

A QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER FOR OUR
DONORS AND FRIENDS
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.mccf-in.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 13

Applications due for The James G. and Patti J. Pearson and The Bob J. Tandy Scholarships

Applications are available at
www.mccf-in.org

May 7

“Volunteer of the Year” nominations are due by noon

Grant Applications are due by noon

May 27

MCCF Annual Meeting

October 23

Denim & Diamonds Dinner Tour

MCCF Board of Directors

Mr. Roy Kaser, President
Dr. Gaylon Ross, Vice President
Ms. Susan Smith, Secretary
Mr. John Tidd, Treasurer
Ms. Amy Cooper
Dr. Anne Dantzig
Ms. Nancy Doemel
Ms. Anita Klein
Mr. Phillip Littell
Mr. Don Livingston
Mr. Steve McLaughlin
Mr. Morris Mills
Mr. Dale Petrie
Ms. Nancy Sennett
Ms. Chris White

Local Youth are “Masters of Disaster”

by Cheryl Keim

April 2010

While most local high school students lounged around on their Martin Luther King holiday, several were being trained in a *Masters of Disaster* Red Cross course. These students are members of Red Cross Student Volunteer Clubs through their high schools. The *Masters of Disaster* curriculum is centered on a series of lesson plans which educate youth about important disaster safety and preparedness information. Skills learned through the *Masters of Disaster* program are carried on through life.

The Red Cross Student Volunteer Clubs are supported in part, through a \$5,000.00 (Irwin Lee Detchon Fund) MCCF grant awarded to the local Red Cross last fall. The grant has allowed the local chapter to hire a part-time Youth Volunteer Coordinator, Liz Thompson, to begin youth volunteer programs in the three county high schools.

The clubs have also received financial support through a YAR (Youth as Resources) grant. YAR is a philanthropic, youth led program that conducts various service projects and fund raisers and in turn, awards grants to other youth led endeavors.

With March being National Red Cross Month, the Southmont club chose to celebrate by hosting a *Masters of Disaster* event for the seventh graders. High School student members created and staffed four different stations, each focusing on a specific disaster topic.

Cody Haslam, a senior and a volunteer firefighter presented information on home fire safety. Kelsey Bowman, also a senior, and a trained storm spotter shared tips for tornado safety. John Wilson discussed lightening safety and Nathan Grey shared with the students what a general household safety kit

should contain. Such items would include drinking water (one gallon per person per day), non-perishable foods, multipurpose tool, manual can-opener, flashlights with extra batteries, candles and matches, medications (necessary prescriptions and general over the counter types), emergency cash, and personal hygiene items. To learn more about these topics and the myriad of other Red Cross programs and services, contact the local chapter at 362-3103. And don't forget, there are always volunteer opportunities available for adults as well as students.



SHS Senior, Kelsey Bowman shares tornado safety information with 7th graders.

Watch or Warning? Know the Difference

Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

Tornado Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately underground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

MCCF Provides Wheels for AWL

by Cheryl Keim

Owni ng a pet can add great joy to one's life by reducing stress, improving mood, encouraging exercise, and staving off loneliness. But when not properly cared for, pets can become a very real problem for society. Pets left to run wild often damage property, cause harm to people, especially unassuming children, and spread diseases. The Animal Welfare League, a private, nonprofit Humane Society formed in 1965, is charged with dealing with these problems and with finding new homes for those pets when either they have no home, the home is not fit or the owner has chosen to surrender them. During difficult economic times these problems increase for a variety of reasons. In some cases, people have lost their homes to foreclosure and have moved into rental properties that do not allow pets. In other cases the pet might have health problems the owner cannot afford to treat.

Regardless of the reason, the AWL staff is committed to finding safe and loving homes for these animals. Several approaches are used. The Journal Review runs a weekly photo of a dog or cat available for adoption. Candy Hodges, Board President, says that so far, all pets featured in the newspaper have been adopted. They have a weekly radio spot on WIMC Friday mornings where in addition to educational tips, a pet is introduced to listeners. Sometimes they work with breed specific "rescues" to find homes for pure bred dogs. AWL employee, Rosalee Alvarez keeps pet photos posted on their website, www.wagsandtails.org. This is how "Max" found his new home with the Keim's in Valparaiso. Much to brother-in-law, Erik's chagrin, Max is a member of the Canine Country Club.

The City of Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, and most of the small towns contract with AWL to provide animal control services. Because animal control services are provided in addition to serving as a homeless shelter, they are not allowed by law to turn an animal away. It is because of this that the shelter must sometimes resort to euthanasia in order to control their pet population. While this is extremely difficult for the staff, Candy reminds us that for most of these animals, the time they have spent at the shelter has

been the best time of their difficult lives; at least they were able to have some comfort and happiness.

