



Annual Back-to-School Program provides supplies for thousands of local children in need

For any child, it can be daunting to face all of the challenges that come with a new school year, but for children who don't have the necessary supplies, the experience is bound to be especially difficult.

Thanks to NAM's Back-to-School (BTS) Program and the community members who support it, more than 2,500 local children in need were given the opportunity to start the 2009 school year on equal ground with their classmates. Students received packages with basic school supplies for their grade level as well as vouchers for new, school-appropriate clothes and shoes.

NAM has provided local children with school supplies through the BTS program for more than 20 years. The program serves children from the Spring, Cy Fair, Aldine and Klein School Districts.

"Starting the school year off right is so important to a child," said NAM President and CEO Carole Little. "Having a new outfit, a new backpack and the

appropriate school supplies puts them on a level playing field with everyone else in the class."

As a social worker for Klein ISD, Kimberly Jones works with many families struggling to make ends meet. She sees firsthand the toll it takes on children to start the school year without the necessary supplies.

"It's an embarrassment for the kids. They don't have what all of their schoolmates do," Jones said.

Many of the families that Jones refers to the BTS program are in need of help with basic human needs, such as food and money for rent, utility bills and medical bills. When she brings families to NAM for assistance from its many social service programs each summer, she brings in the children as well, so they can receive supplies.

Families struggling to pay rent and utility bills are often forced to put school supplies low on their priority lists.

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Franklin, 11



Local grade school children proudly display their new supplies for the school year.

Jazzmine, 5

NAM supporter donates proceeds from new young adult novel



Partial proceeds from Tom McCloud's "Riddles in Time" will benefit NAM's programs and services.

Author and NAM volunteer Tom McCloud may have just published his first novel, but he is a man with two stories to tell. And readers will likely find themselves inspired by both.

McCloud's book, "Riddles in Time," is a young adult adventure novel that tracks four friends as they accidentally embark on a heroic quest and discover a fantastic secret with the power to alter history during a summer archaeology competition. Despite the whimsical world that McCloud has created in the book, the motivation behind writing the novel was definitely grounded in reality.

McCloud's personal story is one of disappointment, loss, and heartbreak mixed with love, hope, and a desire to help others. The novel that came out of this story will go on helping the community, as Tom has pledged to donate partial proceeds to NAM.

When McCloud and wife Amy discovered they were expecting a second child, they were elated. However, only six months later, tragedy struck. Their baby boy, Michael, unexpectedly came into the world nearly three months early due to a genetic blood disorder and was imme-

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A time to give: NAM needs community support this fall

Fall is traditionally a time of giving thanks, and at NAM, we're grateful for many things this year. We're grateful that we were able to serve

more than 120,000 people in need through our programs and services last year. We're grateful for the community members, businesses and organizations who made it possible for us to keep our doors open, our lights on, and our programs fully functioning, despite a struggling economy.

As we begin the final quarter of calendar year 2009, it's clear how much additional help NAM needs to maintain its place as an essential resource to our Neighbors in Need. Our most recent statistics indicate the need has increased by more than 35 percent this year over last year while cash donations fell behind by more than 10 percent. NAM, like all organizations, has undergone cutbacks in wages, positions, and much needed support services in order to continue to provide critical community services. However, now we are faced with making

very difficult decisions regarding what we can continue to do over the next few years. If you are in a position to help your fellow community members this fall, please consider one of the many ways that you can give thanks for your own blessings by offering a helping hand to others.

NAM's greatest need this fall is donations to its major giving funds.

Annual Fund: NAM's Annual Fund is a way for friends to make single, annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, in addition to their regular giving. The Annual Fund boosts NAM's operating revenues and helps the organization meet current, urgent community needs through its programs and services.

The 2009 Annual Fund goal is \$250,000, and currently only \$72,000 has been donated.

Emergency Preparedness Fund: This important "rainy day fund" helps NAM serve the community when it needs help the most, such as during natural disasters and economic downturns. NAM is working to establish a three-month cash reserve to provide a cushion in case of such emergencies. Friends can make one-time, significant gifts to this fund of \$3,000 or more, in addition to their regular giving. These gifts may be paid over one to three years.

