

Trees of Hope

News from the Hope Front



Trees of Hope

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Spring 2011

"Oh What a Night"!

Trees of Hope celebrated its 20th anniversary in style. The elegant Swinging on a Star supper club theme was carried out with "swing-tini's", manhattans, and champagne cocktails. Dinner guests enjoyed the 1940's dinner setting complete with white banquette seating for major underwriter tables surrounding the dance floor. Lynn Wyatt was beautiful in her "little black dress" as we honored her for 20 years of actively helping Trees of Hope reach for its ever climbing levels of success. She had a truly "from the heart" speech for the audience. You can tell that Trees of Hope and Star of Hope are very dear. And we were pleased to present new Lifetime Board Member Jo Ann Petersen.

Riff Raff, led by our own Madeleine Elmer, got everyone "In the Mood" during the cocktail reception with their 40's style songs and presentation. And the Richard Brown Orchestra lured everyone into the ballroom when they played "Swinging on a Star". KHOU's Deborah Duncan was a stylish Mistress of Ceremonies keeping the program on track. Cigarette girls dressed in red, strolled the ballroom selling gifts for the Trees of Hope "Hope Tree" which provides for many of the basic needs of the children served by Star of Hope. No cigarettes were exchanged but guests were treated to "blinky" star rings or "flashing" star lapel pins in exchange for their donations. The room had lots of bling.

What a beautiful sight! The trees, wreaths and everything auction were the most beautiful ever. Gala co chairs DeeDee Marsh and Kelli Weinzierl and their fabulous committee presented an elegant party with Trees of Hope's beautifully decorated signature trees everywhere. As always, our party was a great kickoff for the upcoming holiday season. Highlights were the Louis Vuitton tree with a lighted "LV" as the tree topper, signature vintage travel tags and an Eiffel Tower created out of Louis Vuitton boxes. This tree was taken home by Jenny and David Moore. The Blue Leaf tree (store located in the Village) was an exquisite tree loaded with Radko ornaments and spectacular sculpted ribbon. Saks 5th Avenue contributed a beautiful "Partridge in a Pear Tree". Cindy Neal of Neal & Co. decorated a sophisticated tree with a stunning hand painted Fortuny tree skirt. Teri Havens was its lucky bidder. And Elaine Turner decorated her "What's in Santa's Bag" tree with 15 of her fabulous bags. Smaller trees, but still over the top were: Lady Gaga, complete with 6 tickets; "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Tree better known as the Diet Coke tree (made entirely from 100's of diet coke cans generously donated by the gala chairs and their families) came with a tree skirt hand woven of recycled Paper City and Gloss magazines, and a shoulder bag made out of pop tops. This fun tree went home with Kari Findley and Ken Sill. Board member Christy Rowland outdid herself with her tribute to Barbie and "The Little Black Dress". And of course we had things for children - school wreaths for River Oaks Baptist, St. Johns, Episcopal, Kinkaid, UT and A & M.; a John Deere Tractor tree, princess, and more. The Big Board featured a wreath "Here's to the Ladies Who Lunch" made by Paul-David Van Atta. The Live Auction exceeded expectations with highlights being a trip for two to New York's Fashion Week, a trip for two for the

American Idol finale in May, a grand trip to Italy, and a *continued on page 4*



GUILD HAPPENINGS, Terry Prather and Christy Rowland

During the preparations leading up to the gala, Trees of Hope Guild members have several occasions to meet and volunteer. This spring we will hold our annual check presentation to Star of Hope with monies raised from our 2010 gala, and present volunteer opportunities for upcoming events at the **Guild Spring Social** with last year's gala co chair, Kelli Weinzierl, as the hostess on **March 31** at 6:30 pm. A **Mother's Day** event will be held **May 5** at Star of Hope's Transitional Living Center as Guild members help the children craft presents for their mothers while enjoying refreshments and entertainment.



Mother's Day craft project



Back to school in New Shoes

We kick off the fall with our **Back to School** event to be held **August 19** at Sports Authority, where the children will be treated to new shoes along with balloon animals and refreshments. Last year many Guild members brought along their own children to join in the fun and help make the day a success by assisting with face painting and shoe fitting.

The Guild Fall Coffee will be at the home of 2011 Gala Co-Chair Jennifer Ducote and building the excitement of the gala.



Tree Decorating Day

"Decorating Day" is an all important day in October when we will meet at In Bloom for a fun day of decorating the one of a kind trees and wreaths Trees of Hope will feature in its gala auctions. Rounding out the fall is our Gala Kick-off Party which will be held at Valobra Jewelry & Antiques. Franco Valobra will unveil his contribution to our live auction that night.

