



Caring Times

Spring 2009

The Caring Place, Inc.
Caring, Helping, and Equipping People for Living

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Program Manager - Annie Graham
Children's Program - Amelia Williams
Program Assistant - Sameena Rashid

The Caring Place Receives "Charitable Partner" Award

The Caring Place received the "Charitable Partner" award from the Cary Chamber of Commerce, recog-

nizing us as non-profit small business of the year in Cary for the year 2009 at a banquet held May 14 at

Embassy Suites in Cary. The Caring Place is honored to receive this award.

The Caring Place Holds First Annual 5K Run

Fifty-four racers turned out to run three races—a 5K competitive run and Run/Walk, both at 2:00 p.m., followed by a 1K Walk at 2:30 p.m.—during the first annual 'Caring Race' fundraiser April 19.

The course was set up through the trails of Bond Park.

Thanks to Race Organizer Cheryl Gocke and approximately 25 volunteers, 15 of which were with the Cary Teen Council, who made the event possible.

The overall winner was Raymond

Dobson of Durham, with a finish time of 20:20. The overall female winner was Becky Wiles, with a finish time of 24:23.

"In our current economy, we are all experiencing difficult times, and this is especially true for the families served by The Caring Place," said Executive Director Sue Marcinko. "We have created this additional fundraiser in order to support the increased need for Transitional Housing Services."

Because of the success of this fundraiser, the Caring Place has scheduled an additional race for October 25, 2009, also at Bond Park.



Becky Wiles crosses the finish line. Besides being a fast runner, she is the wife of TCP board member Terry Wiles.

8th Annual Benefit Auction A Success

The 8th Annual Benefit Auction on Thursday, May 7 at the Matthews House in downtown Cary was a great success. This year's theme was bird-houses, and the bidding was lively on a variety of creations to house our feathered friends. Auctioneer Tim Joyce led the Live auction, taking bids on items such as airplane rides, a big screen TV, and Carolina Hurri-

canes tickets. A big thank you to everyone who came out to support The Caring Place.

Special thanks go to the auction committee, chaired by Sally Turnbull, including Veronica Bent, Beth Blackman, Delancy Carroll, Cathy Cooper, Wendy Coulter, Melinda Crouse. Pat Hudson, Sameena Rashid, Barbara Shannon,

Jill Welle and Kathy White.

The slide show was designed and executed by Jill Welle, Mark Casey and Frances Soo. Austin Green handled testing and setting up the equipment prior to the event.

Publicity and auction materials were created by Wendy Coulter of Hummingbird Graphics.

Continued on page 2.

A Letter from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends of The Caring Place,

What a busy year we had in 2008! The Caring Place provided Transitional Housing to 24 families, comprised of 32 adults and 63 children, 24 of which were under the age of 6. We are proud to say that 23 of the 24 families completed the program successfully and are now in permanent independent housing! TCP also continued to serve 3 families in our permanent housing program.

2009 is proving to be one our

most challenging years in the recent past. To date, TCP has received calls for assistance from 129 families. The need in our community is great, and it is a vicious cycle, as the economy declines the need for services increases. At TCP, we are tightening our belts and doing all we can to ensure that our nine families are in safe and supportive housing.

None of this hard work and success would be possible without the

support of our amazing volunteers, a dedicated and caring staff, a compassionate board and our friends in the community. Please accept my sincere appreciation for all that each of you do to support the program.

Thank you to all who supported us at our recent fundraisers, our 1st annual Caring Place Race on April 19 at Bond Park and at our 8th annual Benefit Auction at the Matthews House on May 7 at 6 p.m.

Many Blessings,
Susan Marcinko
Executive Director

Campaign to Enrich a Child's Life

Think of those less fortunate— isn't that what we were taught as a child?

"Don't waste your food because there are plenty of children who are dying because they don't have the food that you do on their plates." Aren't these the things that we heard growing up?

And as a child hearing that did we not think, "If I knew where those kids were I would gladly give them my lima beans, spinach, liver or whatever else I did not want to eat! Where are those kids now that could save me from this stuff?"

Guess what? I have found them and they are not far from you. They are your dentist receptionist's children, they are that nice package delivery guy's children, they are the teller at your bank's children, they are your co-worker's children, they are even some of our state employees' children. They are the new poor. They are what the state of North Carolina calls the "working poor." Sometimes they are even homeless. In our state, homeless includes dou-

bled-up families, such as five people living in a living room of a friend whose landlord has threatened eviction of everyone. Some families even have an adequate income and are homeless because of credit issues. These families never seem to have enough, and extras are not included in what agencies or social services can give. The children of these families end up living outside all that is wondrous of childhood and don't aspire to do much with their lives. They begin to believe that no one outside of their family cares.

So now the question you may have is how do we connect to those that need us?

My answer is to give from the heart. Not just your adult heart that understands bills and more bills but that 'child like heart.' The heart that gives you joy and carries your inspirations—that heart. So if you are inspired by nature, donate an outdoor camping adventure (or take them to an exhibit at the Museum of Life and Science or a trip to the zoo). If you are inspired by art, then offer lunch

on you at the Museum of Arts. Are you interested in performing arts? Try giving tickets to a local play or circus. Do you know a good activity that is family friendly (like your company's family day or church picnic) reach out to a family and invite them to have a day of fun. Do you remember kid activities that you haven't done in awhile (skating, roller coasters, or attending local sporting events) offer to pay for admission and snacks. Whatever you decide to share with a child and their family will enrich their childhood memories and quiet that little awful voice that says "See, no one cares." They will then be able to answer with proof: "Yes, someone did care that things were bad in my life and did what they could to make things better for me. I know because Mr. Kindheart gave us a wonderful time at the theme park. Without his help I know my parents would not have been able to afford it. That experience gave us a reason to smile at one another and feel better about ourselves as a family. Yes, I know someone cares." This is a quote from one of the children (boy age 13) who benefited from an outpouring of community caring.

