



Preparations for the 2009 Jeans & Jewels Gala already underway

The 11th annual Jeans & Jewels...A Texas Size Party is set for Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott.

The gala is NAM's largest fundraising event and proceeds benefit community members in need. Last year's event raised \$461,805 thanks to committed gala supporters, who exemplify the mission of Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

This year's event co-chairs are Diane Porter and Dana Hines, and they are seeking sponsors, volunteers and auction item donations to help raise funds for NAM's programs and services.

Dana and Diane have both volunteered at NAM for more than 20 years. Dana began her volunteer work at the Resale Shops, and Diane got involved in NAM through Meals on Wheels. Both women have been advocates of NAM and active volunteers since.



Dana Hines (left) and Diane Porter are gearing up for the 2009 Jeans & Jewels Gala. As co-chairs for the event, they are now seeking individuals and corporations to support the fundraiser.

"I constantly see firsthand and hear about the wonderful ways that NAM contributes to those they serve and can't imagine our community without them," Dana said.

Dana is a Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo and is currently focused on the integration of Wells Fargo and Wachovia. She has managed various functions in Wells Fargo including accounting, retail banking, and technology. She is a Certified Public Accountant and belongs

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JEANS
& Jewels
...A Texas Size Party

2009 Gala
Saturday, Oct. 24
Woodlands Waterway
Marriott

Tickets: \$175 per couple
Table sponsorships available

Luncheon and
Style Show
Thursday, Sept. 24
Shirley Acres

Tickets: \$50 each
Table sponsorships available

Reserve your table now.

For information about
volunteering, sponsorship or
tickets, contact Tanecia Snid
at 281-885-4608.



Marian Bonhomme stands in the preparation area for the Meals on Wheels program, a place she has become familiar with in her 22 years as a MOW employee.

22 years: A lifetime of service after a lifetime of service

To work for 22 years for an organization is an accomplishment in itself, but to do so post-retirement is quite a rare feat. Marian Bonhomme has done just that. As a Meals on Wheels (MOW) staff member at NAM for more than 20 years, Marian has seen the progression of the program and the organization from its formative years to the major social ser-

vice agency NAM has become. And she's proud to be a part of it.

After retiring as an executive secretary for a state mental hospital in Indiana, Marian decided to leave the cold and snow behind and move to Texas to be with her family. Wanting to contribute to her new community, Marian began

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NAM needs your help more than ever

Lately, it seems that as a society we are reminded every day that times are difficult. We can't turn on the news or listen to the radio without

hearing stories of companies closing, men and women losing their jobs, and stocks falling.

At NAM, we not only hear those stories, but we often meet face to face with the people who are at the heart of the stories. We interact daily with the individuals who have lost their jobs, who have fallen on tough times, and who are looking to us to help them meet their basic human needs.

At NAM, we know this is a tough time for our community. Requests for help are increasing, and requests for food alone have increased by 20% in the last 12 months.

But difficult times are not new to NAM.

In fact, NAM was founded in similar times, in the midst of Houston's oil bust in 1983. We were established during a financial downturn in order to help our neighbors who were experiencing such hardships.

Since that time, more than 26 years ago, where there has been a need, NAM has worked to fulfill that need. And we strive each day to help the community weather this storm, just as we did in the 1980s.

As you know, in order to accomplish our mission of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, NAM relies on the community for support. As always, our NAM neighbors have been ready and willing to step up to the challenge. The number of new volunteers in the first six months of the fiscal year is double what it was last year. The community is also responding generously to our appeals for help with gifts of cash, food, and goods and services.

NAM has always prided itself on being a good steward of the gifts we receive. Last year, once again, our audit revealed

that almost \$.90 of every \$1 was spent on programs and services. In the current economic climate, when cash flow is tight here at NAM, we are looking to reduce expenses even further.

You will notice some of these changes this year in your mailbox. Printing and postage are a large expense for NAM. In order to cut costs, we will be reducing the newsletter from six to four issues per year. You will now receive *NAM Notes* in March, May, September, and December. We also send out monthly appeals, which bring in significant dollars for NAM and are critical to keep NAM running. From now on, in the months that we mail out the newsletters, we will be combining the appeal with the newsletter to save money.

NAM needs your help now more than ever to continue providing necessary programs and services to our neighbors in need. We still need to raise \$718,433 from individuals and corporations before Sept. 30 in order to end this fiscal year on budget. As we look for more and more ways to best utilize your contributions, please continue to give. Your gifts make a difference in our community.