These are all great ways to meet other Guild members and help Trees of Hope at the same time. The guild's motto is **"Hope Grows on Trees"**, and we take it to heart. For more information or to join us in our mission please contact the Trees of Hope office at 713/942-8733, and check out our website www.treesofhopehouston.org. Better yet, complete the enclosed membership form and return it to Trees of Hope!



Neighbor to Neighbor

TREES OF HOPE



1 000001843981

After June 1, have this bar code scanned along with your Kroger Plus card. You must relink your Plus card for this year's program which begins July 1 and ends April 30, 2012.

Easy money for Trees of Hope



4349

Trees of Hope
Organization Number

Don't forget to link our Good Neighbor Number to your Remarkable Randall's Card and help us raise funds the easy way just by buying groceries!

Louis Vuitton at Neiman Marcus



Louis Vuitton's Arthur Hibbert and Neiman Marcus' Stacey Swift partnered to host the Trees of Hope 2010 gala kickoff party. Unveiled that night for our auctions, were the exclusive "Spirit of Travel" tree and coordinating wreath created by Artie and adorned with images of vintage "Grand Tour" hotel labels.

The ladies enjoyed LV shopping to the DJ's swinging sounds and tasty bites from Neiman's Mariposa restaurant while sipping champagne. Almost \$5,000 was received as a result of the evening's sales. Lots of bags!



Valobra hosts Champagne Reception

Franco Valobra entertained in style when he hosted Trees of Hope at his beautiful Highland Village shop last fall. He enlisted the help of gala honoree Lynn Wyatt to present the exquisite pear shaped citrine pendant surrounded by diamonds and matching drop earrings all set in 18kt white gold for the Swinging on a Star live auction. Champagne flowed freely as guests admired Valobra Jewelry's treasures.



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF TREES OF HOPE, MARY ROTHWELL



Trees of Hope has had another incredible year. Despite the challenging economy our faithful supporters, friends old and new contributed to the success of our "Swinging on a Star" Gala last November. Gala chairs DeeDee Marsh and Kelli Weinzierl and their talented auction committee created a beautiful evening honoring Lynn Wyatt for her 20 years of service to Trees of Hope and Star of Hope. We are all very proud to present Star of Hope with a check for \$410,000 to assist in their Christ based programs that focus on restoring the lives and spirit of Houston's homeless to once again become productive citizens of our community. Thank you to all of our many auction donors, underwriters, auction purchasers and to all of those who made our 20th anniversary celebration so fun and memorable. Our holiday party is a truly unique event in Houston. The new year is unfolding rapidly with the election of our newest board members Elisabeth Bickham, Pepper Edens, Margaret Hill, Leda Netland, and Sharon Schwartz; exciting Guild socials and events planned by Vice Presidents Terry Prather and Christy Rowland; and this years "grand event" chairs, Candace Dickerson and Jennifer Ducote, are busy planning the Saturday, November 12, 2011 "Celebrating the Star of Hope" at The Corinthian.

Many people ask us what makes Star of Hope different from the other homeless shelters in town. Well, there are many reasons but the most significant reasons to us and why we are so passionate about supporting them exclusively: they are faith based in all aspects of their efforts; they are the only shelter in town that keeps a family intact (Imagine seeking help to restore your life only to find out that you cannot remain together as a family unit during the rebuilding process. At Star of Hope the father can remain with his wife and children and a single parent father can remain with his children while receiving guidance and support.) and the final reason, Star of Hope gets results. The number of homeless families in Houston doubled in 2009-2010 yet Star of Hope graduated 46% more clients from programs, 44% more people earned their GED, 40% more people found jobs, and 629 households were restored to independent living. These are why Trees of Hope is so enthusiastic about solely supporting Star of Hope. We can't wait to see their 2010 ministry report! I encourage you to log on to our website www.treesofhopehouston.org and see for yourself the incredible things we are doing in our community.



New Lifetime Board Member...June Waggoner

At its recent Annual Meeting, the Trees of Hope Board of Trustees unanimously elected June Waggoner as a Lifetime Member. June has been very active with Trees of Hope since 1997, having served on the Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, as a Guild member and chairing our gala in 2000. We are happy to honor her hands on support and generosity for both Trees of Hope and Star of Hope. Trees of Hope appreciates June's continued service on behalf of the homeless.

