

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Through the generous support of our donors we are able to reach out to those in need and carry out our mission. No gift is too small. Listed below are the individuals, businesses, and foundations that made contributions between July 1, 2005 – October 1, 2006. If you feel that an error has been made, please contact Carla Nicolaus at 262-432-0118 or cnicolaus@voawi.org.

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Charles Workman

The following individuals made donations in memory of others:

Glen and Holly McPheeters in memory of Bob (Anant) Phoungphol
Michael Faust in memory of Zenta Sniedze

NEW OFFICES

In September, Volunteers of America – Wisconsin moved their administrative offices from Brookfield to the Milwaukee area. The new office space is located in the Northern Lights Office Center at 1661 North Water Street near the intersections of Brady and Van Buren Streets. These offices are more centrally located for the programs and services that Volunteers of America – Wisconsin provides, particularly those programs and services in central and southern Wisconsin. It is our hope that a more central location will also allow us to gain greater visibility among Milwaukee business and non-profit organizations.



VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA – WISCONSIN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Oyvind Wistrom, *Chair*
Dave Stamm,
Secretary/Treasurer
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PRESIDENT/CEO:

Jim Stewart

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

1661 North Water Street,
Suite 401
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-847-1515

GROUP HOMES FOR DISABLED AND ELDERLY:

Marion House
401 South Prairie Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188

Summit House
910 Summit Ave
Waukesha, WI 53188

Christopher House
8322 14th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53143

Edward House
4831 47th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53142

AFFORDABLE HOUSING:
P.O. Box 304
Waukesha, WI 53187
262-446-9144

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*Image/Graphic Designer: Kelly Heisman
kellyheisman@wi.rr.com*

Vehicles of Philanthropy

Are you “driven” to benevolence? You can be, if you have a car, truck, boat, motorcycle or RV to donate to Volunteers of America’s Vehicle Donation program. Contact us at 1-800-407-2600 for a pick-up.

- You may receive greater value for your vehicle as a charitable contribution on your itemized tax return.
- You will be spared the inconveniences of trying to sell your own vehicle.
- You will make a very valuable and highly appreciated contribution to help people in need in your own community.

Last year, more than 1400 vehicles were donated to Volunteers of America in our community. Who does the program help?

Elderly Services help seniors enjoy lives of dignity and independence through retirement communities, assisted living, meal programs, and more.

Housing Services provide an opportunity for individuals and families to live in safe, well-maintained rental housing.



www.voa-wi.org

1661 North Water Street, Suite 401
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Volunteers
of America®
Wisconsin





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Visions



"It's comfortable here for us, you know, and friendly." – Barbara Heiser
"They help me when I need it." – George Heiser

GEORGE AND BARB

When George Heiser fell and broke his hip, he and his wife eventually came to the conclusion that they would need to seek alternative living arrangements for George. Barbara Heiser simply could not care for her husband by herself.

George Heiser had been raised by German immigrants and was brought up speaking German. His father started his own dry cleaning and tailoring business in Chicago, Illinois. George earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and worked as a chemist in a lab that produced fuel cells for airplanes near the Rubber Mills in Michiwake, Indiana. That is where George met Barbara. She also worked there, but in the company's production control factory. George and Barbara

were married in 1944 in a minister's study during World War II near South Bend, Indiana. George was 25 and Barbara was 21. Their son, Leslie, was born in 1945 and they decided that Barbara would no longer work at the factory; she would stay home to raise their children.

Later that same year, when George's father was no longer able to run his tailoring and dry cleaning business, George and Barbara relocated their family to Chicago to take over the business and in 1948 their daughter, Barbara, was born. Family was very important to George and Barbara and every year their entire family took two weeks of vacation together. They went to Europe and traveled in Central America. They vacationed throughout the United States,

in places like Colorado and the west coast. One of Barbara's favorite places to visit was the Smokey Mountains. As Barbara fondly recounts, "the kids went along to the Smokey Mountains with great objection when they were teens."

They continued their family vacations and even took weekly square dancing lessons together. George and Barbara watched their children grow up and move on and after 42 years in Chicago, George retired from the tailoring and dry cleaning business and he and Barbara moved back to South Bend, Indiana, near where they had first met. By this time their son, Les, had joined the navy and relocated to Portland, Oregon. Barbara, their daughter lived in Pleasant Prairie, WI.

While living in South Bend, George suffered a fall that resulted in a broken hip. After surgery and medical care, George returned home to recuperate and Barbara took care of him for another 7 years until they realized that Barbara could no longer care for George without assistance. They discussed numerous possibilities and decided that they would both move to St. Joseph's Villa, a 40 unit senior apartment complex in Kenosha, Wisconsin. They picked this location in Wisconsin for several reasons. First, they decided on St. Joseph's because they could remain living together. St. Joe's also offered a daily check-in system to ensure that they were safe and had access to a 24 hour emergency call system. They also picked this location because they would be close to their daughter in Pleasant Prairie.

