



The Salem Spirit

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Maryland Salem Children's Trust, Inc.

Fall 2009



*"There is
One who
came to
make the
crooked
straight and
to bring
light even to
the corners
of a child's
wounded
heart."*

—Under His Wings

OutSpokin' For Kids 2009 Dinner & Silent Auction

Salem's annual dinner and silent auction—the main fundraiser of the year, was held September 12, 2009, at the Frostburg State Lane Center.

Feature speaker Deborah Phelps, who is originally from Allegany County, spoke in honor of the children, employees and sponsors of The Maryland Salem Children's Trust. Todd Mechem, Executive Director, was on hand to thank all the supporters and donators who made the evening a true success and welcome all those special friends of Salem. Special guests included Louise Richards and her husband John, founder of Maryland Salem, Pastor Ken Rafferty of The Potter's Place Christian Ministries, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Board President Terry Russell, Board Vice President Robert Huebner and Board Members Harold Fike, Matt Eichhorn, Kim Durst and George Ott.

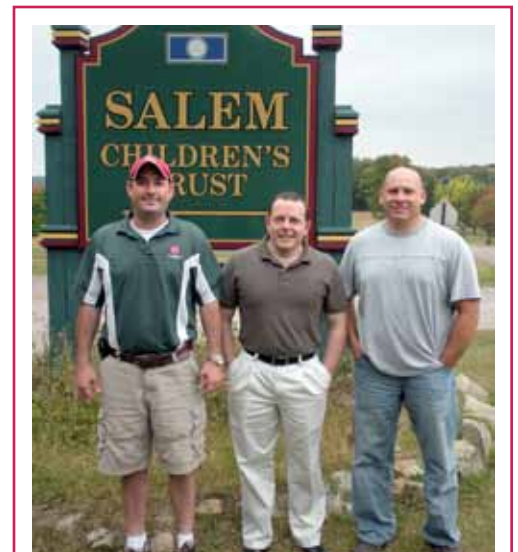
Employees honored that evening included Tom Ruckert for 30 years of dedicated service to Salem. In addition employees that were named for outstanding job performances were Jenn Reuter, Cathy Piper, Amanda Wiland, Justin Bussard, Caroline Penick and Bobbi Maust. These employees were nominated by their peers and awarded "The UnSung Hero Award" for going above and beyond their typical duties.

Special Music was performed by Salem's Choir and directed by Kim Bible of the Salem School. Clare Cooper and Charlene Moon provided cello and violin music. Clare Cooper performed a moving rendition with her cello solo of "Great Is Our Faithfulness".

One of the highlights of the evening was the silent auction, where beautiful artwork, photographs and wonderful donations were auctioned off. The staff



at Salem were given the opportunity for each house and department to do a "theme basket." The outcome was a huge success and enabled the employees to lend a hand at helping out
(Continued on page 3)



Rory Bernard, Manager of 84 Lumber, Oakland, MD, is shown with Todd Mechem—Executive Director and Loren Broadwater—Property Manager of Salem. Recently 84 Lumber generously donated materials to remodel one of the therapy rooms.

Letter from the Executive Director

October was farewell month for people and things synonymous to all at Maryland Salem. As you will see on page 6 Salem's founder Gottfried Mueller passed away. I remember meeting Mr. Mueller on a few occasions during his visits to Maryland Salem. I don't remember much of the content of our conversations; however what I do remember is the respect and admiration he commanded from Maryland Salem's founder, Louise Richards. In an instant, the observant passerby could tell that Louise and Mr. Mueller shared a very special bond, and that he attained the status of a fatherly figure in her eyes. Likewise, it was obvious that Mr. Mueller was very proud of Louise's work to continue the Salem vision. The rare, kindred nature of their relationship is a memory that I will hold dear for years to come. We at Maryland Salem are grateful for Mr. Mueller's faithfulness and rejoice that his suffering is over and that he has joined the eternal presence of our King!

In addition, we recently finished transitioning the last staff person out of the original farmhouse office building on campus. This building was the house that was first remodeled to house children over thirty years ago. It has housed children's bedrooms, dozens of staff offices, and the Salem School in its earliest days. Over the years the building we refer to as "The Farmhouse" has become increasingly unsafe structurally, and has become the frequent home for members of Garrett County's bat population. Although the decision to vacate and close "The Farmhouse" was the best decision for the agency, it was still somewhat like saying goodbye to an old friend. To many children, that was their home. To many staff, that was their first office. To many friends like you, it is remembered as the hub of activity at Salem. "The Farmhouse" has been a faithful friend that will be missed. If only walls could talk!

Please pray for all those throughout the world carrying out Salem's vision, and please pray for us at Maryland Salem as we continue the work of ministering to children in need.

