



hephzibah heartbeat

NEWS FROM HEPHZIBAH CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION *Providing safety and care to society's most vulnerable children since 1897* SPRING 2011



Dear Friends,

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE to all who attended and participated in Hephzibah's magnificent **Heart of Gold Gala** on March 5th. It was an incredible honor to gather with such a wonderful group of people who deeply believe in our mission to help the most vulnerable children in our community. Your generosity and commitment provide the vital support that allows Hephzibah to embrace change while nurturing tradition.



Emcee Peter Sagal, Teresa and Senator Don Harmon, Executive Director Mary Anne Brown

What began as a refuge for two orphaned children has evolved into an award winning agency that assisted over 1,100 children and families last year.

Because of your generosity, Hephzibah continues to respond quickly to children in crisis and is nimble enough to support change in order to meet future challenges our children and families will face.

Thank you to the Oak Park Auxiliary for organizing a memorable, fun and meaningful evening!

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Brown
Executive Director

hephzibah happenings!

Chicago Cubs vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

SUNDAY MAY 29, 2011

Game Time 1:20pm

Tickets: \$31

Join the Oak Park Auxiliary for a day at the ballpark benefiting Hephzibah.

Please visit Hephzibah's website to purchase tickets.

Hoof –It For Hephzibah

Hosted by Hephzibah's Western Auxiliary Board

MONDAY MAY 30, 2011

5K Fun Run and Family Walk

Children's 50 Yard Dash and Mini Mile Race

Newton Park, Glen Ellyn

Sign up at www.HoofitforHephzibah.com

4th Annual Hephzibah Dodgeball Tournament

JULY 2011

Hosted by Hephzibah's Chicago Auxiliary Board

North Avenue Beach, Chicago

Get a team together to raise funds to help Hephzibah's children.

10th Annual GE Charity Golf Classic

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

Cantigny Golf Course

Wheaton, IL

Need more information?

Call (708) 649-7140 or log onto our website at www.hephzibahhome.org

Hephzibah's Got Talent!

Story on page 4



THE LERNER FAMILY FOUNDATION

Heart of Gold Recipients



Emcee Peter Sagal presents the Heart of Gold Award to Yasir and Brittany Bezirgan representing the Lerner Family Foundation

THE LERNER FAMILY FOUNDATION is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2006 by Don Lerner and his family, who saw gaps in the current foster care system and sought to fill those gaps through grants, gifts and action. From the start Mr. Lerner asked his children for input as to which organizations could use the Foundation's help. After reading a Tribune article about a family in Hephzibah's Foster Care program, daughter Brittany Bezirgan wanted to learn more. She contacted Hephzibah, and after touring the Group Homes and hearing about the array of programs our Family Based Services provides foster families and at-risk families, Brittany recommended Hephzibah as a candidate to receive a grant from The Lerner Family Foundation.

Since 2005, The Lerner Family Foundation has generously supported one of Hephzibah's most important programs: Camp HepSIBah sibling re-unification camp, which was created because 75% of the children in foster care are separated from their siblings, and are left to navigate the child welfare system without the support or comfort of a brother or sister. Many never resolve the feelings of loss that result from these broken bonds. Hephzibah's Sibling Camp brings these children together in a fun and memorable way.

The Lerner Family Foundation's commitment to children goes beyond funding. Last summer they sponsored an innovative conference for all of their grantees which allowed social services organizations to share information, resources and expertise.

"I've never worked with a foundation whose principals were so personally invested in the success of their grantees," says Mary Anne Brown, Hephzibah's Executive Director. "We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of the Lerner Foundation."

Thank you to the Lerner Family Foundation for reaching out and making the world a better place for our children; for giving them the priceless gift of the family support system they will need as they grow into adulthood! ♥

The Heart of Gold Award honors individuals, organizations or corporations who have exhibited outstanding personal or professional achievement affecting the disadvantaged children on a local or national level.

*for more information on the **Camp HepSIBah**, visit www.hephzibahhome.org

ANNE BOYLE and SUSAN REICH

Heart of the Home Recipients

WHEN ANNE BOYLE AND SUSAN REICH first met while working at Lincoln Park Zoo in 1982, it was the start of a lifelong friendship and a thriving creative partnership. After seven years at the Zoo—where Anne served as design director and Susan handled publications and photography—they struck out on their own to open a design, writing and photography studio in Chicago. Their creative collaboration has lasted for more than 20 years.