Carole Little
President & CEO

NAM Statement of Activities for the six months ended 3/31/09 (unaudited)

Total Support and Revenues	\$4,662,106
Expenses	
Program services	\$4,153,670
Management and General	\$354,783
Fundraising and Development	\$155,037
Total Expenses	\$4,663,490
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(\$1,384)

NAM's fiscal year runs Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009. In NAM's last fiscal year, 89 cents of every dollar went to direct services.

NAM Programs and Services

Assistance Office	281-583-5600	Shelter & Energy Assistance ...	281-885-4531
Children's Clinic	281-885-4630	Workforce Development	281-885-4506
Development/ Cash Donations	281-885-4605	NAM Resale Shop & Donation Centers FM 1960	281-880-9000
Furniture Donations Hotline	281-880-9482	Jones Road	281-897-8952
Family Violence Center	281-885-4673	Corner Resale Shop	281-885-4544
Interfaith Hospitality Network	281-885-4567	Other agencies at NAM	
Meals on Wheels	281-885-4622	Harris Co. Soc. Services	281-885-4591
Rotary Learning Center	281-885-4616	Even Start	281-586-1888
Senior Services	281-885-4600	Gulf Coast Community Services	281-397-0176

NAM NOTES

Northwest Assistance Ministries
15555 Kuykendahl
Houston, TX 77090

NAM Notes is the newsletter of Northwest Assistance Ministries. NAM Notes is published periodically throughout the year.

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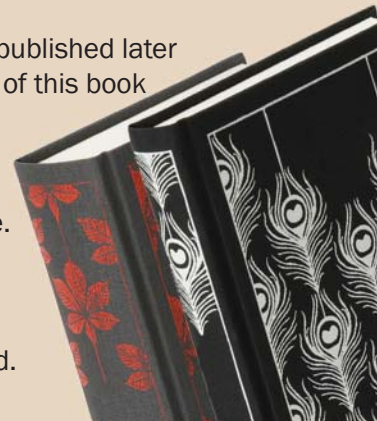
Seeking NAM Stories

We are accepting submissions from all NAM clergy, board members, staff, donors, volunteers and people who have been helped by NAM, so that we can tell the NAM story.

Stories will be compiled in a book titled "The Best Seat in the House," which will be published later this year and will be available for purchase on Amazon.com. Proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit NAM's programs and services.

The stories must be submitted electronically to nampresident@gmail.com and should speak to why you got involved with NAM and how NAM has impacted your life.

Stories should be no longer than 750 words in length and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. All submissions must be received no later than May 31, 2009. All submissions will become property of NAM and will not be returned.



NAM celebrates volunteers at annual luncheon

NAM volunteers were honored on April 16 at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, held at the Cultural Hall of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

With a relatively small staff of only 85 employees, NAM relies heavily on its approximately 2,000 active volunteers for help in every aspect of NAM's programs and services. NAM President

and CEO Carole Little thanked the volunteers and emphasized their importance in the day-to-day existence of the organization.

The federal government assigns a dollar value to volunteer hours, and NAM's volunteers contribute more than \$1 million worth of service annually.

The Asian-themed event featured a lunch donated by Shirley Acres and centerpieces provided by Ten Thousand Villages, a nonprofit fair trade retailer of artisan-crafted items. Entertainment included Latin ballroom dancers Nicole Comer and Treveon Roseberry and singing group Men of Leisure.

Event sponsors were the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Hasta La Pasta, H.E.B., Kolache Factory Vintage Park, Lifetime Fitness, My Le Restaurant, National Charity League Cypress Creek, National Charity League Cypress Belles, Shirley Acres Catering and the Lodge Restaurant, Spring Creek Barbeque, Ten Thousand Villages, and The Woodlands Waterway Marriott.

To learn more about volunteering at NAM, contact Volunteer Coordinator Linda Fullerton at 281-885-4609 or lfullerton@namonline.org.



Volunteers of NAM's Meals on Wheels Program gather at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.



Ada Hart (Resale Shops volunteer) and Eunice Moore (Resale Shops and Meals on Wheels volunteer) enjoy lunch and entertainment at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Our MISSION

The mission of Northwest Assistance Ministries is to strive to meet basic human needs through Neighbors helping Neighbors.

Our VISION STATEMENT

NAM's vision, grounded in our mission and true to our values, is a community in which Neighbors care for Neighbors through our collaborative effort with area congregations, community partners, donors and volunteers. Resources are pooled and leveraged to meet basic needs and to help individuals regain their self-sufficiency, thereby creating a safer and more stable community for all.

Our VALUES

Northwest Assistance Ministries values: maintaining a strong commitment to our mission of meeting basic human needs through Neighbors helping Neighbors; fostering a spirit of respect and charity; striving for excellence in all we do; and strengthening connections with our spiritual, funding, and volunteer partners.

