



The Informer

Winter 2008

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Kelly Pfenninger
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Dates to Remember

April 4th—"Art for a Change" art show.
7:00pm

May 9th— Membership meeting with *Dick Worth*. Associates are invited to attend.

May 16th— Associate Tea.
More information TBA

August 23rd— 85th Anniversary of Child Health; Edgworth Club.
More TBA.

October 16-18—Antiques Show



Letter from the President

Beth Rom



What a busy fall: The 8th Annual Sewickley Valley Antiques Show in October, and the "Fields of Dreams" Ball in November; Betty Gale Vision Screening and dental screening in our local schools; a largest-ever financial commitment of \$100,000 to a key community effort – Quaker Valley Recreational Association's Fields at Bell Acres; and another challenging community research grant cycle, resulting in \$41,000 worth of grants.

There are two key acknowledgements I'd like to make. First, I greatly appreciate the help we've received from the Associates, particularly in the area of vision screening support, and involvement in our Associations Relations Committee. We all look forward to hearing more from this group.

Also, as I write my last official newsletter article as president, I would like to recognize the ongoing effort of our Vice President Nancy Kury. Nancy has gone above and beyond the job description, focusing not just on membership. Her dedication and effort have contributed to 1) our new website (we hope you'll look at it if you haven't already, www.childhealthassociation.com, the username and password are "member", 2) a new "Gifts" brochure and 3) an excellent new PowerPoint presentation which our Underwriting Committee can now take out to prospective donors (both individual and corporate). Nancy is to be commended for all her good work on behalf of Child Health and our future.

There is more to look forward to...the year isn't over yet! We've already begun planning for the play, to be held as part of the 2008 ball. The end of year luncheon and the Associates Tea will give us other opportunities to meet. We are also planning to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of Child Health on August 23rd, you'll hear more about that soon.

We hope to see you soon. Feel free to be in touch via phone or email. We value your friendship and support.

Gifts Campaign

In November, we re-launched the "Gifts Campaign" with a new brochure. "Give a Gift that Gives Back" provides an easy way to give a gift to Child Health in honor or in memory of a loved one or someone who made a difference in your life, or the life of a family member. Through December 31, 2007, we received 31 gifts totaling \$2,335. A listing of the gifts are included in this newsletter. The donors had the option of donating to the Endowment Fund, current year grant making, or Unrestricted Fund. The CHA Board voted to earmark the unrestricted gifts to the Endowment Fund, so the allocation was as follows:

Endowment Fund	\$1,315
Current Year Grant Making	\$190
Unrestricted Fund (to Endowment Fund)	\$830

If you would like to make a gift, you may download the brochure from our Web site, www.childhealthassociation.org, or request a brochure by calling 412.741.3221.

Edgeworth Elementary Fifth Graders Give a Hand

During the Fall, Edgeworth Elementary Fifth Graders participated in a **learning** service art project, coordinated by Edgeworth's art teacher, Mrs. Nina Strelec. The children made **wood block prints** and prepared unique, handmade note cards that were offered for sale to family and friends. The response was overwhelming and the students worked tirelessly to fulfill the orders that came pouring in. We were selected as the recipient of the funds generated by the sales of the note card packs; the students specifically chose to have their money go towards the **Premie Parent Tote Project**. You may remember that this program provides parents of premature babies admitted to the Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) Intensive Care Nursery (ICN) with a tote bag filled with a variety of items intended to help sustain them through the difficult and often long process of visiting their child in the ICN.

This project was started a year ago with very little funding and we were facing the issue of "what now?" due to the funding issue. Now, thanks to the efforts of almost 90 fifth grade students at Edgeworth and their resulting donation of \$1,890, we will provide approximately 180 families with a filled tote bag over the next year. It is truly amazing how much of an impact the students' hard work has had and how many lives they will be able to touch because of their artistic efforts. The staff at AGH was thrilled to hear the program will continue, as they have seen how much parents have appreciated and have used the CH tote bags over the last year.

As a reminder to Child Health members and Associates, we are always happy to accept donations for the tote bags. Those include bottled water, snacks (cracker packs, granola bars, etc.), mini photo albums, hardcover journals, and purse-pack tissues. Also, the tote bags are available for sale at only \$20 a piece. The bag is high-quality and very attractive, with the Child Health logo prominently displayed on the front. All proceeds from tote bag purchases go back into the program. If you are interested in donating supplies for the bags or purchasing a bag, please contact MJ Crane at mj_crane@comcast.net or 412-651-4084.

Provisional & Membership Changes

Please join in welcoming the Spring 2008 Provisionals

Amy Fox
Donna Notte
Tringa O'Hara

New Associates

Janis Pereira, Sandy Doyle, Ginny Monroe, Christine Kardong, Marjorie Carlson, Becky Scrivanich

"art for a change" art show

We are pleased to announce that in 2007 we held three "Art for Change" shows which were well received by the membership and community. The proceeds that Child Health received increased with each show.

