



NAM NOTES

15555 Kuykendahl, Houston, TX 77090 www.namonline.org 281-885-4555

January 2007

Art for the Hungry Project registration opens

Registration is now open for Northwest Assistance Ministries' Art for the Hungry Project which is set for March 11 through March 25 at Willowbrook Mall benefiting NAM's Food Pantry.

The project kicks off NAM's Survival Over the Summer (SOS) food drive to help feed hungry children during the summer months when they are not in school. The Feinstein Foundation again is offering a \$1 million challenge to help fight hunger. Participating agencies will receive a portion of the \$1 million based on the amount of donations they receive during March and April.

Groups, organizations and businesses can participate in SOS by building a sculpture for Art for the Hungry or conducting a food drive. Art for the Hungry participants commit to building a sculpture from a minimum of 1,000 non-perishable food items which they collect or buy. Groups can conduct a food drive at any time; however, to count toward the Feinstein challenge, the food and monetary gifts must be turned in to NAM in March and April.



Members of the Tomball High School Red Cross and Interact Clubs put the finishing touches on their "cowboy" sculpture for last year's Art for the Hungry Project. Each year school and church youth groups, service organizations and businesses participate to collect food for needy families.

This year's Art for the Hungry theme for sculptures is "Endangered Species." The food items used for the sculpture represent the organization's or company's entry fees for the event and go to NAM's Food Pantry when the event is over.

NAM expects to feed more than 5,000 area children during the summer months through the Art for the Hungry project. Groups that have participated in the past include congregations, schools,

Continued on Page 5



Building Maintenance Endowment Fund reaches \$1.0 million.

Community meets million dollar match

Thanks to the community's generosity and the hard work of NAM's Endowment Fund Board of Directors, NAM met the Weinberg Foundation challenge grant before the \$500,000 offer expired at the end of the year.

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation issued the challenge Sept. 11, 2001 and offered to match community donations dollar for dollar up to \$500,000 to help NAM establish a \$1.0 million building maintenance endowment fund.

"Our goal was to create an endowment and use the interest income to help pay for building maintenance," said Carole Little, NAM President & CEO.

"Completing the match means the endowment board can focus on growing the endowment so it can cover maintenance costs. Ultimately, maintenance expenses will not impact client services."

Numerous individuals, foundations and businesses have stepped up to help fund the endowment. Many people have made donations in honor of family, friends and co-workers and in memory of loved ones creating lasting memorials.

Michael and Joanne Watford of Ultra Resources came through at the 11th hour with a major donation so NAM could complete its final installment and meet the

Continued on Page 5

BEHIND THE SCENES

Meals on Wheels depends on local donations

Once the bombs stopped falling, a group of women saw that their neighbors had lost their homes and had no means to prepare food for themselves. The Women's Volunteer Service for Civil Defense prepared food for their neighbors in need. They later expanded the program to include servicemen. The women prepared meals in canteens and delivered them to the troops who dubbed them "Meals on Wheels." The time was 1939 and the place was Great Britain.



The goal of Meals on Wheels (MOW) has changed little since the first U.S. home-delivered meal program started in Philadelphia in 1954: deliver meals to

people who, without the program, would otherwise go hungry. The program began as a grassroots effort and today, MOW's programs throughout the country could not operate without community residents willing to donate their time and/or financial resources to help their less fortunate neighbors.

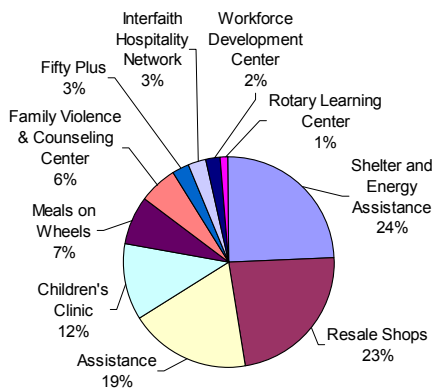
NAM's Meals on Wheels program operates with a small staff and approximately 700 volunteer drivers who last year delivered more than 126,000 meals to area homebound seniors and disabled individuals. NAM works in cooperation with the Harris County Area Agency on Aging through Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston to provide 77,000 of those meals. The additional cost of the meals is offset by grants and community donations as well as donations from recipients who want to contribute.