NAM's goal is to raise \$1.5 million (three months of operating costs for NAM) for

the Emergency Preparedness Fund over the next three years. Approximately \$412,200 has been raised to date.

Endowment Fund: This fund is designed to ensure the future services of NAM by providing a permanent source of income from endowed funds.

NAM accepts planned gifts to this fund, including bequests, gifts of retirement assets and life insurance policies.

Other ways to help in the fall:

Attend Jeans & Jewels: NAM's largest annual fundraiser, Jeans & Jewels, will be held Oct. 24 at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott. Tickets to the Gala are \$175 and tables range from \$1,750-\$25,000.

Give to our September Appeal, included in this newsletter.

Donate year-round:

Make a one-time or recurring online donation at www.namonline.org.

Send a donation by check to NAM or make a cash donation in person.

Donate food or hold a food drive.

Volunteer your time at NAM.

Donate to and shop at NAM's Resale Shops.

Make a Donation of Stock. These funds can be designated for one or more programs, services, events, or seasonal drives sponsored by NAM. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

To learn more about giving to NAM, visit www.namonline.org or call Maria Magee at (281) 885-4605.

There are many ways to give to the community this fall and year-round through NAM. I hope you will consider sharing your blessings with our neighbors in need in the best way you can.

We at NAM are grateful for your support.

Carole Little
President & CEO

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.



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.

Carole Little	President & CEO
Denese Hammon	Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Landes	V.P. of Service Programs
Maria Magee	V.P. of Fund Development
Sara Cleveland	Editor

www.namonline.org
NAM is now on Facebook!
281-885-4555



Thousands of children receive immunizations at Shot Blitz

NAM's Children's Clinic provided a record 2,955 vaccinations to school-age children as part of its 2009 Shot Blitz immunization event in August. This year's event was the most comprehensive in Shot Blitz history, with nearly 1,000 more vaccinations administered than in 2008.

The record year was due to an increased need for low-cost healthcare as well as changes in school vaccine requirements.

"The Shot Blitz program ensures children receive vaccines that are essential for health and wellness," said Clinic Director Rosemary Eldousoky. "This year the vaccine requirements changed for school children, and NAM was fortunately able to meet the larger demand that resulted from the changes."

The vaccines were offered to uninsured children for a reduced cost of \$10.

"These families depend on NAM to provide a full range of vaccines at minimal cost," Eldousoky said. "By providing immunizations to Northwest Houston area children, NAM and its supporters really demonstrated the importance of Neighbors helping Neighbors".



Cam'Ron Bailey (right) and his Nana, Ywanda Bailey, look on as nurse Diana De La Cruz prepares his immunization.

In addition to the vaccinations, families at this year's Shot Blitz were also offered help with enrollment in health insurance and social services programs. NAM collaborated with Community Health Choice and Children's Defense Fund to assist

families with enrollment in state health coverage programs as well as prenatal health coverage. Families were also able to apply for food stamps and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program through the USDA—Food and Nutrition Services Agency, and NAM provided information and applications for the Gold Card Program.

The Cypress Woodlands Junior Forum volunteered during the Shot Blitz, and the National Charity League volunteered with preparations for the event.

The project was also supported by several local nursing students and professional nurses who understand the necessity and benefit of preventative care for school children. These nurses volunteered to prepare and administer the vaccines.

NAM to host Nonprofit Education Conference in September

NAM will host a Nonprofit Education Conference Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009 at United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Drive, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The concept for the seminar came from NAM's Executive Board as part of its 25th anniversary visioning process. The Board recommended that NAM's management team share the organization's best practices with other social service providers in the community.

The conference will feature a plenary session on NAM's growth from a small grassroots coalition to one of Houston's largest social service agencies, presented by NAM President and CEO Carole Little.

"NAM is one of the largest and most successful social service agencies in the Houston area, and by sharing best practices, we hope to enhance social service provision throughout the area," Little said.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to select between two learning track options: Social Services or Nonprofit Management. NAM administration and program directors will lead various breakout sessions focusing on a wide range of topics relevant to area nonprofits. The fee is \$50 and includes lunch.