In 2008, we are moving forward and our first show is already scheduled for **Friday, April 4 at 7:00pm**. *M.J. Crane* has graciously offered to open her home to the show as she has purchased artwork at a previous "Art for Change" event.

To better understand the nature of "Art for Change", it is a private art show offering attendees the opportunity to view and select oil paintings by many local, national and international artists. A vast selection of canvases unstretched and unframed are available for viewing and purchase. The exhibit will offer many styles of artwork and subject matter including Landscape, Impressionism, Figurative, Still Life, Abstract, Architectural, Seascape, and Floral.

Mr. Walter Edelman of Edelman Fine Arts, Inc. of New York leads the presentation of the artwork. Edelman Fine Arts, Inc. has been in business since 1984 and is recognized as one of the leading art distributors in the United States. The artists represented have shown their works in major galleries and museums throughout the United States. Child Health receives a portion of the proceeds from all art and framing purchases.

The membership would like to thank *Kelly Pfenninger* for introducing this method of fundraising to the organization and for all of the initiative she has provided for its continued growth.



Field of Dreams Ball

Susan Kaminski & Christa Olehaf, co-chairs

On November 17, 2007, Child Health Association of Sewickley held its annual ball at the Allegheny Country Club. This year's theme, "Fields of Dreams" tied directly to the ball's support of Quaker Valley Recreation Association's campaign for developing playing fields in Bell Acres.

This year's ball was another Child Health record: In a "non-play" year, we attracted 386 attendees! The total profit exceeded \$30,000. The Child Health and QVRA community came through in many ways to make this possible...through donating silent and live auction items, encouraging attendance, and providing financial support to the event. The ball committee particularly appreciates the support of *Esmark* and *Trib Total Media*.

Early in the evening, Associates gathered to be honored with a lovely poem composed by Active Member Carolyn Bouchard (page 5). The ACC pleased the crowd with a beautiful setting, pleasing dinners, and excellent service. Kudos to Christa Olehaf and the decorating team for the clever table settings of mini "fields" and sports-themed cakes. The night went well into the early morning; it was a night to remember! **Thank you!**

Cookbook Update

Since the beginning of our fiscal year, we have sold (on a cash basis) a total of approximately 1800 books. Over 40% of these were Volume I...still the favorite! During the same period last year, we sold approximately 2400 books.

While the Three Rivers Cookbooks are well-loved, sales are decreasing as the market for cookbooks changes.



February Speaker — Hedda Sharapan

The February Membership meeting welcomed Ms. Hedda Sharapan from Family Communications Inc. and the home of Mister Rogers. Ms. Sharapan likened the work of Child Health to that of Mister Rogers in that Child Health answers to "Won't you be my Neighbor?".

Ms. Sharapan reviewed many of the messages given to us and our children from Mister Rogers Neighborhood, but mentioned four in depth:

- * All Neighbors are Givers and Receivers.
- * All Stories are important — Listen & Learn .
- * Waste time together.
- * All work together on behalf of others in the Neighborhood.

THE THEATRE

Plans for the 2008 Child Health Association play are underway. We are looking for Actives and Associates alike, to be involved both on the stage and behind the scenes. We will be sending out further announcements and information regarding the play, via the mail, in the months to come.

We can already hear the applause-can't you!

We look forward to working with you all. Feel free to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns. *Marguerite Park* (mtgregg@yahoo.com) and *Katie Cawley* (katherinecawley@hotmail.com) are running the show.



Betty Galey Vision Screening

It is always inspiring to be involved in this program! A few numbers might give you an idea: we screened a total of 424 children in 12 different preschools in the area (of those children 19 were referred). This would have not been possible without the help of 22 of our active members who put in a total of 146 hours screening. Thank you to all of you!

This year we also had two of our associates bravely join us in the effort: Eliza Nevin and Karen Smith. Thank you Karen and Eliza! Some parents and neighbors also joined us in the effort and we are very grateful for their help. Every year Nancy Tolfa, a good friend of this program, travels from Wexford to help us screen. Her dedication and good humor are something to look forward to each fall. Thank you Nancy!

We look forward to seeing all of you again next fall and new faces too! This is a wonderful and rewarding opportunity to volunteer hands on with children and a fun way to get to know other members. Our efforts are appreciated by the community of parents and preschools as one of the preschool directors wrote to us: "Sewickley is very fortunate to have Child Health".