However, costs rise and demand increases and for the first time in NAM's

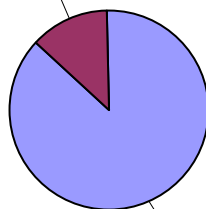
history, NAM's program has a waiting list. For some recipients, their MOW meals may be the only hot food they have for the day. Their contact with their MOW volunteer driver may be their only contact with the outside world. The drivers and staff members may be the only people monitoring their well-being. We hope we will be able to eliminate the waiting list soon. A single meal costs about \$5. Although NAM receives approximately 25 percent for program costs from Interfaith Ministries, NAM must raise \$500,000 this year to cover the cost of the meals, plus operating expenses.

Although groups throughout the country operate MOW programs, those groups are related only by mission and name. They do not share resources. That's why your support of NAM's MOW program is especially needed and appreciated. There's no shortage of need and contributions to other MOW programs will be put to good use, but those gifts do not benefit NAM's MOW program or area residents in need.

NAM Program Expenditures



Administrative Costs, 13%



Program Costs, 87%

Barde Little

A + E + M

(Attitude + Effort = Mission)

NAM Programs and Services

Assistance Office	281-583-5600	Second Chance Resale	281-880-9000
Children's Clinic	281-885-4630	Corner Resale Shop	281-885-4544
Development	281-885-4608	Senior Services	281-885-4600
Donations Hotline	281-885-4545	Shelter & Energy Assistance....	281-885-4531
Family Violence Center...	281-885-4673	Workforce Development.....	281-885-4506
Interfaith Hospitality Network.....	281-885-4567	Other agencies at NAM	
Meals on Wheels.....	281-885-4622	Harris County Social Services...	281-885-4591
NAM Counseling Ctr.....	281-885-4537	Harris County Hospital District.	281-587-8596
Rotary Learning Center...	281-885-4616	Even Start.....	281-586-1888
NAM Resale Shop.....	281-897-8952		

Save the Date

NAM Endowment Board
Golf Tournament

March 12

Raveneaux
Country Club

Call **281-885-4605** for
information.

Jeans & Jewels gala on course to raise \$400,000

The eighth annual Jeans & Jewels...A Texas Size Party is on course to raise more than \$400,000 for Northwest Assistance Ministries' programs that provide food, medical access, school supplies, education and assistance to individuals and families in need throughout the area.

More than 675 community leaders, volunteers and supporters gathered at the Tomball Grand Pavilion for dinner and dancing, live and silent auctions, and the drawing for a trip to Hawaii. Giff Nielsen, KHOU Channel 11 sports director, served as the master of ceremonies.

"The success of this year's Jeans & Jewels gala and the tremendous support the community has shown for the event is inspiring," said Carole Little, NAM President & CEO.

"Staging an event of this size always presents challenges, and the NAM supporters who participate as donors, volunteers and attendees have really come through again."

Merle Rumsey and Raelene Hill chaired the gala honoring Kim and Raleigh Jenkins, owners of ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services, for their ongoing support of NAM through donations of money, in-



Kim Jenkins, right, and Raleigh Jenkins, center, were this year's Jeans & Jewels...A Texas Size Party honorees for their support of NAM throughout the years. Jenkins family members at the gala included, from left, daughter, Vanessa, Raleigh's mother Sandy, and daughter Tiffani.

kind services and volunteer hours.

Top program sponsor at the \$25,000 level was ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services. Other sponsors donating \$5,000 or more were TGS-NOPEC-Geophysical, Linda and Harlen Martens, Louise and Steve Slater, Continental Airlines/Kathy and Jim Stevens, Pam and Bob Hughes, Anadarko Petroleum, BMC Software, the Houston Chronicle, Janice and John Leslie, Citation Oil and Gas, HCC Insurance Holdings Inc., The Crump Foundation, Dominion E & P, Methodist Willowbrook Hospital, The Watson Family

Foundation, Memorial Hermann, Northwest Medical Center/Tenet Health Foundation, Ultra Petroleum Inc., Lynn and Osama Mikhail, Bank of America and State Sen. Jon Lindsay.

The Spiffingtons, a country western band, proved popular with gala attendees and the dance floor was packed throughout the evening. Special guest singer Kevin Peay also performed inspirational music. Evening highlights included the drawing for a week's vacation in Hawaii at the Marriott's

Continued on Page 6



**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.

President & CEO Carole Little
Chief Financial Officer Rita Fryer
Development Director Maria Magee
Editor Randy Cypret

www.namonline.org
281-885-4555

NAM Statement of Activities for the 2 months ended 11/30/2006 (unaudited)

Total Support and Revenues	\$1,447,143
Expenses	
Program services	\$1,200,310
Management and General	\$88,746
Fundraising and Development	\$53,163
Total Expenses	\$1,342,219
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$104,924

NAM's current fiscal year runs Oct. 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2007.