Detailed information about the conference, including the agenda and registration information can be found on NAM's Web site at www.namonline.org/seminar.

NAM Statement of Activities for the six months ended 6/30/09 (unaudited)

Total Support and Revenues	\$6,711,456
Expenses	
Program services	\$5,997,945
Management and General	\$488,226
Fundraising and Development	\$226,013
Total Expenses	\$6,712,184
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(\$728)

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	
Furniture Donations		FM 1960	281-880-9000
Hotline	281-880-9482	Jones Road	281-897-8952
Family Violence Center	281-885-4673	Corner Resale Shop	281-885-4544
Interfaith Hospitality		Other agencies at NAM	
Network	281-885-4567	Harris Co. Soc. Services	281-885-4591
Meals on Wheels	281-885-4622	Even Start	281-586-1888
Rotary Learning Center	281-885-4616	Gulf Coast Community	
Senior Services	281-885-4600	Services	281-397-0176

Family Violence Center reflects on past, future changes as National Domestic Violence Awareness month nears

By Donna Amtsberg, LMSW, Director of NAM's Family Violence Center

It's estimated that 25 percent of women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. The problem is widespread and daunting for the organizations and individuals working every day to stop the pattern of violence that so many people undergo in their very own homes.

However, despite the many challenges, there are some encouraging changes taking place in the field of domestic violence. October marks National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and for NAM's Family Violence Center (FVC) the event is an opportunity for us to reflect on the changes that the state and our program have undergone through the years.

For 18 years, NAM's FVC has helped victims of domestic violence in northwest Harris County by continuously updating its services to meet the changing needs of the community.

- When the FVC began its Youth Education Program in 1996, we spoke with just over 200 students from area middle and high schools. During the 2008-09 school year, we spoke with more than 12,000 students.
- In 1991, the first year we operated our hotline, we recorded 1,695 calls. We now receive approximately 8,400 calls a year, an average of more than 700 calls per month.
- In 1991, we had four volunteers working in the FVC. Today we average 12 volunteers.

This increase in numbers is both encouraging and discouraging. We know that domestic violence does not confine itself to the home anymore; it comes out at our places of work, at our recreational venues, and at our school and college campuses. However, it is encouraging to note that more victims of this type of violence are seeking out help and not suffering in silence.

As the FVC continues to enhance its community services, there are new chal-

lenges we face. For instance, we see the definitions of violence broadening and changing as technology changes. Identify theft perpetrated by family members is now considered a part of family violence. A Global Positioning System (GPS), used by most people to get from Point A to Point B, can become a weapon in the hands of an abuser in order to track and stalk his victim. Spyware that started out as a way to enhance privacy can now be used to intercept and listen in on cell phone conversations, even when the phone is not in use. As information technology becomes more sophisticated, so too do abusers' tactics to control and threaten their victims.

The good news is, laws are being enacted and strengthened to ensure the safety of domestic violence victims. Below are new legislative items taking effect after September 1, 2009:

- Children in possible family violence situations may be better protected against International Parental Abduction of a Child. Judges may take into account when an offender's behavior includes, but is not limited to, closing bank accounts or getting passports for the children.
- Abusers may face enhanced penalties (a felony as opposed to a misdemeanor) for assaulting a family member by strangulation or suffocation.
- Victims of family violence may obtain a shorter waiting period (less than 60 days) in divorce suits.
- Repeat domestic violence offenders with a Class A Misdemeanor and another charge in less than a year could face a third degree felony charges.

For more details on these legislative changes, visit www.tcfv.org

This work is ever-changing and ever-challenging, but with the support of our community the FVC is poised to meet the next 18 years with dedication and



commitment to ending the cycle of violence in our community.

There are many ways you can help us in this endeavor. Please consider the following ways you can make a difference to the community through the FVC.

Commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

- Donate to the FVC to provide cab rides to those fleeing dangerous situations.
- Donate needed toiletries to the FVC.
- Collect & donate cell phones so FVC clients can make emergency 911 calls.
- Include the issue of domestic violence in your local newsletters.
- Call the FVC and ask for a speaker to come to your group, 281-885-4559.
- Light a candle at your place of worship, in your home, or at a meeting.
- Wear a purple ribbon during the month.
- Pray for strength for those who are suffering due to the Domestic Violence.
- Attend the FVC's Domestic Violence Class. It's free and open to the community. Call (281) 885-4673 to register.

Important Domestic Violence Resources:

FVC 24-hour Hotline:
(281) 885-HOPE
Toll-Free: **1-888-750-4673**

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-SAFE

www.namonline.org/fvc

www.tcfv.org/resources/abuse-in-texas

www.domesticviolence.org



Everyone will have the chance to feel like royalty at this year's Rodeo Queen-themed Jeans and Jewels Luncheon and Style Show. The popular pre-gala event is set for Thursday, Sept. 24, at Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road. Guests are invited to enjoy a social hour at 10:30 a.m., and the program begins at 11:30 a.m.

"The Luncheon is an opportunity to have a fun day out with your friends while supporting a great cause," said event co-chair Susan Byram.

The event will feature a delicious lunch prepared by Shirley Acres, a silent auction, and a his and hers style show with fall and Western fashions from Scruples and Caven-dar's. Dana Tyson of Sunny 99.1 FM will once again serve as mistress of ceremonies.

Luncheon Honoree

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



Luncheon honoree Susan Diehl

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.



Luncheon co-chairs Susan Byram (left) and Kristie Campbell

Luncheon Co-Chairs

Susan Byram and co-chair Kristie Campbell are a mother-daughter team who have volunteered at NAM since its founding 26

years ago, when Kristie was still in high school and NAM was still operated out of a small storefront. Both women were active volunteers with NAM's Fifty Plus (then called Sixty Plus) program and Meals on Wheels for years before becoming involved with the Jeans and Jewels Gala, which they have supported since the first event 11 years ago.

The family chooses to support NAM because, as Kristie said, "We have to take care of the people in our community, and NAM's work in the community helps save people who need saving."

Plus," Susan added, "The people at NAM realize how valuable everyone's time is, and they truly appreciate their volunteers."

Luncheon tickets and Table Sponsorships are available now.

Individual ticket: \$50

Table Sponsorships: \$500 to \$1500

To purchase tickets, call Tanecia Snid at 281-885-4608.

Back-to-School

Continued from Page 1

"NAM's Back-to-School Program has been such a stress reliever for a lot of the families I work with," Jones said. "School supplies are expensive, especially for families who are already on limited budgets. With this program, they don't have to figure out how they're going to get the extra money."

The Cypress Woodlands Junior Forum organized the volunteer effort this year and donated \$7,795 to the program. Individuals from throughout the community, as well as NAM's Covenant Congregations, helped raise funds for the \$72,500 project.

New! NAM nights at The Lodge at Shirley Acres

Every Monday night, The Lodge at Shirley Acres will donate 10 percent of all proceeds to NAM.

Hours of operation:

Monday-Wednesday 4- 9 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday: 11 a.m.- 10 p.m.

Sunday brunch: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

17100 Kuykendahl Rd. • (281) 444-4041

Save The Date

October 24, 2009

for the 11th annual Jeans & Jewels Gala at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott.

Honorees

Jackie & Pat Riley.

Co-Chairs

Dana Hines & Diane Porter.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Deborah Duncan.

Music by Yvonne Washington and The Mix.

Tickets are \$175 and tables start at \$1,750.

Young adult novel benefits NAM *Continued from Page 1*

dially airlifted to a downtown Houston Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Tom remembers that day as a whirlwind of chaos, disbelief, and difficult decision-making. As his wife was recovering from her emergency C-section surgery, he was forced to accept the reality of their situation and the required treatments his infant son had to undergo.

Tom recalls taking photos of his new son with a camera phone, because “that was all I had with me,” he said. “And I didn’t know if he would make it through the night. I wanted to have those memories.”