In 2000, Susan moved from Chicago to Oak Park. After learning about Hephzibah Children's Association from a friend, she immediately started working as a volunteer art project leader and Homework Helper.

It wasn't long before Susan "fell in love with Hephzibah's kids and mission" and decided to deepen her commitment by becoming a foster parent. Soon after completing her foster parent training, she received a call about a one-day-old infant named Justin who needed a home. Justin was tiny when Susan first laid eyes on him, and he immediately charmed her with his toothless smile and captured her heart.

Within a week of Justin's arrival, deadlines loomed—and Susan returned to work with Justin in tow. He became a fixture at the studio, where he played and babbled and grew while Susan and Anne worked. Anne took daily breaks from her design projects to read him stories and nurture him with laughter and love. Over the years, Anne and her husband, Joe Charles, have been a constant presence in Justin's inner circle, two staunch protectors and guardian angels, filling his life with

affection, good times, holiday celebrations and unwavering emotional support.

Justin is now Susan's adopted son, and both Susan and Anne continue to collaborate as friends and as business partners in their enterprises: *Boyle Design Associates* and *Susan Reich Writing and Photography*.



Anne Boyle and Susan Reich received the Heart of the Home Award.

For the past eight years, they have given freely of their time and talents to create a new Hephzibah "brand" and provide writing, photography and design services to promote Hephzibah's mission. Susan also serves on Hephzibah's Foster Parent Advisory Board and continues to provide emergency shelter for foster children "who need a safe and comforting way station" on their journey through foster care.

"It would have been virtually impossible for our agency to move forward without Susan and Anne's hard work devoted to focusing and implementing our communications strategy," says Mary Anne Brown, Executive Director of Hephzibah. "Their artistry and heartfelt dedication to the children captures our philosophy."

Susan Reich and Anne Boyle embody the spirit of Hephzibah's Heart of the Home Award. We are honored and grateful to have them as our partners, advocates and friends. ♥

The Heart of the Home Award honors a person or group of volunteers dedicated to Hephzibah's mission with a strong commitment to a particular project or program within the organization.



Thank you to all of our generous donors and bidders for making the Silent Auction a phenomenal success! Not only did the proceeds from the Live Auction exceed our goals, but so did the fun and excitement! We are grateful to the more than 400 Hephzibah friends and supporters who participated in the 2011 Heart of Gold Ball! You helped us raise over \$250,000 for our critical programs that serve children and families.

The band Tributosaurus kept the guests on their toes!



2011 Heart of Gold Ball



Hephzibah Board Member Francesca DeBiasse

Thank You to Our Heart of Gold Sponsors!

SILVER HEART SPONSOR

McDonald's Corporation

BRONZE HEART SPONSORS

Anderson, Rasor & Partners, L.L.P.

Mary Anne & Max Brown

Good Heart Work Smart Foundation

David Herro and Jay Franke

The Sidley Austin Foundation

US Bank



TOP: Emcee Peter Sagal, host of National Public Radio's nationally syndicated show, "Wait...Wait...Don't Tell Me!"

BOTTOM: Phil and Suzy Wolf



TOP: Tau Gamma Sorority Volunteers from Oak Park River Forest High School
BOTTOM: Guest Charlie Barlow checks out the Dux bed, an auction item.

TABLE SPONSORS

The Avis Budget Group

Barker and Castro LLC

Paul & Sherry Carbery

Hogan Marren, Ltd.

Integro, Ltd.

The John Buck Company

Knowledge Advisors Inc./

Kent Barnett & Lauren Heath

Loro Auto Works

McCarthy & Trinko

John & Kary Mclwain

Dave & Lynde O'Brien

Rush Oak Park Hospital

The Stratton & Yates Families

The ter Horst & Kahn Families



Peter and Cynthia Traczyk



The Oak Park-River Forest High School Gospel Choir



Junior League Health Train Visits Hephzibah

By Sarah Niederman, Day Care Social Worker

HEPHZIBAH BROUGHT BACK THE HEALTH TRAIN for the second year and once again it was great fun! The Health Train is part of Chicago's Junior League's latest initiative to combat childhood obesity. Children from the Group Home and Day Care programs participated in this 2 hour long event that included interactive activities to help teach children about healthy lifestyles. Water taste testing, smoothie making, and hula hoop contests were just some of the fun activities the kids got to do.

