



The Informer

Fall 2007

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Board of Directors

Beth Rom, President
Nancy Kury, Vice President
Maggie Fritz, Secretary
Diana Magera, Treasurer
Mary Jo Crane
Alexandra McCabe
Christa Oelhaf
Kelly Pfenninger
Julie Wiltman

Check out the Website! (soon)

We have been working on a new and improved website with Richard Hooper of Reinnov8. The website will be interactive and informative, and will serve as a gathering place for Actives, Associates and Friends of Child Health. We hope to launch the site early this autumn.

If you have any photos, past or present, from Child Health events, please email them to Marjorie Carlson at mlmearlson@yahoo.com.

Just an FYI

Child Health Website address
childhealthassociation.org

Letter from the President

Beth Rom

Beth Rom, President



It was a memorable Spring for Child Health. Our 33rd House Tour was held in May and we raised over \$40,000. During the February and March there were three separate gatherings held in order to further discuss the role of Associate members in our organization. The Associates' Tea was held on a rainy April afternoon at the home of Marcia Gordon. In spite of the wet weather it was, as always, good to be together.

We now look forward to our upcoming Fall events. The 8th Annual Sewickley Valley Antiques Show held in October will have a focus on decorating with antiques. The Annual Child Health Ball will be a joint fundraiser with the Quaker Valley Recreation Association. We hope you can join us at both of these events. Of course our hands on projects such as vision screening and dental hygiene for children in our community continue this Fall as well. Child Health hopes to maintain an ongoing relationship with a noted art dealer from New York City, Walter Edelman. This is a new avenue of fundraising for us.

I want to thank the excellent Board members I am privileged to work with. Our three outgoing Board members (Carolyn Bouchard, Marjorie Carlson and Sandy Doyle) have been replaced by three equally enthusiastic and committed members (MJ Crane, Alexandra McCabe and Julie Wiltman). I'd like to mention that there is now a standing committee called "Associate Relations" comprised of several Active and Associate members. The goal will be to foster, enhance and further develop the important link between those of us who are Active members and those of you who are Associate members. Lastly, we are extremely excited about having hired a part time (8-10hrs/wk) office manager. The prospect of continuity with our finances and administration is one we relish. It has also been discussed for many years. I hope you get the chance to meet Linda Klamesh, a Sewickley mother of two, some time soon.

I thank each of you for your interest and ongoing dedication Child Health .

Beth

Child Health Hires Office Manager

Yes, you read that right! Due to the high volume of various duties in the office and the inconsistent availability of our busy membership, Child Health has taken action. Therefore, it is with joy and excitement CHAOS welcomes **Linda Klemash** as our part-time office manager.

A Certified Public Accountant and holder of a Masters in Business Administration, Linda brings a wealth of experience and skills to the position, having served as Finance Manager and Director of Accounting and Finance in previous positions. Linda resides in Sewickley Heights and has two young sons attending Sewickley Academy. Linda will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office and assisting the Treasurer, and will work 8-10 hours per week, generally on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Welcome aboard Linda.

Community Research Grants *Linda Schober & Marie Schumacher, Co-Chair*

In May 2007, the members of Child Health Association approved the following grants for the spring session. Grants totaling \$45,760 were awarded to nine non-profit organizations serving children and their families in western Pennsylvania. The following are the recipients and the amount of their grants.

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| All of Us Cares | Special Olympics Pennsylvania |
| The Children's Home of Pittsburgh | Tickets for Kids Foundation |
| Colfax Parent Teach Organization | Life Steps |
| Osborne Trail and Park Association | Parental Stress Center |
| Riverfront Park, Inc. | |

The Community Research Committee also reviewed a proposal submitted by the Quaker Valley Recreation Association (QVRA) requesting \$100,000 for their project, The Fields at Bell Acres. The Board of Directors and the membership approved the committee's recommendation to support the QVRA project with the funds coming from the Endowment Fund. The amount and date of the grant will be decided in the Fall of 2007. Child Health Association had given \$90,760.00 in grants for the 2006-2007 year.

Linda & Marie

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Provisional & Membership Changes

Please join in welcoming Leslie Ashburn, Jessie Barnes, Elisa DiTommaso, Lauren Licastro, Linda Taylor the Fall 2007 provisional members.

Welcome!

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Field of Dreams

Come one—Come all and bring your friends too!