Fifty Plus members know importance of socializing *and* service

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, “Men do not quit playing because they grow old; they grow old because they quit playing.”

Mr. Holmes would have found a welcome place at NAM’s Fifty Plus Senior Center, where members and volunteers alike recognize the importance of keeping physically and mentally active through every phase of life.

This month, we’d like to highlight inspirational members of Fifty Plus, who not only participate in club activities but who also volunteer their time and talents to benefit the program.

These NAM seniors know they have a choice about how to spend their time, and they choose to be active, social, and provide service to the community.



Mary Helen Chachere

19-year member of 50+
23-year NAM volunteer

NAM Activities:

On the founding board of the Fifty Plus group in 1988 and volunteer “Literature, etc.” class instructor for 18 years. Also volunteers in NAM’s Food Pantry and Assistance Program.

Why Mary Helen enjoys being a member of 50+:

“I find that the members have a great deal to offer, and I learn so much from them. Their sense of humor is delightful. They’re kind and thoughtful—always looking out for each other.”

What motivates Mary Helen to volunteer:

“I’ve always loved volunteering in some form or another.”

Why Mary Helen volunteers at NAM:

“I like to think that NAM’s and my philosophy on volunteering gel: ‘fostering a spirit of respect and charity’ is one of the reasons God created us, and this ‘spirit’ makes us more like Him.”

John Shipp

13-year member of 50+
12-year NAM volunteer

NAM Activities:

Teaches intermediate line dancing and served as Chairman of the 50+ Advisory Board. Previously participated in NAM’s Job Search program.

Why John enjoys being a member of 50+:

“It allows me to improve my ability to teach Line Dancing for Health.”

What motivates John to volunteer:

“I continue to have my health, and by teaching Line Dancing for Health, I can help others retain their balance. As we mature, bones tend to become brittle and must be treated gently. Learning balance in this activity makes balance second nature, thus avoiding falls.”

Why John volunteers at NAM:

“NAM has long been a contributing factor in our community, so donating time to NAM is well earned by its council.”

Mary Ellen Streidl

13-year member of 50+
13-year NAM volunteer

NAM Activities:

Member of the 50+ Helping Hands Club and a volunteer on the Majestic Truffle Project, where she worked two to three days each week making and selling chocolate truffles and teaching truffle-making classes.

Why Mary Ellen enjoys being a member of 50+:

“NAM keeps me active doing things I really enjoy. I’ve made so many friends, and the fact that we’re helping each other is the frosting on the cake.”

What motivates Mary Ellen to volunteer:

“Besides donating my time to NAM, I also volunteer in church and programs our children are involved in. I came by this honestly because both my parents were big time volunteers, and I started with the Red Cross during the war.”

Jean Wintle

18-year member of 50+
19-year NAM volunteer

NAM Activities:

Member of the 50+ Helping Hands Club and a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels Program and the Food Pantry.

Why Jean enjoys being a member of 50+:

“We have a really good time on Tuesdays in Helping Hands. I make the microwave ‘Grab-Its’ mitts, the potholders and the book covers.”

What motivates Jean to volunteer:

“It’s just fun to come be with people. I can’t sit home and do nothing.”

Why Jean volunteers at NAM:

“NAM is very, very important to the community. And I think 50+ is important to our members, especially those who get picked up by the bus. That’s their only option to get out of the house.”

2009 Jeans and Jewels Gala *Continued from Page 1*

to the Texas Society of CPAs, Houston Chapter.

In addition to her professional work, Dana is proud to be a charter member of Cypress Woodlands Junior Forum.

In the rare free time Dana has after her work and volunteerism, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Bill, and her family, which includes three sons and three grandchildren. She also travels extensively and is a fan of the performing arts.

Like Dana, Diane boasts an impressive resume and a full time schedule as well. During her lifelong career in education, Diane taught in Aldine ISD and Klein ISD before working as an Assistant Principal and Principal for many years in Klein ISD.

After retiring nearly six years ago, Diane has only become more active in the community. She is a sustainer with the Junior Forum Woodlands Chapter, a founding board member of the Pearl Fincher Art Museum, and has served on the NAM Jeans and Jewels Committee since its inception.

In Diane's spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, including her husband, Jay, two daughters, and three grandchildren. Her hobbies include traveling, playing Mah Jhngng and bridge and needlepointing.

Diane and Dana emphasize a shared belief in the importance of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors mission and a shared commitment to community volunteerism.

"I decided to co-chair the gala because of all the good work NAM does," Diane said. "NAM is so important to our community, and it's amazing the growth the organization has had."

"The Gala is so important since it contributes to the funds that NAM has, allowing it to continue providing the wonderful programs and support that help so many," Dana added.