After settling in together at St. Joseph's Villa, George and Barbara

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A Message From the President



Jim Stewart, President/CEO

I hope this newsletter finds each of you in good health and enjoying the holiday season! This has been proven to be an exceptionally busy year for us here at Volunteers of America of Wisconsin. Growth and development have been at the forefront of our activities.

For those of you who are just becoming acquainted with Volunteers of America, we have provided services in Wisconsin since the early 1920's! From day care centers to homes for the frail elderly and disabled, we have sought to serve those most in need. At our recent annual meeting, the Board of Directors determined that we would increase our focus on what we do best - namely the provision of community-based residential care services.

Our Strategic Plan includes the development of at least three new homes over the course of the next three years. We will concentrate on services for persons with developmental disabilities, chronic mental illness and the frail elderly. The first home has already been purchased and opened its doors on October 1, 2006. We will break ground on the second home within the next few months.

Our decision to expand is in keeping with the trend in Wisconsin of having the frail elderly and disabled persons live in a fully-integrated small, home-like environment whenever possible. We have found that frail elderly individuals, for example, are capable of living very long, fulfilling lives when provided the right supports in a small home. This is especially true when the

resident and staff collaborate with family members and health care providers so that each and every personal need is being met. We have been blessed to have outstanding caregivers and social service staff at various county offices that are dedicated to our core principal of providing the best possible service found anywhere!

As we develop new homes, however, we continue to need your support. Government funding simply does not cover all the costs associated with operating a top-notch home. Building remodeling and updates, roofs and flooring, landscaping and maintenance....all require extensive financial resources. The good news is that in looking at our fiscal year-end statistics, we have seen a significant increase in donors supporting our programs. Thank you!

If you have not checked out our website, please do so at www.voawi.org. And if I can provide you with a personal tour of one of our homes, please give me a call at 414-847-1515. I am certain you will find our residences to be among the best! Stay warm and enjoy the rest of the holiday season. I look forward to updating you on our expansion progress in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Jim Stewart, President/CEO

keep this???



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:

Our new Web site www.voawi.org was launched this fall. It offers visitors a closer look at our organization. Many of our donors who have requested information about our programs and services can now find it on-line. We also offer several donation options to visitors including cash gifts, stock shares, vehicle and real estate gifting, and volunteering. Visitors to the site are greeted with photos of individuals that we serve on a daily basis in addition to a wealth of information about our many programs here in Wisconsin.

George and Barb ... Continued from Page 1

came to the realization that George needed more hands-on care and assistance than was offered by St. Joe's and more than Barbara herself could provide. The search for new living arrangements began anew.

Volunteers of America of Wisconsin was contacted for information regarding Christopher House, a 10 bed-room residential facility also located in Kenosha. Christopher House offered private rooms, 24 hour staff, housekeeping/laundry services, family style dining, transportation and assistance with medical appointments, personal care assistance, and medication management, all within the structure of a home-like environment. The family

decided that George would move in and that Barbara would stay at St. Joseph's Villa. Shortly after George moved in, Barbara began having fainting spells at St. Joe's. An additional spot was available at Christopher House and Barbara also decided to move in. George and Barbara are able to continue to live together, despite George's hip injury, while having the hands-on care that he needs. In addition, their daughter is able to visit them and check in with them several times each week.

George and Barbara are just two of the ten individuals who reside at Christopher House. Christopher House is fully licensed by the State of Wisconsin and is located off

of Sheridan Road in Kenosha. Christopher House staff provide the full-service care that many individuals require as they age in an environment reminiscent of one's own home. The cost for living at Christopher House can be funded through Kenosha County or through private pay. Situated midway between Milwaukee and Chicago, Christopher House is conveniently located for seniors from various locations. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Anne Foerster, Director of Residential Services, at 262-432-0118, or visit our website at www.voawi.org.

Residential Services Expands

On May 15, 2006, Volunteers of America of Wisconsin purchased a four bedroom home in the city of Waukesha, Wisconsin. This new facility, aptly named Summit House because of its location at 910 Summit Avenue in Waukesha, will become home to 6 adults with chronic mental illness

For many who suffer from chronic persistent mental health issues, a safe place to live can be nearly impossible to find. Many landlords prefer not to rent their properties to individuals with mental health issues or if they do, these locations are not often up to code or in safe environments. Volunteers of America of Wisconsin will not only provide a safe and secure place for individuals to live, but will also offer assistance with medical appointments, assistance with activities of daily living, community integration, and staff support when in crisis.

In preparation for the opening of this community based residential facility, Volunteers of America of Wisconsin worked closely with both Waukesha County Health and Human Services and the State of Wisconsin Department of

Licensing and Regulation. Professional staff from Waukesha County have been instrumental in the placement of adults with chronic mental illness into community settings and currently refer mentally ill individuals to another home operated by Volunteers of America in Waukesha. Partnerships such as this are valuable assets, as they ensure the best possible living arrangements for persons who suffer from chronic mental illness. Our community based residential facility license was granted by the State of Wisconsin

Department of Licensing and Regulation in September and the first individuals began moving in October. Prior to opening, Volunteers of America staff held Community Advisory Meetings with the new neighbors, completed home inspection updates, and procured furnishings for the home.