Blessings,
Todd Mechem

Cornerstone Baptist Church Constructs Conference Room for Maryland Salem

Due to safety and health issues the original Farm House that served as office space has been closed and employees have been moved to the Paul House. Construction was necessary to renovate the house into a more user-friendly equipped office space and Salem was blessed to have a team from the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Cumberland Maryland lend their handiwork! Cornerstone Baptist Congregation has always been there for Salem and we appreciate everything they do! Blessings to you all! Volunteers included: Gary Silber, Roy Chaney, Brian Largent, Dave Otto, John Murphy, Harold Fike, Zola Chaney, and Larry Deffinbaugh.



2010 Event Calender

Monday June 14, 2010—Samuel & Judy Reckley Golf Tournament—Maplehurst Country Club

Saturday June 19, 2010—Benefit Millennium Motorcycle Ride

Saturday July 24, 2010—Salem Challenge 5k Run/Walk—Salem Campus

Saturday September 11, 2010—Outspokin' For Kids 2010—Stanley Praisnath, Speaker—Wisp Resort

September 11, 2001, began like any other day for the Bethel Assembly of God deacon and Sunday School superintendent, Stanley Praisnath, resident of Long Island. Working on the 81st Floor in the World Trade Center Tower Two, little did he know that he would witness a plane crashing, just 20 feet from him, God sparing his life that day.



OutSpokin' For Kids

(continued from page 1)

Salem. The baskets were a huge hit and themes ranged from movie night to a ship in a bottle!

A big heartfelt thank-you to the wonderful sponsors and donators, those in attendance and the 2009 OutSpokin' 2009 Committee for making the event a success.

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."



—Lamentations 3:22-23

OutSpokin' '09 Major Sponsorships

LEAD SPONSOR

AES—Cumberland, MD

Platinum Sponsors

Nancy Beall—Frostburg, MD

Cornerstone Baptist Church—Cumberland, MD

Gold Sponsors

Gary Harriger, Esquire—Grantsville, MD

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Reckley—LaVale, MD

Silver Sponsors

LaVale Veterinary Hospital—LaVale, MD

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Woolridge—Elkridge, MD

Katie's Ice Cream—Grantsville, MD

Bronze Sponsors

PharmaCare Network—Cumberland, MD

FoxCraft Homes—Cumberland, MD

Charles H. Gover—Frostburg, MD

M.J. Sine—LaVale, MD

Hill Top Fruit Market—Grantsville, MD

My Bank First United Bank & Trust—Oakland, MD

Keystone Lime Company—Springs, PA

Melvin United Methodist Church—Cumberland, MD

Maryland Coal Association—Frostburg, MD

Frostburg Church Of The Brethren—Frostburg, MD

Nelson Auto Sales Barry & Susan Nelson—Ridgeley, WV

First Peoples Federal Credit Union—Cumberland, MD

Salem Conducts Strategic Planning Process For Staff

In an effort to provide goals and strategic planning for the employees of Salem, a seminar was held recently at the Cornerstone Baptist Church. Gary J. Durr was facilitator for the day-long event titled TOUCHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN FOR ETERNITY. A review of Salem's mission and the day to day assessments of accomplishments and ministries were discussed and strengths and weaknesses of each determined. Please keep Salem in your prayers as we plan for our future success!



During the session, employees were also asked to nominate employees who exemplify the true mission of Salem and make a difference in the Christian life of children while maintaining a high work ethic. The staff who were honored and recognized were Erik Lennox, Shelly Mohr, Mike Lashbaugh and Bill Stimmell. Congratulations on a job well done!

Salem School Participates in "See You At The Pole 2009"

"See you at the pole" is an annual meeting for public prayer, generally around a flagpole. On April 6, 1990, a group of teenagers from Burleson, TX, assembled for a discipleship retreat. That night they decided to visit three other schools and pray around the campus flagpoles for their friends and fellow students.



This year Salem students gathered around the school flagpole, praying together and individually, on a volunteer basis enjoying singing and being together as a family. Students prayed that all children would be able to again someday participate in an inter-faith event such as this one. We ask that you remember to please pray for all the people who are unable to practice their faith freely.

"Go and inquire of the Lord what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."—2 Kings 22:13

Everyone Won At the First Annual Salem Challenge 5k Race/1 Mile Walk

The setting and weather were perfect for the First Annual Salem Challenge 5K Race/1 Mile Walk held on the campus of Maryland Salem Children’s Trust.

The unique road and trail course developed by Tom Ruckert proved to be both challenging and rewarding to the participants who ranged in ages from 6 to 68. Tee Shirts were provided for all the participants and nutritious snacks made available after the race by the Salem kitchen staff. Official timing was provided by Queen City Striders and photography by Tri State Runnur.

The race was organized by the Salem Nutrition and Wellness Committee in an effort to enhance the residents’ and the staff’s awareness of health and fitness and showcase the beauty of the Salem Campus located in Garrett County.