Fortunately, Michael did survive through the night. But his trials were far from over. For more than six months, Michael lived at the hospital NICU. Tom and Amy spent six to eight hours with him every day, often bringing their three-year-old daughter, Amanda, with them.

Looking back, Tom marvels at the way Amanda interacted with her baby brother. “She just adopted him,” Tom said. “She’d color pictures for him and sing songs to him.” Even at three years old, Amanda seemed to understand the seriousness of the situation, and she would sit quietly for hours, while her parents tended to her brother and collaborated with his doctors.

This relationship between Amanda and Michael was an inspiration to Tom. “I knew that Amy and I would remember all of these times,” he said. “But I didn’t want Amanda to forget. I would write her letters so that she would remember this special time.”

After several months, Michael was able to come home from the hospital, although he still had to make regular trips back to the NICU and needed full time nursing care at home.

Just as the family began adjusting to this new routine, they suffered another setback: Amy was diagnosed with a degenerative liver disease. She was unexpectedly rushed to the hospital, where she stayed for over two months.

Tom was faced with having to care for a young child and a sick infant while working full time in his then Global Ac-

count Operations leadership position at HP and assisting his wife in the hospital.

Looking back on this time, Tom says he could not have possibly managed what he did without the help of so many people in his life. From helping with the baby’s one-hour feedings every three hours around the clock, to doing household chores, babysitting, and cooking, family and friends helped the family through this trying time.

Unfortunately, there were still tough times ahead. Amy did eventually recover and is now functioning at nearly full capacity, but baby Michael passed away shortly before his second birthday.

These struggles, Tom says, and the transformation of his family, are what inspired him to start writing.

“It’s not just losing the physical child that hurts you the most,” said Tom. “What you grieve about are the things that they didn’t get to do.”

Often, while writing the letters to his daughter about the family’s times together, Tom found himself daydreaming about what Michael would have been like, what he would have done. He would imagine how Amanda and Michael would have been best friends, about the adventures they would have had together, and about the life that Michael would have led.

So, in addition to the letters to Amanda, Tom started writing down the stories he was imagining, and from those stories came his novel “Riddles in Time.” The characters in the novel are fictitious, but they all have something in common: each has a personal obstacle to overcome.

“All of the characters in the book have unique challenges and perspectives,” Tom said. “But by coming together and using those very challenges, they are able to solve the riddles presented to them.”

Tom sees this story as a parallel to his own life and experiences. He explains that he witnessed so many families in similar situations break apart while struggling with the realities of having a

sick child. He feels lucky that his family was able to overcome their challenges and pull together to become an even stronger team.

Tom is also grateful for the support his family received during this time from so many people in the community. “We couldn’t have managed it without help,” he said.

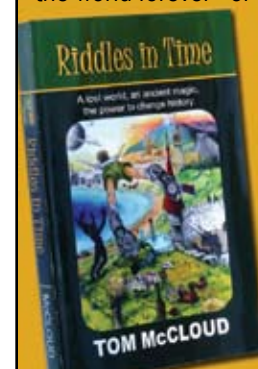
Now, he wants to give back to the community that provided so much assistance to his family. He decided that the best way to give back to the community as a whole is to donate part of the proceeds from the book to NAM.

Tom sees NAM as a resource to the entire community, and he is grateful that the organization provides a means for him to share his blessings with others. For more than five years, Tom has been a Meals on Wheels volunteer at NAM, often bringing his daughter with him on Saturdays to help deliver the food. Now, through his book, he has found another way to give back.

About the Book

Four friends search a vast museum for a missing professor during a student summer archaeology competition and unintentionally discover a fantastic secret with the power to alter history. But with each new clue, the mystery deepens as someone or something threatens to destroy the contest. Soon dangerous and ghostly visitors materialize to cause havoc, only to vanish like phantoms with the arrival of a strange exotic exhibit.

Together they must believe in themselves to solve the biggest riddles in time and prevent the secrets of a distant realm from being used to change the world forever - or end it.