There are still openings for individuals at Summit House. If you would like additional information or to set up a tour, please contact Anne Foerster, Director of Operations, at 414-847-1515.



CARING DONORS GIVE NEW HOME A "JUMP START"

When a loved one dies, it can be difficult to sort through personal belongings and decide where to go with those items. For Chris and Valerie Wellin, Volunteers of America of Wisconsin was only a telephone call away.

Chris Wellin was raised in the Milwaukee area, Shorewood to be more precise. His mother had been an area social worker for over 15 years. Chris, now living in Ohio, is a college professor who has worked in the Sociology field and has done research with group homes. His wife, Valerie, is also a researcher at the same college where Chris teaches.

When Chris's mother suddenly passed away in May 2006, they were put in the position of traveling back to Wisconsin to settle his mother's affairs in a relatively short time period. That is when Chris decided to telephone several local social

services organizations to donate many of his mother's personal belongings, including furnishings, televisions, kitchen items, bedding, books, games, and even food. Since his mother had been a local social worker, and with his own research in the social service field, they decided to turn their tragedy into something positive for those who are less fortunate. Volunteers of America of Wisconsin returned his calls and with Chris and Valerie's help, a new home for mentally ill adults was furnished.

Chris and Valerie Wellin's generous donation will help to make Volunteers of America's newest home a much more pleasant place in which to live. In addition, Chris (and Valerie) can be assured that his mother's "home and furnishings" are in good hands and carrying on her legacy of helping others.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Volunteers of America is the largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing for the elderly and disabled in the country, with 17 locations throughout Wisconsin:

401 Fifth Street,
Shawano 54166

517 Wisconsin,
Waupaca 54981

350 Morningglory,
Clintonville 54929

3700 Mary Street,
Manitowoc 54220

1529 S. 39th Street,
Manitowoc 54220

570 Clark Street,
Whitewater 53190

1056 Hillview,
Whitewater 53190

6344 N. 101st Street,
Milwaukee 53225

3261 N. Martin Luther King Drive,
Milwaukee 53212

4224 Boehlke,
Milwaukee 53209

6343 N 100th Street,
Milwaukee 53225

5432 Mill Road,
Milwaukee 53218

9609 West Allyn Street,
Milwaukee 53224

9619 West Allyn,
Milwaukee 53224

8218 14th Avenue,
Kenosha 53143

8220 14th Avenue,
Kenosha 53143

825 Pleasant Street,
Waukesha 53186

Please inquire about availability at **262-446-9144** or **866-862-9472**.

“The Spirit of Volunteers of America”

This was the theme for the festive gathering at the Milwaukee Center on November 9, 2006. Over 100 friends and supporters gathered to sample some fine wines and beers, along with a wide array of tasty treats! In addition, guests were able to view one of Volunteers of America’s newest videos explaining what Volunteers of America is all about. As Jim Stewart, President & CEO told the guests, we are not just “a vehicle donation program”, as you have heard on the radio. He explained that Volunteers of America of Wisconsin is much, much more and has provided services in Wisconsin since 1928, with current services being residential housing programs for the elderly and disabled.



Annual Luncheon to Honor Caregivers

On June 14, 2006, five Volunteers of America of Wisconsin staff members were among the honorees at the annual Kenosha Long Term Care Workforce Alliance Luncheon. This event was held at the Kenosha Country Club with a catered luncheon, guest speaker, and door prizes. Certificates of appreciation were then issued to all honorees for their dedicated service.



The Kenosha Long Term Care Workforce Alliance is a local chapter of the Wisconsin organization. As stated on their website, “the Wisconsin Workforce Alliance is a coalition of public and private organizations and individuals that recognize the critical and indispensable role direct caregivers play in meeting the long term care needs of older persons and persons with disabilities in Wisconsin.

The purpose of the Alliance is to develop and implement state-wide community based strategies to improve the recognition, retention and recruitment of the long term care workforce.”

Honorees from Volunteers of America of Wisconsin were caregivers: Tammy Smith, Crystal Kollman, Shannon Metz, Tammy Martin, and program manager Katie Lausten. We are extremely thankful to these and many of our caregivers for their dedicated service to the residents in our Kenosha homes.

More information about the Kenosha Long Term Care Workforce Alliance and the Wisconsin Workforce Alliance can be found at www.wiworkforcealliance.com.

VALVOLINE OIL CHANGE FOR THE BETTER FOR ALL

The next time you take your car for an oil change, you could also be benefiting Volunteers of America and yourself. Valvoline Instant Oil Change Centers will offer a 10 percent discount to bearers of the Valvoline Booster Card and extend a matching 10 percent donation to Volunteers of America. Call us at 262-432-0118 or 1-800-431-3611 to request the booster card. Each oil change includes six quarts of oil, oil filter, 21-point maintenance check and free fluid top-offs.