This program is sponsored by the Junior League and free of charge for those who attend. It was a fun way for the kids to learn about physical fitness and healthy eating. With childhood obesity being such a national concern, Hephzibah was more than happy to jump on board with the Health Train and provide this fun and educational opportunity! ♥



A Standing Ovation for the Hephzibah Day Care Program's 35th Annual Talent Show!

ON SATURDAY APRIL 9th, children from Hephzibah's Day Care program "pulled out all the stops" for the 35th Annual Day Care Talent Show. The theme of this year's production was "We Belong Together!" The children performed a range of acts that included singing, instrumentals, dances, magic tricks and a Karate demonstration for an appreciative audience of parents, friends and family.

Thank you to the Day Care staff, children, parents, and volunteers. ♥



Hephzibah Group Home Children Visited the White House over Spring Break!

They met with **Senator Dick Durbin** and delivered an Important Message to **President Obama**



THE CHILDREN FROM HEPHZIBAH'S GROUP HOMES had the privilege of being tourists and emissaries in our Nation's Capital over Spring Break. The trip was initiated by an invitation to the White House from First Lady Michelle Obama's Chief of Staff.

On Friday March 18th, Senator Don Harmon, Illinois 39th District, visited the children in the Group Homes to brief them on their upcoming trip. The senator talked a little bit about government and the White House itself. The kids had many questions – some unintentionally quite funny: “How many bathrooms are in the White House?” and “Do you walk President Obama's dog?” Then Senator Harmon also gave the children an important letter** to deliver to

President Obama, noting that Hephzibah “provides support services for some of our most vulnerable children.” And “There is perhaps no more honorable calling.”

On Monday the 28th, the children embarked on the trip of a lifetime. For most this marked their first airplane ride and overnight hotel stay. One of the young travelers was overheard saying, “If I can fly on a plane and do all this stuff, I know I can go to a foster home!”

But these were only the beginning of an exciting array of “firsts.” In addition to visiting the White House, the children and staff rode to the top of the Washington Monument, visited the Lincoln Memorial, The Vietnam War Memorial and played and raced around the grounds of the massive Smithsonian complex.

One of the most thrilling highlights was a meeting with Illinois Senator Dick Durbin who greeted the kids in his office at the Capitol. He spent 30 minutes answering questions and talking to them. Then the Senator arranged for a private train ride from the Capitol building to the Senate buildings!



U.S. Senator Dick Durbin met with Hephzibah's Group Home children during their recent visit to Washington, D.C.

The children were awestruck by the sights and sounds of Washington. But the feelings were mutual: as they met movers and shakers, and visited the highlights of our nation's capitol, they charmed even the most cynical Washingtonians.

Group Homes Director Jim Woywod noted, “The kids were Hephzibah's best ambassadors. They exemplify the wonderful things our organization has done for children and families in Illinois for over 100 years.”

The children made sure President Obama got the message, too! ♥

Photos of the kids with the senator, courtesy of US Senator Dick Durbin

*** To see a copy of Senator Harmon's letter, visit tinyurl.com/Harmon-Letter*



Hephzibah Goes to Washington: what the kids had to say about their whirlwind adventure in our nation's capital city.

What did you like about the plane ride?

“It felt like a roller coaster when we took off!”...“I liked being in the sky.”...“The turbulence.”...“It was fun to take off, but I felt sick when we were going to land.”...“Looking out the window.”...“Chewing gum.”...“I made a video of us taking off!”...“I liked when we went really fast and went up into the air!”...“When we were landing we raised our hands into the air!”

What was your favorite activity in Washington DC?

“Going to see the White House!”...“The Merry Go Round”...“The White House and the National Monument.”...“eating.”...“I liked the White House. The China Room was my favorite because it was so pretty.”...“I stumped the Secret Service men!”...“I really liked having a TV in our room.”...“I liked the statues.”...“I liked going to the Capitol.”...“We went to Red Hot Blue. I ordered a big salad. It was really good.”...“I liked the scorpion spider in Senator Durbin's office. It was COOL!”