Last fall, MCCF awarded AWL \$13,000.00 from the Hubert and Martha Massing Fund, an unrestricted fund for the benefit of the Montgomery County community, to purchase a gently used pickup truck. Shelter Manager and Head Animal Control Officer, Kyle Schlichting told us, "I can't thank MCCF enough for the funds to buy this truck. It is not an exaggeration to say that this gift saved the shelter as it enabled us to fulfill our contracts."

One individual, who chooses to remain anonymous, established a fund here at MCCF called *Mutt*gomery Pet Paws, to provide support to the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County. When asked about the motivation for starting the fund, the donor said, "I've always liked animals and some of my best friends are animals. MCCF supports many great causes, but the animals were a missing piece. Establishing the fund at the Foundation was a way to support the Foundation and at the same time achieve my goal to support AWL." Anyone can make contributions to the fund at any time. The beauty of the fund is that the principal will never be spent and income from the fund will support the AWL forever.

So, what else can we all do as individuals to relieve the pressure on the shelter? First of all, we can be responsible pet owners by keeping our pets properly vaccinated and spayed or neutered. Kyle explained that spayed and neutered pets are better behaved, less aggressive, less likely to roam, and enjoy significantly lower rates of many cancers. When we encounter strays we can adopt the animal and give it the same care as our other pets or we can turn them over to AWL.

There are many supplies that the shelter can always use such as towels, blankets, canned kitten food, cat carriers, cat toys and beds, bleach, peanut butter, rolls of paper towels, scrubs, shampoo, soft dog treats, spray bottles, 33 gal. trash bags, washable cat/dog toys, cat/dog treats, leashes, and tough chew toys. Office supplies such as clip boards, copy paper, dry

erase markers, pens, post-it-notes, scissors and sharpies are always welcome too. And of course cash donations are always useful and appreciated.

We can support their programs such as "Get Fit with Fido". This is a walking program where you can go out to the shelter, select a dog, and take him/her for a walk on the Sugar Creek Trail. Well exercised dogs are happier, healthier and better behaved in the shelter and therefore more likely to be adopted. And hey, we can get some welcome fresh air and exercise to boot! AWL celebrates national "Be Kind to Animals Week" each May by hosting their annual "Stroll for Strays" fund raiser. This mini walk-a-thon is scheduled for May 2nd at Hoover Field at 2:00 p.m. Dogs available for adoption will attend so that they can be walked, and if it's their lucky day, maybe adopted as well! To learn more about these events contact the shelter at 362-8446 or visit their website at www.wagsandtails.org.



AWL Shelter Manager and Head Animal Control Office, Kyle Schlichting, with the new pickup truck they were able to purchase with a MCCF Grant from the Massing Fund.



Our ongoing mission is to enrich the quality of life in Montgomery County by creating a comfortable, convenient and cost effective means for donors to achieve their goals of charitable giving while fulfilling a variety of current and future community needs.

Who will be "VOY" 2010?

Volunteers play a vital role in the success of not-for-profit agencies and have a significant impact on the quality of life in a community. MCCF would like to recognize someone special for its 2010 "Volunteer of the Year" Award.

All nominees will be honored publicly at MCCF's annual meeting on May 27. The organization nominating the winner will receive a check for \$1,000, in the winner's honor.

To submit a nomination, simply write a letter to MCCF explaining why you feel this person should be honored as "Volunteer of the Year." Describe the nominee's history of service and role within your not-for-profit organization as well as any other volunteer activities that he/she has undertaken. Family members and spouses of current board members and staff of MCCF are not eligible for nomination for this award. The deadline for nominations is April 20th.

Past "Volunteers of the Year" have been:

- 2009 Diane Cross, Mountie Mission
- 2008 Robert "Bob" Evans, St. Clare Medical Center Auxiliary
- 2007 Carolyn Snider, Christian Nursing Service & PRIDE Youth Programs
- 2006 Beth Binch, South Montgomery Community Schools Dollars for Scholars
- 2005 Keith Baird, Christian Nursing Service
- 2004 Dale Petrie, CHARACTER COUNTS! of Montgomery Co.
- 2003 Flora Wilson, FISH of Montgomery Co.
- 2002 Beverley Turner, Volunteers in Mental Health
- 2001 Chris and Thompson, Crawfordsville High School PRIDE Team
- 2000 Loran Rutledge, Chamber of Commerce
- 1999 Aleeta Wilson, Christian Nursing Service
- 1998 Molly Cooper, FISH of Montgomery Co. and Christian Nursing Service
- 1997 Claude Johnson, MUFFY
- 1996 Katherine Milligan, Christian Nursing Service

MCCF Trivia

1. Which MCCF Fund provides support for the Red Cross?
2. Which MCCF Fund provides support for the Animal Welfare League?