Our sincere thanks and prayers go out to the wonderful supporters whose donations made the race a possibility and so very successful. We look forward to the Second Annual Salem Challenge race to be held July 24, 2010.

- Fatboys Pizza Shack
- Beitzel Corporation
- Pillar Innovations
- Life Fitness Management
- Mark’s Harness Shop
- New Directions Youth Center
- Howard Strauss, D.D.S. PA
- Trophies Unlimited
- Dr. Diane Romaine & Associates
- Hill Top Candyland
- Gary Harriger, Esquire
- www.mountainMDmarathon.org
- Curves—LaVale, MD
- Katie’s Ice Cream
- Tom Ruckert Family
- Martin’s LaVale, MD
- Charlie Falter
- Arbys—Grantsville
- Parkside Pizza & Grille
- Springs Store
- NuView Video
- Hey Pizza
- Subway—Grantsville, MD
- Penn Alps
- Frankferd Foods
- Sysco—Virginia
- United Natural Foods
- Blackburn Russell

Results:

Overall Female—Sarah Moreland—23:21

Overall Male—Jose Orellana—20:06

Female Masters—Connie Milligan—28:25

Male Masters—Tom Ruckert—20:35

Age Groups Results

Male 1-9—Jeremy Joe

Male 10-14—Derek Fuller

Female 10-14—Emily Hendershot

Male 15-19—Luke Smith

Female 15-19—Paige Wagner

Male 20-29—Brian Douts

Female 20-29—Keisha McGeady

Male 30-39—David McMillian III

Female 30-39—Shauna McQuade

Male 40-49—Rob Smith

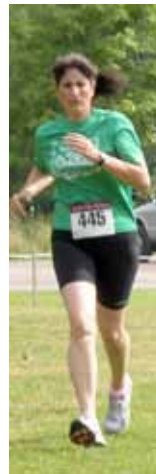
Female 40-49—Cindy Whiteman

Male 50-59—Nathan VanPelt

Female 50-59—Mary Moran

Male 60-99—Jim Delaney

Female 60-99—Barb Surgent



Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.

Christmas 2009 Wish List

Each year we reach out to you at Christmas and request your assistance on making our wish list a reality. Please prayerfully consider "adopting" one or our items from the "Wish List" or even making a suggestion of an item that you might feel close to your heart. To make the gift to Salem more personal we would like the item to be made as an "In Honor" or "in Memory" of donation. We will forward a special recognition card to the person or family to which the honor/memory has been made on their behalf.

- Oil to Heat One Of Our Children's Homes —\$125/Week, \$500/Month, \$2000/Season
- Computers—\$500 Each
- Scanner For Accounting Dept.—\$200
- Winter Activity For A House—\$200
- Textbooks—\$250 (5 Students) \$500 (Classroom Set With Teachers Edition)
- Gravel Spreader—\$1,900
- Treadmills—New or used—\$300
- World Book Online One Year Subscription—\$49
- World Book 2010—\$900
- Remotes For Wii and Wii Cruisin' Game—\$25 (Per House)
- Tall Lockable Double Door Cabinet For Crafts/Activities —\$150
- Video Camera—\$300
- Wide Screen Monitor For Library —\$175
- Underwrite The Cost Of A Newsletter—\$2500
- School Pictures—\$20 (Per Child) —\$160 (Per House)
- Chest Freezer For Children's Homes—\$300 (Per House)
- Magazine Subscriptions—\$25 each
- Stove For Children's Homes —\$500 (Per House)
- Refrigerator For Children's Homes—\$500 (Per House)
- Digital Camera—\$150 (Per House)
- Photo Printer—\$75 (Per House)
- Punching Bag With Gloves—\$150 (Per House)
- Drag For Horse Arena—\$2500
- All Wheel Drive or 4 Wheel Drive MiniVan For Foodservice Dept.
- Color Printer—\$300
- Paper Cutter—Heavy Duty—\$100
- Basics For Shelter (Children Arrive From Crisis Situations) Tee Shirts, Tank Tops, Socks Underwear—Boys and Girls—all ages especially adult sizes
- Twin Sheets
- Lamps
- Casserole Dishes
- Kitchen Towels
- Dish Cloths
- Oven Mitts
- Spiral Notebooks
- Binders (All Sizes)
- Dividers
- Highlighters
- Markers
- Post-It Notes
- Colored Copy Paper
- Ink Pens—Black & Blue
- Pottery Wheel
- Art Supplies: beads, hemp cord, tempera paint, water colorstube kind, paper, charcoal pencils, sketch pads, paint brushes, water soluble pencils & sketch paper, yarn, oil pastels, construction paper
- Prizes for the school store
- LCD Projectors
- Overhead Projectors
- Educational Computer Games
- Photo Paper
- Staplers
- Tape Dispensers
- DVD Movies (Rated G)
- Large Cricket Cutter
- Wet Floor Signs
- New Brooms and Mops
- Globes
- Educational Posters
- Large Totes For Children's Items
- Large Bulletin Board

