



The Helpers Fund News

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Winter/Spring 2005

Over 100 Are Assisted in 2004 Holiday

More than 100 individuals were assisted through the 2004 Holiday Drive. More than 90 individuals were helped with winter clothing as part of the "Adopt-A-Family" Program.

Adopt-A-Family

This program received more than \$2,500 in donations. This amount allowed the Fund to assist 45 families have the appropriate winter clothing. The Fund was able to supply winter coats, hats, gloves, boots, sweaters, shirts and pants to those most in need.

Schools Involved

Children from five families from Schroom Lake

Central School, and four from North Warren Central School received coats, hats, gloves and scarves as part of the program.

Stuffed Animals

Thirty-five stuffed animals, either a puppy, teddy bear or a kitten, were distributed throughout the area. Twelve of these stuffed animals went to the Pediatric Ward at Glens Falls Hospital, another 16 were distributed to children under eight in Chestertown, four went to children in North Creek and three went to Schroom Lake.

Food Program

This program received \$1,553 in donations and this went to families in Chestertown, Brant Lake, Pottersville and Schroom Lake. There is still about \$500 left in this program, and this will be used during the months of January and February to assist the area family who has two daughters who are required to be on special diets.

Discretionary Funds

Almost \$4,000 (\$3,895) was donated to be used as the Fund Needed. These funds were used to assist families with problems such as replacing existing (cont'd on back page)



Brrrr. . . It's really cold! You better let me have my driver, here; no my 3-wood.

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Annual Meeting At Friends Lake Inn

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Fund took place on November 23, 2004 at Friends Lake Inn.

Best Yet

As one of the guests said, "this was just wonderful." Under the supervision of new owners John and Trudy Phillips, everything went without a hitch. "The attention to detail and the way everything was handled was just nice. That's all I can say is nice!" the person continued.

Buffet

Seventy three guests attended the meeting and the buffet was the center of attention. Eggs, bacon, muffins, bagels, lox, quiches and assorted cheeses kept the servers busy as some people went . . . well, never mind. No telling tales out

of school. There were nothing but compliments about the way the way things were handled.

Silent Auction

In the room adjoining the bar was the annual Silent Auction held at each annual meeting. There were 53 items auctioned off, and one of the most interesting was a week in Williamsburg Virginia. Don and Joyce Lasher of Brant Lake were the winners of the week and reportedly had a wonderful time. The week was made available by Pete and Sarah Juliano of Queensbury.

Restaurants

Many of the items auctioned were for restaurants in the area, including Lake George and Glens Falls. Pam Greco of North Creek led the bid-

ders and was heard to say, "I really don't want to cook this winter." Her husband Rich "Dawg" Greco was heard to say, "that's not so bad."

60/40 Raffle

The culmination of the meeting was the drawing of the winners for the Scholarship Raffle. Sixty per cent of the pool goes to the winners and 40 per cent goes to the Fund's Scholarship Program (see page 2 for winner's list). The Fund's portion of the raffle was enough to fund three scholarships for the coming year.

Scholarship Program

What started out three years ago with two awards reached nine in 2004: six science awards and three Fund awards to students seeking job training.

Information For You

1. Almost 40 per cent more people were assisted from this Holiday Drive than in 2003
2. The number of donations made to the Fund for the Holiday Drive increased by 17 per cent.
3. It was the first time in either the 60/40 Raffle or the Dinner For Two Raffle that each of the three winners came from a different town.: Chestertown, Pottersville and Schroom Lake.
4. In the 5k and 10k Races the Chesterown Races have the only person to hold both the record times for the 5k and 10k in the Capital and Adirondack Areas— Craig Fischberg of Ballston Spa.





100 Assisted in Holiday Drive

(cont'd from pg. 1)

liners for hot water tanks and supplying insulation and plywood to insulate rooms against the cold. These funds were also used to cover insurance needs or provide special foods to children on special diets required by their doctors. The monies were also used to pay for baby supplies such as diapers and necessities the family was unable to

provide as the end of the month approached. A number of families had fuel bills paid as HEAP allowances had not been authorized.