On Saturday, November 17, 2007, Child Health will hold its annual member and friends ball chaired by Susan Kaminski and Christa Oelhaf.

This year the event will be held at the Allegheny Country Club at 6:00p.m.

Proceeds from the Ball will go toward the Quaker Valley Recreation Association (QVRA) fundraising efforts for the development of community ball fields on the Bell Acres site.

This is an important community partnership that will benefit all in the Quaker Valley family. We hope to see not only our active and associate members, but many of our neighbors involved in QVRA at this wonderful and fun event.

For reservations or questions, please contact Child Health at childhealth@comcast.net or call 412.741.3221

See you there!

Associate Update:

With the increased frequency of the newsletter, we would like to include *Associate News* in future installments. But we need help from the Associates to make it work. If you have any information or pictures to include forward it to Rebecca Huffman, Associate Relations.

Preemie Project Update

Mary Jo Crane & Michele Edwards, Co-Chairs

In February 2007, the "Preemie Parent Tote Project" was launched. The basis of the program was to provide parents of a premature child admitted to Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) with a tote bag filled with a variety of helpful items, including bottled water, snacks, tissues, a notebook, a small photo album, hand sanitizer, a baby journal and pen, and information about RSV (a potentially life-threatening virus for a preemie). Child Health members very generously donated – month after month – water, snacks, tissues and other items.

As of July 2007, nearly 100 tote bags had been donated to AGH. We have received wonderful feedback from parents and staff members at AGH; parents have been very grateful "that someone cares" (as one mom put it!) and are using their totes day-to-day. The tote bags themselves were purchased by Child Health, intended for use in this project and future projects. Child Health members were able to buy a tote bag (or two) at a very reasonable price, and 25 members took advantage of that offer! Mary Jo and Michele would like to thank all those members who took the time to shop for and donate needed items, and to Bonnie Megan, Associate Member, for helping us select a great tote bag! Associate members wishing to donate items for the Preemie Parent Tote Project may contact MJ Crane at 412-651-4084 to do so.

Just so you know, we've gotten 13 completed feedback forms. Every parent checked "YES" to the question: "Did you use the tote bag?". Below are some more of the parent comments...

- "We were shocked when our baby was admitted to the NICU. We found the tote and all of the items very useful! The tote kept us organized during those confusing first days...even on the day we forgot food we were able to eat quickly with your snacks and water. Thank you! Along with all of the practical uses, the tote and products added a very 'cared about' feeling."
- "I especially like the weight conversion chart in the 'baby's first notebook'."
- "Thank you so very much – little gifts at this stage are so very much appreciated."
- "I thought it was very nice. Most places don't show that they care."

Bringing More Life to Lifesteps

This summer, CHAOS member Terri Tunick was invited to the dedication ceremony for the Playground at Lifesteps, Inc. located in Beaver County.

Child Health had donated \$5,760 to the project which benefits children with autism and other developmental delays. Upon seeing the smiles and interactive achievement this playground will provide, it is clearly a successful project Child Health can be proud to be a part.

We offer a thank you to Joanne Hartle who invited Child Health to take part in the ceremony.



AGH's NICU –the parents and grandmother are surrounded by Dr. Barbara Israel, Mary Jo Crane, Michele Edwards

Gratitude from the children at Lifesteps.

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The 8th Annual Antiques Show

Kelly Pfenninger & Terri Tunick, Co-Chairs

The 8th Annual Antiques Show will be held on **October 13th & 14th** at the Edgeworth Club. Child Health would like to thank the Edgeworth Club and Show Manager, Jack Squires for all the work they do while we have the fun of bringing friends and family to view and (perhaps) to buy the wonderful assortment of antique objects from small jewelry or china to large chests or paintings.

On Thursday, **October 4th at 7:00pm**, renowned decorator Richard C. Smith will present *"That's What Decorating Is All About"* Similar to last year, Jack will also be available to appraise any items you would like. You may bring these pieces; but for larger items, a drawer plus a picture will do. Tickets for this event may be purchased for \$10.00/person.

The **Preview Party**, planned by Michele Edwards and Courtney Jones, will take place Friday evening, **October 12th at 6:30pm**. Active members are required to buy one ticket to the Party. Naturally we are hoping that your husband or significant other and many friends will enjoy this always festive event as well.

For any further information, call the Child Health Office at 412.741.2593.