Miscellaneous Item Request

Please mail to : Salem Children's Trust – 605 Salem Drive – Frostburg, MD 21532

Your Name _____

Your Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Item Sponsored: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

IN HONOR or IN MEMORY (Please Circle One) NAME: _____

Address to Mail "Recognition Card": _____



US Cellular Launches Calling All Communities Campaign

Beginning November 13, 2009, and concluding on January 15, 2010, US Cellular is offering 10 schools a \$100,000 donation for receiving the most "votes." In order to "vote" for Maryland Salem in the competition, an access card must be obtained from one of the US Cellular locations nearest you. Anyone 18 years of age or older can cast a vote for Maryland Salem, which is done then online. Please cast your vote for Maryland Salem in an effort for us to obtain the \$100,000 to continue the Salem mission! Last year an area school was one of the ten winners, so we know we can obtain this! Stop by your local US Cellular store from November 13 to January 15 and vote Salem!

Seeds Of Success

Todd Mechem, executive director of Maryland Salem Children's Trust, accepted packets of Burpee seeds from Mike Epstein, manager of the Martin's Food Store, Cumberland. Epstein recently contributed the seeds to Salem. The seeds will be used by the children to plant gardens to grow their own fruits and vegetables, which they will harvest over the summer.



Camp Hope Volunteers

Camp Hope, a Methodist Church services project, operates each year out of Frostburg, Maryland. Teams of churches from Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia take one-week shifts repairing homes in western Maryland. This year Salem was awarded an opportunity to have one of the volunteer teams, Hughes United Methodist Church spend time at Salem painting using donated supplies and borrowed tools. Thank you for selecting Maryland Salem this year! Praise God for Camp Hope!



But he whose life is true, comes to the light, so that his deeds may be clearly seen to be wrought in God.

—John 3:21

Gottfried Johannes Müller

The Founder of SALEM

10.04.1914 - 26.09.2009



Salem

Employee Milestones

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”—Colossians 3:23-24



Tom Ruckert—30 Years
Support Services Director



Suzanne Kreiger—20 Years
Office Manager



Caroline Penick—15 years
School Secretary



Bill Arthur—10 Years
Teacher



Tony Wilburn—10 Years
Residential Resource
Counselor



Marj Meyers—10 Years
School Cook



Amy Broadwater—
5 Years
Teacher

Christian Motorcycle Association Visits Salem

It was a simply perfect riding day August 15, 2009, and the Western Maryland Watchmen Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association chose Maryland Salem as their planned destination after spending a morning breakfast together in fellowship. The Salem residents and staff were amazed by the beautiful array of motorcycles and the magnificent chrome as the bikers rolled onto the Salem School parking lot.

In addition, the 2009 Millennium Riders were honored for their participation and their significant donations to Salem by the presentation of a souvenir shirt, handmade cards and a cake.

At the conclusion of the short program, tours of the Salem campus were made available by the Salem staff and children.



In Memory of:

ROBERT YOUNG

By: Mrs. Judith Young

By: Law Office Of Stan
Cave & Assoc., PSC

By: Clockwork Builders,
LTD

MARY ANN GARBER

By: Ms. Beth Johnson

By: GFWC The Civic
Club of Oakland,
MD, Inc.

ELIZABETH SILVER

By: Estate of Elizabeth
Silver

In Honor of:

MRS. CHARLES

ALLMON

By: Mr. & Mrs. Vincent
Allin

*We are thankful for
these loving gifts.*

Thank You!

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The Maryland Salem Children's Trust, Inc.
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Email: salem@mdsalem.org
www.mdsalem.org

Member

United Way of Garrett County
United Way of Allegany County
CHA • MANSEF • MARFY • MD Nonprofit



Salem is a 501(c)(3) organization, gifts to which are deductible contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes. A copy of our financial statement is available on request from the address above. For the cost of copies and postage, registration documents are available from the Maryland Secretary of State.

Administrative Staff

Todd Mechem, Executive Director
Jamie Settle, Residential Director
Phyllis Jordan, Education Director
Bev Wilt, Finance/Personnel Director
Donna Brenneman, Development Director
Tom Ruckert, Support Services Director

Board of Directors

Terry Russell, President	Hal Forsyth
Robert Huebner, Vice President	Matt Eichhorn
Lowell Bender, Secretary	George Ott
Harold Fike, Treasurer	Kim Durst

Salem Volunteers at Rotary French Fry Booth



Interested on Serving On Our Board?

We are searching for motivated men and women to assist Salem in continuing our mission of helping abused and abandoned children. For additional information please contact Todd Mechem, Executive Director, 301-689-8176 Ext. 205.

THANK YOU!