Emergency Needs

Whether it was an emergency delivery, or something to make a family's holidays a bit more cheerful, we were able to meet those needs only because of your help which made these things possible.

60/40 2004 Raffle A Winner

The winners from this year's 60/40 Scholarship Raffle were: 1st, Joseph Ryan of Chestertown; 2nd, Barbara Repp of Pottersville; and 3rd, Kittie Clark of Schroon Lake. It was the first time all the winners were from different communities.

Record Set

There was a record number of tickets sold, and both the winner's pool and the Fund's Scholarship portion were record amounts. Tickets were sent out earlier this year, "and I think," Carl

Lamm, director of the Fund said that the scholarship program is becoming known and people are interested in it." He went on to say that he hoped it would continue to expand so more scholarships would be made available.

More Available

Because of the success of the 60/40 the Scholarship Committee will have a greater latitude in choosing candidates, and will have the opportunity of awarding an additional award in June.

New Fund Raisers Being Investigated

The Board of Directors has begun investigating the possibility of organizing additional Fund Raisers during the year. Any suggestions would be welcomed. Just contact us at 494-5565, or e-mail us at www.helpersfund.org.

What's in the Works

The Board has begun discussing such things as a Las Vegas Night, a one-day casino bus trip, a dinner dance revolving around a theme, a multi-activity fund raiser which would offer a number of activities on a given day, or even an overnight trip to the city with tickets to a show or sporting event or both.

We'll Keep Everyone Informed

The Board will examine all proposals at its February meeting.

We'll Miss You

Sheila Ellsworth vacated her position on the Fund's Board of Directors effective December 31, 2004. Various responsibilities, including a gorgeous granddaughter made it necessary for her to resign. She will remain as a helper working at various fund raisers and assisting where needed. Good luck with that granddaughter!



Making Contact Via The Net

Since the Fund has begun doing its own printing, we have attempted to reduce costs in every way possible. What we'd like to do, is begin mailing some of our forms, registration applications and newsletters via the net to see if it can be successfully done that way

Posted on the Web Page

Starting with this issue the Fund will post the newsletter on the web-page as well as using regular mail. What we'd like to know is if you would like to use either of these services—either go to the web-page and read the newsletter from the website, or download it, or download such things as the golf tournament registration form, or respond to an e-mail announcement about Dinner For Two Tickets, or 60/40 Raffle Tickets.

Let Us Know

If you are interested in this method please contact us at our website www.helpersfund.org and let us know your e-mail address. Your address will be kept confidential at all times.

A Third Scholarship To Be Introduced

The Fund is about to announce the creation of a third scholarship program. To be introduced in time for this year's graduating class the scholarship will be designated for those interested in pursuing a nursing career.

Funded By Brant Lake Camp

Working with Bobby Gersten of Brant Lake Camp for Boys, the Fund will introduce this two year scholarship, which will require the applicant, if accepted, to commit to a working relationship with the camp while pursuing the goal of becoming a registered nurse. What makes this scholarship different is that it will not only carry a money amount for schooling but will allow the applicant to draw money from a designated account during the year which will be a negotiated salary amount that the applicant will be granted for employment during the following summer. All the details for the scholarship will be available in the schools by March 1.

Third Type of Scholarship

This would be the third type of scholarship offered through the Fund. There is the JSP Science Scholarship which is funded by a local couple and separate from the Fund's program; the Fund's own non-academic program which makes awards to those seeking alternative educational goals; and now, the Brant Lake Nursing Scholarship which will be funded by Brant Lake Camp for Boys. The Fund's Scholarship is the only one of the three which is funded solely by the Fund's Scholarship Fund. The other two are independently funded with no funds coming from the Fund at all.

A Note About the Holiday Fund Drive

In some cases the full amount donated in each category is not used during the holiday period. In that case the amounts left over will be used in the period immediately following the holidays. In every circumstance the monies will be used in the area they were designated for. A donation made for the Food Program will be used for that only. The one program which used its total amount was the Stuffed Animal Program which distributed all 35 donations, all carrying messages where the request for a message was made. Donations to the Adopt-A-Family will continue to go for clothing and assistance for families in need, and the Discretionary Funds will continue to be directed to those families and individuals with special needs and requirements.