Sidelines with Sarah: It starts with the children

By Sarah Fisk

NAM Volunteer Assistance Counselor

Last year one of my columns explained why we should all thank NAM when we don't see homeless men and women on the streets.

I related the many ways that NAM serves the nearly homeless and helps families remain in their homes or apartments. Then I met *Fran* (not her real

name) and realized that NAM cannot keep everyone from homelessness.

Fran had been in my office at NAM last summer, asking for food. She sat across from my desk and spoke with a down-turned face to shield her black eye and swollen lip. When I asked her what happened to her face, she said she had been in a car accident. After interviewing *Fran*, I asked her again about her face and

she admitted that her boyfriend had hit her. I gave her NAM's Family Violence Center phone number and several bus tokens so that she could get away from her boyfriend and to NAM if she wanted to. She refused any other help that day other than food. I recognized *Fran* when she walked back into my office six months later. Now she and her boyfriend *John* (not his real name either) were homeless. They had slept in an alley the night before. They asked for warm clothing and food. I figured out the perfect way to "save" *Fran*. I offered to find the couple a shelter to go into, but explained that they would have to separate because they were not married. *Fran* said, "No, I have lost everything else, I won't lose *John* too."

As *Fran* left my office that day, I wondered why she didn't want to escape her situation. I wondered why she stayed with an abusive boyfriend. I wondered how she could lose "everything" because of her loyalty to her boyfriend. I wondered why she accepted cruelty from another. I have no answers to my questions, but I do have a revelation to share. It starts with the children.

NAM's mission is "Neighbors helping neighbors." My hope is that through the annual Back to School program and the Holiday Project, through the Children's Clinic, Family Violence Center and Assistance office, we can give the children in our neighborhoods a feeling of worth, a guarantee of safety, an assurance of value so that when they become adults they will not abuse others and they will not allow others to abuse them.

If NAM can improve the lives of children, if NAM can show the children love and caring, maybe the children will learn to love themselves.

'I can stand on my own and make it now!'

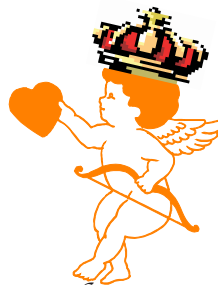
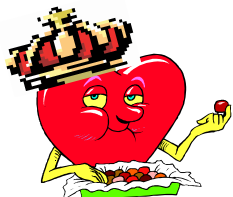
Suzie S. was out of options – at least that's how she saw it – when she came to NAM for help.

A 19-year-old single mother with a three-year-old daughter, Suzie left an abusive relationship and came to NAM from a women's domestic violence shelter. She'd never lived alone and had grown up in an abusive home. While participating in NAM's Supportive Housing Program, she received counseling for the abuse she had experienced. She also attended parenting classes and budgeting classes. As she progressed through the program, she secured a full-time job earning approximately \$2,000 per month with the potential to make more in bonuses.

"You all have helped me so much," Suzie said. "I never dreamed I could live on my own. I am stronger now, and I know I will not go back into another abusive relationship.

Now, Suzie has saved \$4,000 towards buying a home and has been accepted into a first-time home-buying program. She has paid off her car and has no debts. She also started a paralegal program at North Harris College and attends school part time.

"I can stand on my own and make it now," Suzie said.



Majestic Truffles
make the perfect Valentine's Day gift
for family, friends and business associates.

Made with love by the volunteers of NAM's Fifty Plus Senior Center
Proceeds benefit Northwest Assistance Ministries

To place an order or for more information, call 281-885-4544 or visit NAM's web site,
www.namonline.org.

'Because you deserve a royal treat!'

Register now for
Art for the Hungry
March 11 - 25
at Willowbrook Mall
Call 281-885-4605

Art for the Hungry

Continued from Page 1

businesses, service clubs, and civic and professional organizations.

“Art for the Hungry is important to ensuring children in need have meals throughout the summer,” said Carole Little, NAM President & CEO. “Many area children receive free or reduced price meals during the school year. When school isn’t in session, many of these children go without nutritious meals.

“During the school year, the school breakfast and lunch programs enable low-income families to stretch their resources and survive because they don’t have to provide those meals to their children.

“The cost of feeding their children during the summer may mean parents must choose between food and paying the rent or running the air conditioner. The community’s support of Art for the Hungry really does help children survive over the summer.”

Awards will be presented for “People’s Choice” and “Judges’ Choice.” The public can vote for the People’s Choice Award with a 25-cent donation counting as one vote. Money collected from the voting will go to NAM’s Food Pantry. While the sculptures are on display, large signs will recognize participating organizations.

