



THE BRIDGE

BRIDGING GENERATIONS WITH AGELESS FRIENDSHIP
Friends Across the Ages - Nursing Home Outreach in Gainesville, Florida

Vol. 4 No. 3 Summer 2006



Steve & Allison Blay Directors' Message

The Littlest Friend Across the Ages

Peter Blay (our five month old son) is no longer the youngest Friends volunteer! On May 4, 2006, Jon and Keri Shinn, long-time Friends volunteers and board members, welcomed their son Jonah H. Shinn to the world. Jonah has already attended his first board meeting, and with a smile like his, he is sure to be a hit at nursing homes all over Gainesville.

So, congratulations, Jon and Keri! Welcome to the world, Jonah!

BINGO-A-THON A BIG SUCCESS

The Third Annual Friends Across the Ages "Bingo-A-Thon" event was held Saturday, April 8th, at five Gainesville nursing homes. Overall, almost 100 volunteers attended the event and more than 100 nursing home residents participated! The event raised over \$3000.

T H A N K S !

Our sincere thanks to everyone that participated in the event. We especially want to thank the following coordinators for each nursing home; without them there would have been no Bingo-A-Thon!

- Gainesville Health Care Center – ANNE AND JOE SCHENTRUP
- The Manor at Gainesville – DAN AND AYOLA SINGH-KREITZ, LEANNE MOHLER
- North Florida Rehab & Specialty Care – JON AND KERI SHINN, GEORGE HAMILTON
- Park Meadows – VI ASMUTH, IRENE DOYLE, GRETCHEN GRIGSBY, DIANNE WALSH
- University Place – JEAN LANSFORD, RUTH HAZEN, MERT CHUMACK

We sincerely appreciate the support of the following businesses and organizations:

- JOE'S PLACE RESTAURANT – sandwiches and sides for wrap-up party
- BARR SYSTEMS – space for wrap-up party
- ROTARACT – set up team for wrap-up party
- CHI PHI FRATERNITY – sent over 20 volunteers to the event
- O&P CLINICAL TECHNOLOGIES – corporate sponsor
- HAVEN HOSPICE – corporate sponsor
- U.F. HILTON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER – prize for volunteers
- PUBLIX SUPERMARKETS – \$50 in supplies
- DeCONNA – Ice Cream :-)

W I N N E R S !

At the wrap-up party, prizes were awarded to the volunteers who raised the most pledges. Here are the winners, along with the prizes they received:

- 1st Place – JENNA AND TOSHI NISHIDA – One free night at the U.F. Hilton Hotel
- 2nd Place – FAYE COORPENDER – \$25 Gift Certificate at JCPenney
- 3rd Place – AGNES BIERBAUM – Two Movie Passes
- Honorable Mention – MARIA 'PILI' PAZ – Two meals at Boston Market

It was also our great privilege to recognize LETICIA EWBANK with the "Spirit Award", for her tireless efforts year-round at making many of the handmade items that were awarded to the nursing home residents during the Bingo-A-Thon.



Pat getting Tom Jones ready to play another game.

Jacqui (left) and Ashley (middle) help Florence win games at University Place

Denzel helps Mr. Perry play four cards at once!

Marjorie Douglas wins again at North Florida Specialty Care Center!

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Please consider *Friends Across the Ages* in your charitable giving priorities. Your tax deductible donation can be sent to PO Box 14698, Gainesville, FL 32604-4698, or made by credit card at www.acrosstheages.org.

Welcome New Volunteers

Christine Pennington at Palm Garden

Ashley Fowler at University Place

Yolanda Jameau at University Place

Donations in MEMORY of

ADELAIDE MENDONÇA, by Josh and Sarah McCoy

JOHN GECZI, by Henry and Barbara Swerkes

RUTH HOVLAND, by Gretchen Grigsby and Dianne Walsh

Resident Spotlight

MARY BARWICK

By Karen and Linda

Every Wednesday afternoon, I put Linda in her car seat and take her over to see Ms. Mary. As soon as we walk into the building, Linda is the belle of the ball. Everyone loves to see her, and all the extra attention makes her all smiles.

Over in room 235, Ms. Mary invites us to come in and pull up a chair. We chat for a bit. Before long, Ms. Mary is unable to resist playing patty-cake with Linda. It's a somewhat one-sided game since Linda is 9 months old and hasn't quite figured out how to clap yet; but Linda likes to watch Ms. Mary clap and chant and Ms. Mary enjoys the fact that it always makes Linda smile. They've been playing every week for six months now, so Ms. Mary and I are both looking forward to the day Linda starts clapping back.

Ms. Mary has spent her entire life caring for people. First, she cared for her daughter, Susan, who she spent many years waiting for and was finally able to adopt. Later, she insisted that both of her husband's parents live with her instead of in a nursing home. Then, her husband got sick and needed her constant care for the rest of his life.

Now that she is in a nursing home herself, Ms. Mary enjoys doing anything she can to care for her fellow residents and the staff. For example, her room is right across the hall from the beauty parlor. She has given the beautician a standing invitation to use the bathroom in her room instead of having to walk all the way around the building to the public restrooms. Ms. Mary also enjoys sharing any extra food she didn't eat with her roommate, Ms. Lucinda Jackson (who loves to play peek-a-boo with Linda).

Linda rarely gets to see her "real" great-grandparents because they all live in other states. But family is more than blood, and Linda and I are glad to have Ms. Mary in our extended family.



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