Marie Schumacher & Georgi Fishter

**CHILD HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SEWICKLEY
2007 GIFTS**

ENDOWMENT FUND

Susan Craig
Linda Klemash
Mary Owen Long
Jean MacMurray

In Honor of Beth Rom's Birthday

Mary Kahn
Susan Kaminski
Nancy Kury
Christa Oelhaf

In Honor of CHA Board

Helen Rho

In Honor of Betsy Wilson

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Bill Viccari

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Delia Veltre

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Enrico Nardini

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Jaime Irvin

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Jennifer McSweeney

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Jonathan and Vicki Truchan

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Rita Kramer

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Saundy Waseleski

Marjorie Carlson

In Honor of Steve Crane's Birthday

MJ Crane

In Memory of a Friend's Mother

Patty Wynn

CURRENT YEAR GRANTS

In Honor of 5TH Grade Teachers at Osborne
Beth Rom

In Honor of Meg Gott's Birthday

Beth Rom

In Honor of Mrs. Balbach's Life Skills Classroom

Beth Rom

In Honor of Mrs. Burgh

Beth Rom

In Honor of Steve Crane's Birthday

Beth Rom

UNRESTRICTED FUND

Sisterhood

Anonymous

In Honor of Beth Rom's Birthday

Maggie Fritz

In Honor of Charlie Crane's Birthday

MJ Crane

In Honor of MJ Crane's Help with the CHA Ball

Christa Oelhaf

Quaker Valley Youth Summit

Susan Kaminski

On November 17, Child Health Association of Sewickley sponsored, in conjunction with Youth Connect, a "Youth Summit" for the community. This event attracted over 90 participants, from parents, educators, law enforcement, concerned citizens, various local non-profits, and...youth! The morning started out with an overview of data from our community. Students from the middle school and high school then presented their concerns, and answered questions from the audience. Keynote speaker Dr. Paula McCommons, mental health liaison for STAR (Services for Teens at Risk) Center Outreach at the University of Pittsburgh rounded out the first half with a presentation on adolescent development and issues facing our teens today. The participants then broke out into four groups to discuss in detail four key questions:

- What actions must we take to address the underage use of alcohol in our community?
- What community resources exist for our young people during the after school hours? How can we connect our youth to these resources?
- What stresses and anxieties do our young people face? What can the community do to help them cope?
- What opportunities for collaboration between our community and our youth exist as a way to engage and value the vitality of our youth?

The summit ended with a report out from each group. A number of follow-up actions were identified, based upon the groups' discussions.

This is the second community summit sponsored by Child Health. The first, the Early Childhood Development summit, was held spring of 2005, with great success. Child Health Association of Sewickley looks forward to continue playing a role as a convener of the community around critical issues.

The Antiques Show

On October 12, 13 & 14, The Eight Annual Sewickley Valley Antiques Show provided a wonderful opportunity to our members and guests to browse for beautiful furniture, silver, china, jewelry and fine arts. We had 26 highly respected dealers from Massachusetts to Virginia. Jack Squires, our Show Manager, worked with great dedication to provide a quality show. Mrs. Anne Genter was our honorary Chair. Anne Genter and Suzanne Friday (mother-daughter) of Friday and Genter Interior Design of Sewickley have been in the interior design for over twenty-five years. Mrs. Genter opened her home on Saturday night with a cocktail party to warmly greet the dealers.

Mr. Richard C. Smith was our featured speaker. He provided an informational and entertaining lecture on antique furniture and decorating. Smith said his decorating theory is "A room has to work. If it doesn't; what is the point." 27 people attended the lecture at the Edgeworth Club.

The Preview party was wonderful. 167 people attended the party. (8 silver circle packages, 16 patron packages & 120 guests) There was a decrease in attendance from the previous year. In 2006, 193 people attended the party.

The total profit from the Antique Show is \$22,215.32 which is a decrease from the previous year. The decrease in profit from last year was due to a decline in underwriting. In 2006, the profit was \$39,171.06. In spite of this decline, the Antiques Show continues to be an important event for our organization.

Kelly Pfenninger & Terri Tunick, Co-Chairs

An Associate Toast

By Carolyn Bouchard
"Fields of Dreams" Ball 11/17/2007



To those who have walked before us, in your footsteps we follow near...

Wearing booties, aprons and dance shoes, carrying clipboards oh so dear.

For you "Got Milk" and delivered it, before it was trendy or hip. You built a little nest egg which has nourished us with every sip.

Without you where would the child be who had no where to go?

Or the one with special needs, whose parents live in woe.

The single mother without insurance to cover dental costs.

The fresh faced girl whose vision was only slightly crossed.

The newly married wife, looking for the perfect recipe.

The mother of three who longed for a playground somewhere in Sewickley.

For you have "built in" and "they will come",
A Field of Dreams from which children are sprung.

And so tonight is your night to savor and cherish,
For without your lights before us, our paths would surely perish.

How proud we are to continue the work you did in chorus,
To be "associated" with all of you who stand before us!

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Fall Allocations

Alexandra McCabe & Linda Schober, co-chairs

In November 2007, the members of Child Health Association approved the following grants for the Fall session. Grants totaling \$41,400.00 were awarded to seven non-profit organizations serving children and their families in western Pennsylvania. The following are the recipients.

CASA
Imani Christian Academy
North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center
Pittsburgh International Children's Theater

Samaritan Counseling Center
The Early Learning Institute
Venture Outdoors

The Community Research Committee also provided the Quaker Valley Recreation Association (QVRA) with \$40,000 of the \$100,000 for their project, The Fields at Bell Acres. The funds were taken from the Endowment Fund. The QVRA portion of the profit from the Ball was \$15,000. That amount will be included in the remaining \$60,000.

Alexandra & Linda