For information, entry forms and sculpture building guidelines, call NAM’s Development Director Maria Magee at 281-885-4605.



NHC’s Meals on 18 Wheels

North Harris College students, faculty and staff held its Meals on 18 Wheels Food Drive in November and collected 9,964 food items – enough to feed 282 families for a week. Laurie Bernier, Continuing Education Coordinator, from left, coordinated all the volunteers. Alyse Fullum, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society president and Anastasia Ulibisheva, a member of the student Ambassador Program, helped collect the food which was valued at more than \$16,000.



Girl Scout Library

Girl Scouts from Troop 10982 at Brill Elementary School donated 1,003 books and bookshelves to NAM’s Children’s Clinic in December. They delivered the books and shelves, organized the books by grade level and stocked the clinic and waiting rooms.

Weinberg Foundation

Continued from Page 1

challenge before Dec. 31. Major Donors include: Dave and Lynne Anderson, Eddie and Sandra Harrell, Pete and Marilyn Turner, Richard and Barbara Hemphill, the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, and Citation Oil and Gas. An anonymous donor provided \$50,000 toward the goal.

“This was really a community effort and reaffirms that area residents, business owners and congregations recognize the importance of helping families in need get a second chance at life through NAM,” Little said. “The community’s generosity is overwhelming and throughout the campaign, donors supported the endowment and continued to support NAM’s programs and services.”

“I especially want to thank our Endowment Board. The effort to fund the challenge grant had stalled, but the board really jumpstarted the fund-raising effort. The board held golf tournaments and staged a Grand Slam dinner and roast to help complete the match. We wouldn’t have made it without them.”

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation was established to aid people who by reason of poverty, disability, failing health and/or advanced age are unable to adequately help themselves. The Foundation has supported NAM with numerous contributions including the challenge grant.

Gala auctions raise dollars for NAM programs



Pam and Bob Hughes carry out the oriental rug they bought at the Jeans & Jewels gala auction. The Hughes donated a week's stay at the Marriott's Waiohai Beach Club in Hawaii as a raffle prize that raised over \$36,000.

Continued from Page 3

Waiohai Beach Club for six people donated by Pam and Bob Hughes and two first class roundtrip tickets donated by Continental Airlines.

Live auction items included a vacation stay on the Sea of Cortez donated by Kim and Chuck Watson; a handmade king-size "Golden Weave" quilt donated by Liz



Staff advances

NAM Shelter & Energy Assistance (SEA) Program case managers Jessica Coatney, left and Debbie Workman will each receive a masters degree in counseling from Sam Houston State University in December.

Merrell; a female ranch full-length mink coat donated by Bonnie and David Ellis; a ladies' ruby and diamond ring and diamond bracelet donated by Shannon Fine Jewelry and Watches; four first/business class tickets to anywhere in the world the airline flies donated by Continental Airlines; and sponsorship of NAM's Interfaith Hospitality Network.

"The success of Jeans & Jewels means NAM can serve people who might otherwise go without assistance," Little said. "We appreciate that so many people came out to lend invaluable support to help their less fortunate neighbors," said Merle Rumsey, Jeans & Jewels co-chair.

Numerous government and community leaders attended the event, including State Senator Jon Lindsay, State Representative Peggy Hamric, Harris County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace J. Kent Adams and Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hickman.

Honoree Raleigh Jenkins of ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services, also a \$25,000 Meals on Wheels partner sponsor, said, "We want to give back to the community

where we live and work and NAM really makes a difference in peoples' lives. The Meals on Wheels program does so much with so little that providing the program with a boost was an easy decision.

"NAM also is one of the most efficient organizations I've ever seen. They keep controls in place and get the most out of donations so the money goes to help people who need it."

NAM's Carole Little, noted that "the funds generated by Jeans & Jewels will enable NAM to assist literally thousands of families who find themselves in a daily battle to make ends meet."

For information about NAM's programs and services, volunteering at NAM or donating to NAM, visit NAM's web site at www.namonline.org or call 281-885-4555.