Gala honorees are Jackie and Pat Riley, nominated for their lifetime commit-

ment to philanthropy, volunteerism and compassionate leadership.

Jeans & Jewels Luncheon

The Jeans and Jewels Luncheon and Style Show is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 24, at Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road. This annual pre-gala event is always a favorite among NAM supporters.

Susan Diehl is this year's luncheon honoree. Susan co-chaired the gala in 2007 and 2008. She has worked through the Junior League of North Harris and South Montgomery Counties, Inc. on immunizations, the Back-to-School Project and the Rotary Learning Center. Susan was the first chair of the Literacy Carnival, which took place at NAM for 7 years. She has also contributed her time and talents to NAM's Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels program.

In addition to her Junior League involvement, Susan is currently an active volunteer with several community organizations. She is a 10-year board member of The Guild of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; a founding board member of The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts; a member of the Houstonia Garden Club; and she served in the past as a

board member for the Centrum Arts League. Susan is also a member of the National Charity League - Yellow Rose Chapter, where she is starting her third year as liaison to NAM.

Susan says that she likes volunteering at NAM because "it feels like family, truthfully. Chairing the gala, especially, was tons of fun; you meet friends, and those friends become family."

Susan thanks her family for being so loving and understanding through all of her volunteer ventures and says she feels very humble to be considered for this honor.

Gala tickets and information

Jeans & Jewels offers an array of volunteer opportunities.

For more information about taking part in the 2009 Jeans and Jewels Gala or pre-gala events, as a volunteer or sponsor, or to reserve tickets, please contact Tanecia Snid at 281-885-4608 or tsnid@namonline.org.

JEANS & Jewels
...A Texas Size Party

Raffle Items

Stainless Damascus, hand-selected Snakewood Rio Spearpoint folding knife, with two citrines and leather case

White 18K, double-band ring by Simon G. with a 3.67ct CT oval aquamarine and .77 TW round diamonds

Stainless steel 18K watch with white dial and sapphire crystal

Raffle tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. To buy tickets or pick up tickets to sell, contact Tanecia at 281-885-4608 or tsnid@namonline.org.

A lifetime of service *Continued from Page 1*

seeking volunteer opportunities and heard about NAM through a friend at church.

Marian volunteered in NAM's Meals on Wheels Program for 18 months before becoming an employee. Since that time, she has seen MOW evolve from a three-route service district with only 20 clients, to a 25-route service district with 500 clients. She's also seen the growth of services available to clients; MOW now offers donated medical equipment, including walkers and wheelchairs, to those in need.

"NAM benefits from a long term employee such as Marian by the continuity that she provides with staff, volunteers, and collaborators," said Becky Landes, V.P. of Service Programs. "Marian is able to speak to the history of the Meals on Wheels program at NAM and pass on the progression and changes over the years to new staff. Her strong work ethic is respected by staff, and her consistent presence is appreciated by volunteers in the program."

Marian says she chooses to continue her work in MOW because of the much-needed service it provides to the community.

"Meals on Wheels allows people who don't have funds or are physically unable to prepare meals to stay in their homes rather than be in nursing homes," Marian said. "Many of these

people wouldn't see anyone all week, if it weren't for Meals on Wheels. This way, they get to see someone who cares about them."

Marian also explains that she identifies with the MOW clients, because she is the same age as many of them. She says many of MOW's clients are widows who worked in the home the majority of their lives.

"I can identify with these women," Marian said. "I was fortunate enough to have worked for the state of Indiana and receive retirement funds, but many women born in the 20s and 30s worked from their homes. When they became widows, they didn't necessarily have the funds to make ends meet."

Marian's compassion for her neighbors in need is apparent to those who work with her.

"Marian is always dedicated, efficient and dependable. She is a caring and humble person who puts others first," said Vickie Nitsch, a MOW employee who has worked with Marian for more than nine years.

Marian herself is an inspiration to many of the staff at NAM, but Marian says she is inspired by the volunteers who dedicate so much of their time to the program. She points out that MOW and NAM could not operate without its many volunteers and specifically men-

tions one volunteer who started at the MOW program when it opened in 1985 and continues to volunteer today.

"I think it's marvelous!" Marian exclaimed.

She believes the services that these volunteers help provide are invaluable to the community.

"In my own mind, I can't imagine how people would live without NAM," she said. "I don't know what they'd do for meals."

Marian has been pleased to see NAM's services grow in the last 22 years. That doesn't mean, however, that she's content with the programs staying as they are. Always looking to the future, and to help more people in need, Marian won't hesitate to say that she'd like to see more people served by MOW and NAM.

"There are still people in need out there," she said.