“Riddles in Time” is available online at www.amazon.com. Partial proceeds from the book will benefit NAM’s programs and services.



Life is unpredictable.

With the generosity of Neighbors Helping Neighbors,
NAM provides balance.

One day, you may be able to give to others. The next, you may need help yourself.

In this economy, many people who have never had to seek help before are coming to NAM. And, of course, there are already the disadvantaged in our community who are impacted even more by the recession.

If you are fortunate enough to be able to lend a hand in these troubled times, please consider making a gift to NAM. Your donation will help a neighbor in need.

Donations of all sizes are appreciated.

A gift of **\$100 can provide hot lunches for a senior for a month, feed a family for a week, provide life skills training for a homeless family, or give well-child exams to two children.**

- See donation form on back. -

Yes! I want to help neighbors in need during difficult times.

Please return with gift. Online gifts may also be made at www.namonline.org

I would like to help neighbors in need by making a gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000
 \$35 \$75 \$250 \$750 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.



**NORTHWEST
ASSISTANCE
MINISTRIES**
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Gift envelope enclosed in newsletter.

Supporter Snapshots



Debbie Cain (left), Store Manager for Kroger store #275 on 13133 Veterans Memorial, presents a \$10,000 check to Maria Magee, V.P. of Fund Development at NAM. The money was part of a return the store received for selling a winning Lotto ticket.



(From left) Sally Etheredge, Cypress Woodlands Junior Forum (CWJF) Community Outreach Vice President, and CWJF President Debbie Harrell present a \$7,795 check to NAM Volunteer Coordinator Linda Fullerton for NAM's Back-to-School Drive.



Jamie Hartwell, Community Relations Coordinator for KBR, presents a \$5,000 check from the company to Northwest Assistance Ministries' Children's Clinic Director Rosemary Eldousoky (right) and Medical Assistant Evelyn Urbina (center).



Doncaster Representative Debbie Dugger (left) displays some of the studio's fine women's clothing with NAM V.P. of Development Maria Magee at the company's NAM benefit sale.



From left: Children's Clinic Director Rosemary Eldousoky accepts a large book donation from Brenda Anderson of the organization We-Win (Women Empowering Women and Inspiring Now). Also pictured is Jeannette Loverdi with We-Win.



Bruce Garrett, HP Tennis Club President, presents a \$1,000 check to Maria Magee, V.P. of Fund Development at Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM). HP Tennis Club members hosted a tennis fundraising event to benefit local charities. Also pictured: HP Tennis Club members David Galvan (left) and Gavin Anderson.

Corporate spotlight



Corporate and foundation supporters are integral to the success of NAM's mission of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and Newfield Exploration Company is one of NAM's leading corporate contributors. For more than a decade, Newfield Exploration and the Newfield Foundation have embraced NAM's mission by donating cash gifts and volunteer hours to support NAM's programs and services.



"Newfield Exploration has created a true community partnership with NAM," said Carole Little, NAM President and CEO. "They consistently respond positively to our funding requests, and they involve their employees in the process of giving."

Since its first gift to NAM in 1999, Newfield has given nearly \$200,000 to the organization.

In addition to their generous financial gifts, Newfield Exploration employees also contribute invaluable time as volunteers for NAM's special projects, including Meals on Wheels and the annual Holiday Project.



Newfield employees help organize children's gifts for NAM's Holiday Project.

"We believe that it's important to give back to the communities where we live and operate," said Dolores Vasquez of the Newfield Foundation. "Our employees are encouraged to participate in local events, volunteer and recommend to the Newfield

Foundation areas where our gifts can make a difference."

Vasquez says that philanthropic organizations like NAM with a history of success at making a positive difference in the community can still attract corporate funding even during the current recession. "But even more important to NAM and a company like Newfield," Vasquez said, "is the opportunity to reinforce gift giving through employee volunteers who can lend much needed hands-on support. Newfield, and other companies, view volunteering as an opportunity for team building among employees."

In fact, it was the employees who first suggested NAM as an organization they wanted to support. "We ask employees to refer charities that they would like the Foundation to consider supporting," Vasquez said. "What we hear from our employees is that NAM is a proven one-stop shop for charitable social services programs."