DONORS to TREES OF HOPE (October 1, 2010 - February 28, 2011)

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Style
Shelley and Davis Reeves
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Karen and Steven Retzlaff
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Regina Rogers
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Charlotte A. Rothwell
Mary and Mark Rothwell
Melanie and Scott Rothwell
Christy and Matthew Rowland
Jane and Bill Rucker
Elisabeth and Hank Rush
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Bobbie and Keith Sanborn | Laurie and Brett Sanders
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Millette and Haag Sherman
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Kafi and Rich Slaughter
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Leigh and Reginald Smith
Sandra and Reid Smith
Shannon and Boyd Smith
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Southwell's Hamburger Grill
Sprinkles Cupcakes
Star of Hope
Anna and Steve Stephens
Michelle and Duncan Stewart
Lisa and John Stoika
Strip House
Laura and Michael Sweeney
Tracey and Walter Symanowski
Kathy and Randy Tabor
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Tasajillo Charitable Trust
Ten Thousand Villages
Diane and Jimmy Thomas
Kittsie and Charlie Thomas
Tiffany & Company
Tila's Restaurant & Bar
Tiny Boxwood's
Trees of Hope Guild
Ileana and Michael Trevino
Laura True
Stephanie and Frank Tsuru
Twin Designs
Elizabeth and Timothy Vail
Gigi and Jose Valera
Valobra Jewelry & Antiques
Paul-David Van Atta
Robyn Lay Vermeil
Vieux Interiors
The Village Firefly
Nancy Walker |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|



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 Website
www.treesofhopehouston.org

Exclusively benefiting Star of Hope,
 Serving Houston's homeless since 1907.

Trees of Hope was founded in 1990 as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization with the specific purpose to conduct fund raising activities for the exclusive benefit of Star of Hope, Houston's largest agency for the homeless.

Continued from page 1

beautiful citrine and diamond necklace and matching earrings donated by Franco Valobra. The auctions raised over \$207,000 that night! Not bad for a slow economy. Partying lasted until midnight.

We hope you will join us this year to help us support the children at Star of Hope.

Gifts continued from page 3

Walter Oil & Gas Corp
 Kelli and John Weinzierl
 Wells Fargo / Family Wealth Group
 Trish and Ty Whitcomb
 Jimmy White
 Matthew W. White
 Sue Trammell Whitfield
 Bruce Williams and Linda Davis
 Kiki and Michael Wilson
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 Paula and Steve Winter
 Joyce and Jerald W. Witten
 Michelle and Matt Woodward
 John L. Wortham & Son, L.L.P.
 Lynn and Oscar Wyatt
 Gaye Lynn and Stuart Zarrow
 Zoe's Kitchen
 Mandy Zuniga

Gifts made In Honor of/Given by:

Linda and David Elmer;
 Paul Elmer;
 Mr. & Mrs. William B. Elmer;
 Mr. & Mrs. William G. Elmer;
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald McClure;
 Mr. & Mrs. David McDonald;
 Anne Martin
 Madeleine and John Elmer

Mary Rothwell
 Roy Anne and Don Beckham

Trees of Hope accepts gifts* in memory of family and friends. A tribute card is sent to the family telling them of your kindness to Trees of Hope.

Also, a gift* to Trees of Hope is an ideal way to remember a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. A special card will be sent to the honoree to let them know of your kindness benefitting Houston's homeless on their behalf.

*Gifts may be mailed, faxed or sent by email to the Trees of Hope office. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to honor or remember.

Announcing 2011 Gala Co-chairs
CANDACE DICKERSON and
JENNIFER DUCOTE
Celebrating the Star of Hope
 Honoring
Martha and Dennis McGuire
 Saturday, November 12, 2011
 at The Corinthian

For more information, 713/942-8733 or gwen.koch@treesofhopehouston.org



Feed a Child

Feed a Child! Women and children comprise the fastest growing segment among the homeless population. The average age of a homeless person is 9 years. A child without nutritious food is unable to learn, and thus cannot grow properly to help end the cycle of homelessness in his family. Won't you help us "Feed a Child" with a suggested gift amount of \$100. No gift is too large or too small. Help us help Star of Hope feed the body and soul.

Please help Houston's homeless!

Give to The Hope Tree to fund specific needs of Star of Hope and its children, homeless because of family circumstances out of their control. Opportunities for gifts to the Hope Tree include an Annual Physical & Immunizations for one child \$300, Diapers for one baby for one month \$50, School Uniforms & Supplies for one child \$150, Therapy for one session for one child \$75, Food for a Family of three for one year \$7,500, Childcare staff salary for one year \$27,000, Teen Coordinator's Salary \$38,000 and Bibles \$5,000.

Gifts may be made to Trees of Hope year round in support of Star of Hope. Thank you for your help.