The pragmatist in her quickly points out that this would require more funds, more volunteers and more employees, but her optimism is sincere, and her enthusiasm is contagious.

Marian has announced her retirement this month, but her legacy at NAM will continue to be an inspiration.

Endowment Board dinner raises funds to ensure future of NAM

NAM's Endowment Board raised more than \$42,000 through this year's Endowment Dinner, held April 2 at Champions Golf Club.

More than 100 guests attended the third annual event, which helped raise funds to ensure the future of NAM's programs and services through the NAM Endowment Fund. Major event donors included Valerie and John vonBerg, Sandra and Eddie Harrell, Citation Oil and Gas Corp., Jackie and Pat Riley, Denise and Buddy Bolt, and Margaret and Charles Dunagan.

The dinner featured fine food and a presentation by nationally renowned law-

yer Mark Lanier. Lanier is the founder of The Lanier Law Firm, where he serves as the firm's lead litigation counsel.

"We are truly grateful to all those who turned out to support the NAM Endowment in its mission to ensure that NAM's programs and services will be here serving the community for years to come," said Carole Little, President and CEO of NAM. "And we appreciate Mark Lanier for lending his time and talents to assist us in raising funds for the NAM Endowment. It's nice to know that even in a tough economy, NAM can count on the support from this extremely generous community."



(From left) Mark Lanier of The Lanier Law Firm stands beside NAM Endowment Fund Board Member Valerie vonBerg and NAM Endowment Fund Board President Pat Riley at the Northwest Assistance Ministries Endowment Dinner, which raised more than \$42,000 for the NAM Endowment Fund.



School is out for the summer...
and a brand new school year is just around the corner.

Can you imagine sending a child to school with no supplies? How would that child learn?

Each year in Harris County, thousands of families struggle to purchase required school supplies for their children.

Northwest Assistance Ministries provides those supplies for about 2,500 needy children annually from four school districts:

Spring ISD • Aldine ISD • Cy Fair ISD • Klein ISD

**Make a gift today to NAM's Back to School Appeal
and equip our youngest Neighbors to learn!**

Any surplus funds will be used by NAM where needed most.

- See donation form on back. -

2009 Back-to-School Appeal Gift Form

(Please return with gift. Online gifts may also be made at www.namonline.org/bts)

I would like to help area students go back to school by making a gift of:

- \$25 to provide school supplies for 1 child.
 \$35 to provide jeans and shoes for 1 child.
 \$55 to provide school supplies, jeans and shoes for 1 child.
 \$100 to provide school supplies for 5 children.
 \$175 to provide jeans and shoes for 5 children.
 \$275 to provide school supplies, jeans and shoes for 5 children.
 \$500 to provide school supplies for 25 children.
 \$875 to provide jeans and shoes for 25 children.
 \$1,375 to provide school supplies, jeans and shoes for 25 children.
 Other amount: \$_____ (every dollar helps!)

My check, made payable to NAM, is enclosed.

Please charge my Visa, MasterCard, American Express

Card No: _____ Exp Date: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Ph: _____ Work/Cell: _____

Email: _____

Please treat as anonymous gift. My company will match my gift. (Please include form.)

I would like to make my gift: in honor of _____ in memory of _____

Please send a gift acknowledgement card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I would like information on:

- Recognition on NAM's Donor Tree Business Community Partners Program
 Volunteer Opportunities Making a Gift of Stock Remembering NAM in my Will
 Please remove me from NAM's mailing list
 NAM does not sell or give out donors' personal information to any third parties.



Art for the Hungry increases awareness of growing community need



Winner of the Judge's Golden Can and People's Choice Awards

The Cypress Creek National Charity League's "Jack and the Beanstalk" included a bean stalk made of green split peas and a house composed of ramen noodles and pasta.

This year's Art for the Hungry event raised funds as well as public awareness of the growing problem of families needing assistance with food in our community. The winners of both the People's Choice Award and the Judges' Golden Can Award were the members of the Cypress Creek National Charity League for their "Jack and the Bean Stalk" sculpture.

Art for the Hungry raised \$4,355 and more than 5,000 food items for NAM's Food Pantry.

Five community groups participated in the event by building fairytale-themed sculptures made of 1,000 or more non-perishable food items. The sculptures were on display at the mall for two weeks, and community members were invited to visit the edible wonders and vote for their favorite by making a

monetary donation.

The event was the kickoff to NAM's Survival over the Summer (SOS) food drive, which is designed to help families with groceries over the summer, so they can stretch their limited budgets to cover other summer expenses, such as increased utility bills. The demand for food at NAM's food pantry increases by approximately 30% each summer. The SOS project helps NAM meet this community need.

