Neighbors Health Care for services. Grateful for the care she received, she became a volunteer at New Hope Education Center. Today, she is still volunteering while attending classes at New Hope to become certified to work in a medical office!

GYMNASIUM REMODEL



After 17 years the gymnasium finally has a ceiling! Not just a new ceiling, but a ceiling! The gymnasium always took a back seat when it came to remodeling but thanks to a grant from Robert J. Stransky Foundation the ceiling is finally completed. Thanks to our volunteer handymen, Tom and Matt, we also have new lights and boxed in windows.

Within the next few months we hope to have a new carpeted gymnasium floor!



PEACEPRINTS AWARD

Thank you to everyone who sent congratulations and best wishes for being honored with the Peaceprints Award. Thank you to the volunteers from Good Neighbors Health Care and Kairos prison ministry who came to the dinner at the convention center to support Gary and Linda Tatu.

Harvest House Board Member Reverend Roy Herberger made the presentation and it was very special.

If you missed the wonderful interview by Mary Alice Demler that aired on Channel 2 News it can be found on our website www.harvesthouse.ws

Mary Alice Demler and Reverend Roy Herberger with Gary and Linda Tatu at the Peaceprints Award Dinner.

NEW LOOK FOR THE WEB SITE



Harvest House has a new logo (see left) and will soon have a new web site. The website committee has been working hard on making an informative, appealing, and easy to navigate site for Harvest House and the various ministries associated with it. Harvest House is also on Facebook. Next time you are on your Facebook page search for Harvest House and become a fan. The website address is www.harvesthouse.ws.



IN LOVING MEMORY JOHN P. "JACK" HAINS

May 8, 1951 - May 4, 2010

Almost 18 years ago, when we were considering buying the church, we went to the Volunteer Lawyers Project seeking help in starting a non-profit agency. We were assigned attorney Jack Hains. Jack made us feel comfortable from the start, and even though he was not charging us, he never made us feel as though we were taking up too much of his time. Because you need three board members to start the paper work, Jack said he would be a board member "temporarily" until we got organized.

Well, Jack never left Harvest House. He was there representing Harvest House in the early years when we were in court more times than we care to remember. Jack kept Harvest House and the board legally sound by making sure we were following all the guidelines set forth for non profits. Jack held the positions of Secretary and Chairman of the Board. Last year

when he had to resign for health reasons, he was voted 'honorary lifetime" board member. Now Jack is the official Harvest House guardian angel.

Jack and his family were dealt a cruel blow when they learned he had ALS, Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. It was not the diagnosis that defined Jack but the way he reacted to it. Even though Jack lost the ability to walk, talk and eat he was still the intelligent, kind, well spoken man whose sense of humor, even though tested, still existed. Jack always said "the only medicine for ALS is humor." The last time we visited with Jack was for a Palm Sunday Vigil Mass and celebration at his home. We will always remember that night as Jack looked peaceful and happy going from room to room with a warm smile on his face. We treasure being there to celebrate the Eucharist with him, his beautiful family, and their many friends.

In a recent interview for his church's newsletter, Jack talked about his life. "I am very blessed. I have a wonderful family, including the most wonderful woman in the world, three great kids and two sisters. Then there is the gigantic family I married into," he said. "I don't look for God in the sky. I find God in all the people in my life."

Jack and his wife Terry found comfort in the Bible, especially in the Book of Job. The biblical Book of Job is a beautiful poem that address the problem of the suffering of the innocent. Job is a just and honorable man and does not understand why he has been afflicted. Job curses the day of his birth and longs for death to bring an end to his suffering. Job calls for a response from God Himself. God answers Job in Chapters 38-41. Jack and Terry both related to the story of Job and invite you to read chapters 38-41 and remember Jack, a truly just and righteous man.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He will at last stand forth on the dust; Whom I myself shall see; my own eyes not another's shall behold Him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my innermost being is consumed with longing."

Job 19: 25-27



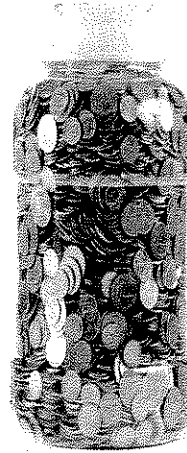
Jack, always willing to help, cooks up pancakes at Harvest House for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.



United Way
of Buffalo & Erie County

Harvest House is not a United Way funded agency but you can designate Harvest House to receive you donation. We can never fully express how much we appreciate everyone who designates Harvest House to receive their United Way, SEFA or CFC contributions. The quarterly checks always seem to arrive at the most opportune times, when it is most needed.

Thank you and God bless everyone who designates Harvest House.



Please support our
Bottles for Babies™
Mother and Child
Challenge.

See page 3
for details.

1782 Seneca Street Buffalo, NY 14210-1895

Retreat Center 716-825-0929

Baby & Children's Ministry 716-824-7818

Harvest House Ministry Center 175 Jefferson Avenue Buffalo, NY 14210

Good Neighbors Health Care 716-856-2400

New Hope Education Center 716-855-0654

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