SAVE THE DATE Jeans & Jewels 2007

October 20, 2007

**The Woodlands
Waterway Marriott**

Co-Chairs:

Susan Diehl

Valerie vonBerg

Honoree:

Lou Shirley

NAM's wish list

Development Department

Digital video camcorder

Food Pantry

Commercial scale
Nonperishable food items
Cash Donations always gratefully accepted

Assistance Program

Helpline sponsor - \$12,000
Digital Camera and software for computer
Portable fans
Two-drawer file cabinets

Building Maintenance

4-ft x 6-ft U.S. and Texas flags
Indoor/outdoor carpet
Commercial floor mats for the Fifty Plus area
Tile or carpet for FVC hallways
Tile or carpet for 2nd and 4th floor hallways
Ceramic tile
Poly strapping machine

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Fold-up baby playpen
Maternity clothes
Toiletries
Pillows

Family Violence Center

Toy vehicles (ambulance, police car, construction vehicles, etc.)
Tool Set
Doctor's Set
Sand for sand tray - about 40 lbs.
Paint and Manila paper
Legos - Medium size
Dart Set (play set - no sharp points)
Dress-up clothes for girls
Puppet Stage or theatre
Miniature toys for sand tray (people, animals, etc.)
FAX machine

Fifty Plus Senior Center

Van drivers, especially on Fridays
Ride-along volunteers to assist

Recent grant awards

Cullen Trust for Healthcare
Houston Endowment Inc.
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Ann and Rob McKee Family Foundation
Methodist Healthcare System
Newfield Foundation
ZCAM Organizational Dev. Program Collaborative

drivers Wednesdays and Fridays
Back-up bingo caller
New bingo sets
New table coverings
Dart Baseball Board
Large microwave for Truffle Project

Shelter & Energy Assistance

Two medium duty paper shredders (8 to 10 sheets)
Carry bin on wheels
Toaster oven
Coats and sweaters for children and adults
Donated cars in running condition for clients needing transportation

Information Technology

New UPS' for workstations - minimum of 1400VA/980W
IT volunteers
Recent HP printer cartridges

Resale shops

Security System
Copy Machine
Bicycle rack
Rolling racks
Shopping carts
Volunteers

Children's Clinic

Spanish Children's books
Spanish speaking volunteers
Books - new and used
New toys for birthday gifts
Table scale
Medium-size Commercial grade paper shredder
New fax machine
Tylenol children's and Tylenol infant drops
Thermometers to give to parents
Diapers and wipes

Meals on Wheels

Key Maps (Need 5)
Paper shredders - medium duty
Coolers - 28, 32, 36, 48, 52 quart
Volunteer drivers
Digital Camera
Cell Phone with Minutes



Pam Bailey and staff members of Chaparral Management Company dropped off boxes and bags of Holiday Project toys. Many staff members chose seasonal attire of elf hats, antlers and Santa hats.



Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department Capt. Robert Logan, left, Lt. David Paige and Fire Fighter Kevin Cowhan delivered toys that area residents dropped off at the station.



Senior Santa

NAM Meals on Wheels Director Cheryl Green, left, accepts gifts for MOW clients from Mary Webb, Community Service Representative for Home Instead Senior Care. The company collected 150 gifts for homebound seniors and disabled individuals through its Senior Santa program.

Interfaith Quilting Bee Feb. 17

16535 Kleinwood Dr.
Call 832-717-0622

A publication of
**NORTHWEST
ASSISTANCE
MINISTRIES**
15555 Kuykendahl
Houston, Texas 77090-3651
281-885-4555

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT #6072

If you are receiving duplicate mailings, please let us know.
Call 281-885-4607.

NAM's website goes live with new design, features

Northwest Assistance Ministries recently launched its redesigned website, www.namonline.org, to better serve the community, improve communications, enhance its database and add options to extend NAM's presence beyond northwest Houston.

The site includes new features and a new design that will enable NAM staff members to quickly change site content, post photos, conduct email fundraisers, post forms and educational materials and collect donations online.

"The way people communicate, collect and use information, find volunteer opportunities and even make donations has changed greatly and a big part of that change is due to the internet," said Carole Little, NAM President & CEO. "NAM has to take advantage of this technology in order to grow and continue addressing the community's needs.

"Our website was developed several years ago, and volunteer Donna Odom has helped us maintain the site. We are so grateful to Donna for providing this service. Recently, we discovered the design and structure of the site limited what we could do. It became increasingly apparent the site needed to be updated to take advantage of the new technology."

NAM has contracted with Kintera, a leading provider of software services to the nonprofit and government sectors, for software, design and site hosting.



The Gift of Mobility

NAM's Shelter & Energy Assistance (SEA) Director Debbie Crum, left, hands the keys to a donated car to Shelter & Energy Assistance client Shaunette Zenon. Shaunette brought her son, Jacori; mother, Suzette Zenon and sister, Laura Hilliard along for the occasion. Shaunette said receiving the car was the best holiday present. She's been offered jobs, but they aren't on bus routes. She needs the car so she can work and support her family.

**NAM's Thanksgiving Project
provided holiday food to 790 families.**