Community members interested in conducting a food drive for NAM should contact Linda Fullerton at 281-885-4609 or lfullerton@namonline.org.

Donations can also be made through the Survival over the Summer Online Drive at www.namonline.org under the "Special Projects" menu.



(From right) Rob Greenberg and Dee Koblenz, chairs of the Congregation Jewish Community North 2009 Corned Beef Fund Raiser, together with CJCN President Gale Saltzman (not pictured), present NAM V.P. of Fund Development Maria Magee with a check for \$1,330.10.

Run for a Reason: Team NAM Training Program

Interested in getting into top physical shape while putting your energy to a good cause? The TEAM NAM Six-Month Training Program will begin its early registration this month, and you're invited to join.

Purpose: To work toward lifetime fitness and prepare for running the next Houston Marathon or Half Marathon on Jan. 17, 2010, in support of NAM.

Participants: People at all fitness levels are welcome and encouraged to join, from walkers or runners wanting to finish a first marathon to seasoned marathoners seeking camaraderie or trying for PR or to BQ.

When: Group runs will be held Saturdays at 6:30 A.M., starting from Meyer Park on Cypresswood Drive, just west of Stuebner Airline Road.

Program Focus:

- Committing to a long- or short-term fitness or racing goal
- Physical development and caring for injuries
- Coaching instructions for endurance training
- Conditioning to go the distance
- Working toward a healthier future

Registration Fees: Fees are minimal at only \$60 (\$30 for participants under 18 with parental consent and accompanying adult entry). Fees cover consumable items including fruits, Gatorade, fuel supplements for long training runs, pre-race carbo-loading lunch, and PowerGels on race course. Participants are expected to raise a minimum of \$400 in donations for NAM in association with the January Houston race.

Pre-registration discounts: Early registration fees are only \$50 (\$30 for youth) if mailed to 15306 Parkville Dr., Houston, TX 77068, and postmarked by the end of June. Checks should be made payable to Marathon Team NAM and sent with the registration form available at www.MarathonTeamNAM.org.

On-site Registration: Saturdays, July 11 and 18, from 7:30-8 a.m., at St. Ignatius Church parking lot, just west of Meyer Park, followed by an introductory timed run at Meyer Park south side entrance at 8:15 a.m.

More Information: www.MarathonTeamNAM.org
E-mail: MarathonTeamNAM@gmail.com



The 2008 TEAM NAM members gather for a photo after enjoying a post-run Saturday oatmeal breakfast at Meyer Park.

Corporate spotlight

Methodist The Methodist Hospital System

Since the inception of NAM's Children's Clinic in April 1994, The Methodist Hospital System has been an integral partner of the Clinic, providing invaluable services, funding and support.

In fact, it was a grant of \$160,000 from The Methodist Hospital that first made the Clinic possible. Since that time, more than 15 years ago, the Methodist Hospital has donated more than \$5.2 million in cash and in-kind gifts to the Clinic.



These funds have helped make it possible for NAM's clinic to provide affordable healthcare to children in need in the community. Many of NAM's youngest neighbors have no medical insurance or are on Medicaid. These medically underserved children tend to forego preventative treatment and only see a doctor when they become sick.

As part of Methodist's partnership with NAM, the Hospital System donates in-kind lab services for children who qualify for the program. This service allows children and families who otherwise could not pay for diagnostic exams to have access to critical tests and procedures.

"Methodist is committed to supporting individuals and organizations, such as NAM, that touch the lives of our neighbors, said Cathy Easter, Vice President of Operations at The Methodist Hospital. "Caring for the underserved is a priority from the hospital board and all of our employees."

As of March 31, The Methodist Hospital System has contributed \$150,000 in cash and almost \$50,000 in lab/xray services towards this year's \$1,184,000 Children's Clinic budget.

"The NAM Clinic staff greatly appreciate The Methodist Hospital System for recognizing the needs of children in the Northwest Houston area," said Rosemary Eldouky, Director of NAM's Children's Clinic. "Their generously donated services and grants allow us to provide much-needed care to more than 7,500 children annually."

NAM's Children's Clinic is a medical home for children from infancy to age eighteen.

The Clinic operates on a sliding scale fee basis but does not turn anyone away due to inability to pay. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Children's Clinic provided office visits, referrals, appointment calls, and case management to 7,717 children. The Clinic's annual Shot Blitz provided 1,700 immunizations to 514 children.

Please consider donating to NAM's Children's Clinic and make a difference in the lives of our youngest neighbors in need. To donate, call 281-885-4605.

As of March 31, the Children's Clinic has received revenues of \$596,476 toward their overall annual goal of raising \$1,184,000. Donations from individuals help supplement the funding the Clinic receives from organizations like The Methodist Hospital System and play a crucial role in keeping our Clinic active in the community.