What did you learn in Washington DC?

“I learned about the White House”...“There is an elevator to take you to the top of the Washington Monument. I didn't want to walk up, so I was happy”...“That we should never steal anything because they have scanning machines”...“I learned that Washington is a good state.”...“The White House has 123 rooms.”

What is your favorite memory of the trip?

“Taking pictures of everything.”...“The changing of the guards at Arlington Cemetery.”...“We got to ride on different vehicles like a rented car, train, airplane, and we stayed in a hotel and we went to restaurants.”...“Going to the top of the Washington Monument.”...“The swimming pool.”...“Going shopping.”...“Everything there!”

Congratulation to the 2011 Hephzibah Heartprint Award Recipients

THE HEPHZIBAH HEARTPRINT AWARD recognizes the exceptional volunteer efforts of two high school seniors that have made a difference in the lives of the children at Hephzibah. It is with great pleasure that we honor **Charlie Kowalski**, a senior at Oak Park River Forest High School, and **Jennifer Bell**, a senior at Trinity High School in River Forest. We send a heartfelt thanks to Charlie and Jennifer for their enthusiasm, commitment and genuine concern for the children! ♥



Charlie Kowalski
Oak Park River Forest High School



Jennifer Bell
Trinity High School

Cheers to Our Volunteers!



Hephzibah volunteers at the Oak Park Farmer's Market Donut Day, September 2010

HEPHZIBAH CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION THANKS all of the incredible individuals who donate their time and energy to serving our children. We are fortunate to have numerous individuals and groups that are dedicated to our mission to enhance the lives of children and families. Volunteers are critical to our success in providing safety and care to over 1,100 and families each year.

Did you know?

- ♥ Hephzibah's **376 volunteers** logged **20,842 volunteer hours** in 2010 – up from 14,675 volunteer hours last year!
- ♥ The **estimated dollar value** of volunteer time is \$20.25 per hour.*
- ♥ Hephzibah's volunteer power hours carry a dollar **value of \$422,050.50**

* The Independent Sector organization develops the national average hourly value of volunteer time, derived from the annual President's Economic Report. This figure is based on the average non-agricultural hourly wage from the previous fiscal year.

Who Volunteers at Hephzibah?

HEPHZIBAH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THREE AUXILIARY BOARDS are comprised entirely of volunteers. These volunteers help govern the agency, raise awareness of Hephzibah's mission, and assist with fundraising.

Hephzibah's Board of Directors	18	Members
Oak Park Auxiliary Board	27	Members
Western Auxiliary Board	36	Members
Chicago Auxiliary Board	18	Members

99 BOARD MEMBERS 5,940 VOLUNTEER HOURS LAST YEAR

VOLUNTEERS COME IN MANY FORMS AT HEPHZIBAH – from the high school students who serve as after-school homework tutors to the caring adults who mentor the children living in our Group Homes. These generous, compassionate individuals come to Hephzibah at nearly every stage of life: as pre-teens, teenagers, young adults, mid-lifers, and retirees.

167 Direct-service Volunteers These volunteers work directly with the children such as tutoring and mentoring.

210 HelpMates These volunteers help with administrative tasks, special events, and one-time projects. HelpMates include individuals as well as corporate and community groups.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who help Hephzibah provide the best possible services to children and families! *You make our work possible!*



Wish ♥ list

FOR THE GROUP HOMES

Summer is coming!

- ♥ Bicycle helmets, scooters, bikes, kites
- ♥ Pool & beach supplies:
beach towels, sand toys, flip flops,
sun glasses, goggles, sunscreen,
beach bags, pool toys

Used Musical Instruments:

- ♥ If you have an instrument that is gathering dust in the basement or if you are thinking of upgrading to a new instrument, please consider giving the gift of music to Hephzibah. Our children participate in lessons and musical enrichment courses.

We always need these basics:

- ♥ Washcloths
- ♥ Socks for boys and girls
- ♥ Plastic mattress covers and sheet sets for twin beds
- ♥ Hair supplies: barrettes, ponytail holders, brushes and detangler
- ♥ Bath tub toys

FOR FAMILY BASED SERVICES

For our families who are struggling to improve their children's lives, these essentials go a long way to relieve some of the stress of economic hardship.