1. The Herbert and Genevieve Morrison Fund 2. Muttgomery Pet Paws Fund

The Inside Scoop

Again this February, MCCF staff met with 22 agency representatives representing 21 organizations to hear concerns regarding their needs for the current year and beyond.

We heard that funding is difficult to find and that demand for their services has increased by 30%. This was true for both agencies in human services as well as for those in non human service areas. At the same time both groups report that their usual sources of funding are being cut or reduced leaving about half of them concerned about operating dollars for 2010.

Based on this information, the MCCF board has approved the following recommendations from the staff concerning the 2010 grant cycles.

There will be one grant cycle with a due date of May 7th. After committee review, the board will take action on June 21.

Having just one grant cycle allows for competitive comparison of all grants. And it allows MCCF to see investment performance for five months of 2010.

Grant requests for operating funds will be considered for this one year for extreme emergency situations. Requests will be evaluated based on greatest need in the community and best return on the investment for the community.

Grant applications are available at www.mccf-in.org. First time applicants should schedule an appointment with Kelly Taylor, Program Coordinator for counsel. And of course she is happy to answer questions from any applicants. She can be reached at 362-1267.

Fred D. Stevenson Memorial Golf Classic

hosted by family and friends

Saturday, June 19th
8:00 a.m.

Rocky Ridge Golf Course

Golf, dinner, prizes, fun, and auction including antiques!

Entry Fee: \$50.00 per player
Dinner Only: \$10.00

rsvp: catherinebeemer@mac.com

Proceeds benefit the Fred D. Stevenson Scholarship Fund through MCCF.



The Board Spotlight Shines on....



Gaylon Ross

MCCF is fortunate to have men and women in our community who are willing to share their time and talents serving on our Board of Directors. Our Board members are loyal to our mission and supportive of our goals and objectives and we are so grateful for their diligence. Because of their vital role at the Foundation, we'd like to give you a closer look at our Board by profiling one member in each of our newsletters. In this edition our Board spotlight shines on **Board Member Gaylon Ross**.

After earning his PhD at Notre Dame, Gaylon was an Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Central Arkansas for eleven years. However, about six years ago, while pursuing a change in career and scenery, he was led to relocate in Crawfordsville. Gaylon secured his current position at Sommer Metalcraft which also afforded him and his wife, Kristie, and their son, Sam, to be closer to Kristie's family.

Gaylon chose to serve on our Board because he wanted to be an integral part of an organization that empowered individuals and agencies to achieve their charitable goals. Because the Foundation acts as a bridge connecting the generosity of individuals with the people who use those gifts to benefit our community, he feels that his service is as humbling as it is rewarding. Gaylon's desired legacy is to help our community respect our history and accomplishments while developing a visionary spirit to become an even more energetic, thriving town.

One of the things that Gaylon considers Montgomery County's greatest asset is the spirit of volunteerism. He should know as he possesses that same spirit! Gaylon is an active member of First United Methodist Church where he serves on the Church Council and Finance committee. In addition, he enjoys singing in the Chancel Choir and a men's quartet group known as The Messengers. When he can latch on to a leisure moment or two, he enjoys music, movies and fishing. While we're sure he lends a great voice to the church choir, we are certainly grateful for the harmony he brings serving on our Board!

by Paula Reed

3

L. Ann Malott
Executive Director



One word that immediately identifies the two agencies featured in this newsletter is the word *rescue*. One definition of *rescue* is to “save somebody or something from a dangerous or harmful situation” which is one aspect of the great work done by the Red Cross. They are usually one of the first responders to a disaster situation, quickly assessing the needs and providing relief on many levels. However, another facet of the Red Cross is to provide education so that people can be prepared for emergency situations. I applaud their efforts to train local high school students with

skills they can use for the rest of their life in times of crisis.

Another definition of *rescue* that aptly fits our local Animal Welfare League is to “prevent something from being discarded or rejected.” One stroll through their facility and you collide with the reality of that definition. Row after row of animals that have been abandoned or abused are fed and sheltered. But perhaps the greatest nourishment these animals are given is the love and respect shown them by the kindness and compassion of the staff. I admire their commitment to these homeless pets and their dedication to finding them proper homes.

Not only are we fortunate to have these agencies operating in our community, but all of our local non-profits are tremendously important. Doubts about the economy, rising unemploy-

ment, and escalating needs are all reason enough to make us feel overwhelmed and discouraged. However, hardly a day goes by that I don’t hear of or read about needs being met through our essential agencies and their exceptional staff and volunteers. And *that* is reason enough to lift our spirits and encourage our minds.

As I put the finishing touches on this article, the brilliant sunlight is streaming through my office windows. I am warmed not only the sun’s rays, but also by the fact that spring has arrived! New growth is sprouting up; the grass is turning green, and evidence of new life is all around. What a welcome sight after the long, cold winter we have experienced!



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