- A \$40 donation will allow 50 children to have critical tests.
- A \$50 donation will pay for Strep tests for 25 children.
- A \$75 donation will provide catheters for 5 children.
- A \$100 donation will provide 30 children with medicine.
- A \$280 donation will pay for anemia tests for 150 children.
- A \$500 donation will provide antibiotics for 10 children.

Sidelines with Sarah

By Sarah Fisk
Volunteer Assistance Counselor

I don't like to need help. That's just how I was brought up. But then, last Thursday I had a flat tire.

This brings me to lesson number 1: We all need help sometimes. That flat tire was my own dumb fault. I hit a curb while looking off at a playground, then a jarring THUMP, bump, bump, bump and I knew I was in trouble. I steered my limping car into the far right lane (no shoulder to roll onto) and called my husband. While waiting, a man stopped and changed my tire, explaining he was worried that my car would get rear-ended. I did keep all cars away from my kind Samaritan and, when he was finished, thanked him and offered him money for his trouble. He refused my money but said, "Just do something nice for someone else."

"Sometimes we're a getter, sometimes we're a giver."

Lesson number 2: One kind act should lead to another. I decided to pay back my kind Samaritan by donating to NAM's food pantry in his name. His kindness prompted me to help mothers and fathers feed their children over the summer.

This brings me to lesson number 3: Sometimes we're a getter, sometimes we're a giver. I often hear my Assistance clients apologize for needing NAM's help. I now know to tell them that the world is a better place when we receive help when we need it and give help when we can.

And so, a shout out to Vince: "Thanks for changing my tire and for teaching an oldish woman new lessons."

Planned giving seminar

Giving through Charitable Annuities and Your Estate

Wednesday, May 20, at 6 p.m. at NAM's 15555 Kuykendahl Rd. location.

Call 281-885-4582 for reservations.

NAM's wish list *Donations of cash or goods welcome.*

For the Organization

Payment for development of a phenomenal new client database software to help volunteers and staff (\$14,000)
Used or refurbished forklift (\$15,000)
2 fireproof file cabinets for Human Resources (\$1,200 each)
4 cases of hand sanitizer (\$112 per case of 12-pump bottles)

Development Department

DSLR camera with kit lens (\$700)
Adobe Creative Suite 3 Software Design Standard (\$400)
Corporate sponsor for newsletter (\$6,000)
Web site sponsor (\$500)

Assistance Program

New chairs for the waiting area (\$50 each)

Building Maintenance

100 stacking chairs (\$3,500)
Upgraded security monitoring for NAM's Kuykendahl building (\$15,000)
New Box Truck for IHN, Food Pantry and Resale Shops (\$50,000)
Ceramic floor tile throughout building (to eliminate carpet repair, maintenance & replacement) (\$25,000)
Clean and seal four air handlers (\$30,000)
Caulking of exterior windows to eliminate leaks (\$40,000 or \$10,000 per side)

Business Office

Heavy duty paper shredder (\$2,000)

Children's Clinic

Phlebotomy Certification (\$1600 for four clinical staff members)
2010 CPT and ICD9 medical reference books (\$650 for 4 sets of books)
Sharps containers (\$170 every quarter)
Antibiotic ointment (\$300)
Baby wipes (\$250)
10 bottles of antibacterial soap (\$100)

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Toiletries/hygiene items (15-20 items monthly/ \$150)
2 new large capacity washing machines (\$700)
2 new large capacity dryers (\$700)
15 Pillows quarterly (\$75)
5 sets of towels quarterly—face, hand and large bath towels (\$100)

Family Violence Center

Used cell phones for 911 access, no service required
Full-size toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.)
4 5-drawer metal filing cabinets (\$200)
Lighting added to hallway
IBM Selectric typewriter (\$400)

Fifty Plus Senior Center

2 Wii Consoles (\$200 each)
2 Sports CD's for Wii (\$60 each)
2 "Brain" CD's for Wii (\$60 each)
2 Televisions for Wii (\$400 each)
Senior Wheels volunteer drivers
Crafters and sewers for Helping Hands
Antibacterial hand soap with Tri-closan in 7-1/2 oz. pump bottles (\$40 each)

Food Pantry

Nonperishable Food Items, especially dry pasta, rice and dry beans (900+ families per month)

Meals on Wheels

Volunteer Drivers for weekday meal deliveries
Volunteer Drivers for Saturday Frozen meal deliveries
Volunteers needed for office assistance, answering phones
Volunteers needed for data entry
2 locking, 4-drawer file cabinets (\$250 each)
LCD Monitor - 19 inch (\$150)