Be that someone who cares— enrich a child's life with a heartfelt gift of caring that speaks to children.

- Amelia Williams, Children's Program Coordinator and Caring Place Graduate

Auction from Page 1:

We would also like to thank all of the Sponsors, listed in the Auction bulletin, and Time Warner for the media coverage.

The food was catered by Kathy White of *Rocky Top Hospitality*. Desserts came from Twisted Fork. The wine came from Classic

Wines; Suzanne Byrd. The beer and champagne came from 1705 Prime.

Special thanks also goes to the volunteers who helped on the day of the Auction, including Lynny Seiter, Barbara Couchon, Kathy Hughes, Sherry Richards, Karen Mona, Betty Bryan, Jacque Pierce, and Tracey Gregory.

Cary High School Student Council Dance Marathon Nets \$2,000 for TCP

For the second year in a row, the Cary High School Student Council has raised money for The Caring Place with a school-wide service project. Last year it was a race.

This year, "We thought it would be cool to still donate to the same charity but try something else," said Ciara Moraski, student body president.

They sponsored a Dance Marathon, with a "decade" theme.

Approximately 200 students participated, dressed up as everything from flappers, Roman citizens in togas to dinosaurs.

They raised about \$2,000 through admissions, donations, and sponsorships.

Miss Moraski said she hopes



Cary High School Executive Director Susan Marcinko, right, accepts a check from the Cary High Student Council, from left, Ashton Shafto, vice president; Kate Langdon, treasurer; Ciara Moraski, president and Matt Williams, sergeant-at-arms. Not pictured, Rachel McKay, secretary, and Allison Taylor, historian

that next year's student council continues to support The Caring Place. "Even if they don't do the Dance Marathon, we want to keep the tradition of giving to The Caring Place," she said.

Wells Family Gives Lesson in Diligence and Courage

When we started volunteering with The Caring Place, our children went to the children's program along with the homeless children. They learned that we are all children of God. Our family has been fortunate, other children have not been so lucky, but they still make great playmates.

When they got older, I dropped out for a few years to drive them to their events on Thursday nights—gymnastics, karate, scouting., etc. Then, suddenly, they both were driving to their own activities. I was free to volunteer again, and this time, our son, Kevin, 20, joined us as a Support Partner. We felt it might help him learn to manage his own money, the way all those budgeting tips helped us in our early years. We figured seeing a family struggle would show him that he needed to work hard and study hard, and what might happen if he did not.

Almost every family I have ever worked with has experienced a time of discouragement, when they felt that maybe all the self-discipline and sacrifice was not worth it. I have seen more than one flood of tears in the middle of a session. But the

team's encouragement usually helped them through it, and they emerged at the end of the program with money in the bank, and a feeling of self-worth.

Then there was the Wells family—who asked on the first day exactly what they needed to do to succeed, and then proceeded to work harder than anyone I have ever seen and be optimistic and positive through it all. About two months into the program, they paused to have a baby. Alesha, who had Elijah by C-section on Wednesday, was on the phone that next evening with Mark to make sure he had all the receipts he needed and that the session was going smoothly. A month later, she started an online college course, and a month after that, a new part-time job, while Mark averaged 20-30 hours of overtime a week in his job as an airport security guard.

It wasn't the lesson we were envisioning for Kevin. But perhaps it was exactly what he needed to see. Hard work does help you get ahead. They graduated with flying colors, and now have a nice apartment and a good life with two beautiful little

Mary Beth Phillips was awarded The Keeper of the Caring Heart 2009.

She is The Caring Place newsletter editor and volunteer meal coordinator, and also serves as a Support Partner for homeless families. She is extremely honored and grateful!

boys.

The icing on the cake for me was in February, when we had a guest speaker on couponing.

Annie invited the Wells family to come back for the session. I beamed like a proud Mama when I learned that Alesha was also an accomplished couponer, who often went to the store and brought home a hundred dollars worth of groceries for about \$20.00. This takes hard work and preparation. You have to look up when the sales are, you have to continually clip the coupons and have them available. You have to organize the coupons in huge binders with plastic zip pages and continually go through and pull the expired ones. How she has time for this while going to school, working, and mothering two toddlers is outside of my comprehension.

I have been blessed by never having to work that hard in my life. But I have been more greatly blessed by meeting the Wells family and seeing their diligence and courage.

- Mary Beth Phillips



The Caring Place
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Return Service Requested

Our Wish List

- Gas cards
- Lunch bags
- Mops
- Brooms
- Buckets
- Glad wrap
- Soft scrub
- Laundry detergent
- Multi purpose cleaner
- Dish washing machine liquid
- Dinner paper plates
- Salad paper plates
- Paper bowls
- Paper or plastic cups
- Plastic forks, spoons & knives
- Large and small Notepads
- 2" and 4" file folders
- Garbage bags small and large
- Two-pocket portfolio folders



The Caring Place thanks our many friends for their much-needed support.

- Our new friends, the Changels, for multiple donations of canned goods and household goods.
- Westwood Baptist Church for help with donation pickups and organizing our storage space.
- Greenwood Forest Baptist Church youth and adults for ongoing help with move-ins and move-outs.
- Leadership Cary for volunteering their time and supplies to paint one of our properties.
- Cary Newcomers Club for fundraising and generous financial donations.
- Deb Weiss and church members at Beth Shalom for beautifying the yard at one of our properties.

Good pens
 A heavy duty printer
 Washing machines
 Cash donations are particularly welcome in these tough economic times.

How The Caring Place Uses Its Money