- ♥ Jewel Gift Cards for food (or similar grocery cards)
- ♥ CTA Monthly Passes or pre-filled transit cards (both student and adult)
- ♥ Bedding
- ♥ Towels

In Our Own Words

Who are the people in your life who have helped you when you are sad or hurting?

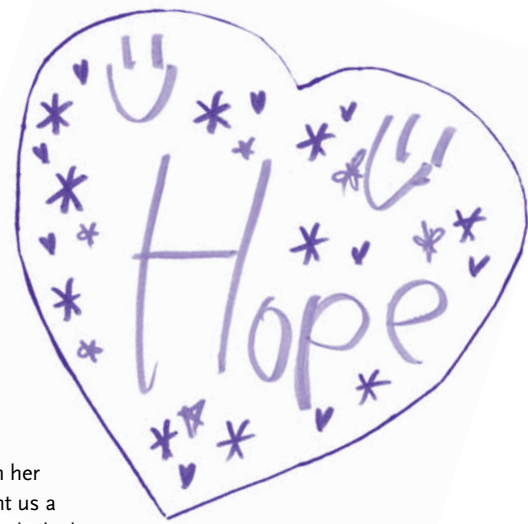
MEAGAN* CAME TO HEPHZIBAH'S DIAGNOSTIC TREATMENT CENTER and then lived in the Residence until she was placed with her foster mom and dad. Meagan and her folks sent us a photocopy of an assignment she wrote for school which they all wanted to share with our readers.

“My Special Support System”

— by Meagan*

1. My **mom** supports me because she tells me that I will never leave again to go to a different house.
2. My **dad** supports me by telling me to never ever give up.
3. My **teacher** supports me by saying that I am doing a very good job.
4. My **staff from Hephzibah** supports me by telling me what to do. If they didn't I wouldn't be here right now! (with her new foster family – ed.)

* name changed



A Great Gift for Dad this Father's Day!

SEND A SPECIAL GIFT to one of the most important people in your life....a gift that will honor him and help the children at Hephzibah, too. **Make a donation to Hephzibah in that special person's name**, and they will be acknowledged by email card or snail mail card — whichever you prefer. For details, visit our website at: www.hephzibahhome.org



Board of Directors

Sarah Arnett
Jackie Barlow
Terry Brown
Sherry Carbery
Joe Dahir
Francesca DeBiase
Leslie Jones
Barbara Kahn
Kenna MacKinnon
John McIlwain
Beth Pecenka
Eric Sorensen
Maureen Stratton
Byron Taylor
Cheryl ter Horst
Mark Trinka
Audrey Williams-Lee
Tom Yates

Executive Director

Mary Anne Brown

Newsletter Contributors

Dena Boznos
Andrew Campbell Photography
Jennifer Stix, Editor and Contributing Writer
Jan Maxson
Molly Philosophos
Anne Boyle
Susan Reich
Maureen McGoorty
Sarah Neiderman

To make a correction to your mailing address or if you are receiving duplicates of this newsletter, please send an e-mail to bkrause@hephzibahhome.org or call Barbara Krause at 708.649.7140. *Thank you!*

Spring 2011

11th Annual Hoof It for Hephzibah



5K Family Fun Run
and "Hop It" races for the kids!
Memorial Day • Monday, May 30th • 8:00 am
Newton Park, Glen Ellyn

Benefiting Hephzibah Children's Association,
an organization dedicated to providing safety
and care to our community's most vulnerable children.
Please visit www.HoofItForHephzibah.com for more information.



Please visit
www.HoofItForHephzibah.com
for more information.

Register online at
www.SignMeUp.com

Official race timing
provided by Race Time.

**Pre-Race Registration and
Packet Pickup:**
Thursday May 26, 9:30-11am,
5-6:30pm
Sunday May 29, 12-2pm at
HealthTrack Sports and Wellness
875 Roosevelt Rd., Glen Ellyn

**Race Day Registration
at Newton Park:**
7:00am - Registration begins
8:00am - 5k Fun Run/Walk
9:30am - "Hop It" Kid Races,
50 yard dash
and 1/4 mile mini-run