Information Technology

VOIP Telephone system—NAM (\$80,000)
Telephone system—FM 1960 Resale Shop (\$6,000)
Point of Sale System for Resale Shops (\$6,500)
Space in a NOC/DATA Warehouse for offsite storage of data for NAM's Disaster Recovery Plan

Rotary Learning Center/ Workforce Development

32-inch color TV w/DVD player (\$ 650)
Acrylic Literature/Magazine Display Rack (\$200)
Acrylic Pamphlet Display Rack (\$125)
2 Computer Trackballs (\$25 each)

Resale Shops

Copy machine (\$600)
Two 2-wheel dollies (\$150 each)
Four 4-wheel dollies (\$25 each)
Updated phone system and inter-com paging system for Jones Rd. (\$5,000)
4 rolling fiberglass containers (\$500 each)
4 dollies (\$100 each)
New Soda Machine (\$2,500)

10 Mannequins (\$200 each)
Floor Cleaning/Waxing Service (\$1500 each)

Shelter & Energy Assistance

Battery-operated doorbell or buzzer for office (\$50)
TV/DVD player to show training

videos to clients (\$500)
Electric stapler—40 sheets (\$150)
Electric hole punch—30 sheets (\$130)
Four file cabinets with 4 or 5 legal-size drawers with locks (\$200 each)

Corporate & Foundation Gifts (\$1,000 and above in March and April)

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Citation Oil & Gas Corp.
ConocoPhillips
Curves For Women
Data Retrieval Corporation
Hankamer (Curtis & Doris K) Foundation
Houston Northwest Medical Center
HP
KB Homes, Inc.

Klein Funeral Homes
Kroger
Methodist Hospital System
Nourish America
St. Mary Land & Exploration
Simmons Foundation
Spring I.S.D.
Target #2144
Union Pacific Corporation
Verizon Wireless
Wal-Mart (Cornerstone)

Giving Back



(From left) Maria Magee, NAM's V.P. of Fund Development, accepts a check for \$1,500 from Aeryk Willams, Westfield High School senior class treasurer, and Callan Wingo, senior class vice president. Also pictured are Westfield students, from left, Justine Durant, Latyah Meshack, Raenette Jones and Jessica Dominguez, senior parent organization members and Principal Fred Walker. The check represents a year-long effort by the Westfield senior class to volunteer, get involved and give back to the community.



Third grade students at Bammel Elementary celebrate their recognition as the class that collected the most funds for the Making Change Project at Bammel. Twenty-two Spring ISD schools and the Spring ISD Administration participated in the change-collecting program and raised more than \$3,000 for NAM.

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**NORTHWEST
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See page 7 for NAM's Back-to-School Appeal and help equip our youngest neighbors in need with necessary school supplies.

Back-to-School Shot Blitz: Children's Clinic offers low-cost immunizations

NAM's Children's Clinic at Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) will once again offer low-cost immunizations for children at its annual Back-to-School Shot Blitz from Aug. 10-20 at NAM's 15555 Kuykendahl Rd. location. Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum members are helping coordinate the event.

The immunizations offered are those required for children to attend area schools. The cost is \$10 per person, cash only. Parents are advised to bring their child's shot record so the clinic staff will know which shots the child needs.

"One of the most important steps a parent can take to ensure their children have a healthy future is providing them with immunizations," said Rosemary Eldousoky, NAM Children's Clinic director. "Through our Shot Blitz, we've made it easy for parents to offer their children this protection against diseases and long-term illnesses."

Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance

Program (CHIP) and private insurance patients will not be accepted during the Shot Blitz. These patients should con-

Shot Blitz hours:

Noon to 4 p.m.: Aug. 10, 12, 17 & 19

2 to 6 p.m.: Aug. 13 and 20

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Aug. 11, 14 and 18

No appointments are necessary for immunizations at these times.

tact their Primary Care Physician (PCP) for immunization services or go to one of the Harris County Health Department locations.

Tuberculosis (TB) tests will be administered and a nurse will be available to read the tests daily. No TB tests will be administered on Aug. 13 or 20.

For more information about NAM's Back to School Shot Blitz, please contact the Children's Clinic at 281-885-4630.

NAM Resale Shops once again able to sell children's merchandise to community

NAM has resumed the sale of selected children's items that meet the guidelines set forth by the Consumer Protection Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) in their three area resale shops and community programs. The organization has implemented policies and procedures to ensure that all children's items for sale meet the new federal regulations for lead.

"We are excited to once again be able to offer low-cost children's clothing and furniture to the public," said Carole Little, NAM President and CEO. "The community really depends on having access to these affordable items, and NAM depends on the proceeds in order to fund our programs and services."