"NAM is grateful for the support of Newfield Exploration Company and Newfield Foundation," Little said. "Their long-standing support of NAM helps makes it possible for us to continue our mission of striving to meet basic human needs through Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Sidelines with Sarah

*By Sarah Fisk
Volunteer Assistance Counselor*

Have you ever had to compromise your pride, in order to do something you knew you had to do?

When I first spotted her sitting in NAM's waiting room, her head was lowered, supported by one hand. She had come to NAM's Assistance office for emergency food. While waiting for her food, she had limped to a chair to sit down.

Our Assistance coordinator who manages the front desk asked me to talk to the client. As I sat down next to her, I asked her medical questions to find out if we needed to call 911. She told me that she suffers from a chronic, debilitating illness and that the pain and nausea that comes on without warning would ease eventually.

While we waited, I discovered that she was a college-educated career woman, but because of her illness, was not able to work. She said, "I had to swallow my pride when I came to NAM for food." She needed food because her daughter was home from college for the summer.

I gave her information about Angel Food Ministries, a nonprofit organization that offers monthly food discounts, and an organization called Disability Advocates, which could advise her about applying for disability. Two clients in the waiting room promised to pray for her.

NAM's Assistance office sees one or more new clients every hour of every day, five days a week. We at NAM try to convey caring and concern to every client we meet. The Assistance interviewers make every effort to serve a client's needs with respect, so that their pride is not compromised.

My client's daughter wants to be a doctor some day. Maybe she will find a cure for her mother's illness. Until then, NAM will help her mother all we can. NAM helps those in crisis, all they have to do is ask...or sometimes, just be in the waiting room.

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)
Forklift (\$3,000)

Development Department

DSLR camera with kit lens (\$700)
Adobe Creative Suite 4 Software Design Standard (\$160)
Corporate sponsor for newsletter (\$5,000)
Web site sponsor (\$500)

Assistance Program

Fax machine (\$150)

Building Maintenance

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

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)

Antibiotic ointment (\$300)
Baby wipes (\$250)
10 bottles of antibacterial soap (\$100)

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Toiletries/hygiene items (15-20 items monthly/ \$150)
1 new large capacity washing machine (\$350)
1 new large capacity dryer (\$350)
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)
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 Rubbermaid Flat Shelf Rolling Utility Carts-33.33" x 19" (\$177.00 each)

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
6 Flat panel monitors (\$1,800)

Rotary Learning Center/ Workforce Development

Acrylic Literature/Magazine Display Rack (\$200)
2 Computer Trackballs (\$25 each)
3 Da-Lite Model B Manual Wall and Ceiling Projection Screens - 70x70 - Item #40188 (\$70 each)
New or used 23" or larger monitor for visually challenged clients

(\$150 and up)
Loose leaf paper (can be open packages)

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)
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)
Microwave (\$200)

Legislative Breakfast Photo

Corporate & Foundation Gifts (\$1,000 and above from May to July)

A-OK Transmission
Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Foundation
BP Foundation
Beckman-Dickson International
Brighton Collectibles
CCGVeritas, Inc. Corporate Giving Program
Curtis & Doris K. Hankamer Foundation
Cypress Woodlands Junior Forum
Del Barto-Tramonte Foundation
FM Mury Energy, LLC
HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.
HP Tennis Tournament
Heart to Heart International
Houston Endowment Inc.
Houston Federal Credit Union
Houston Golf Association
John P. McGovern Foundation
John T. Shea Charitable Foundation

KBR
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Labrada Nutrition
New Chapter Organics
Office Depot Foundation
Quaker Corporation
Ray C. Fish Foundation
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
Smith Production Inc.
Strake Foundation
Sysco Corporation
Target #2066
Theiss Farm Market
UBS Financial Services, Inc.
Ultra Petroleum
United Way Basic Needs
Wal-Mart - #1103 - Willowbrook
Walden Books
Williams Companies
Willowbrook Rotary Foundation

Save the Date
Tuesday, April 13, 2009

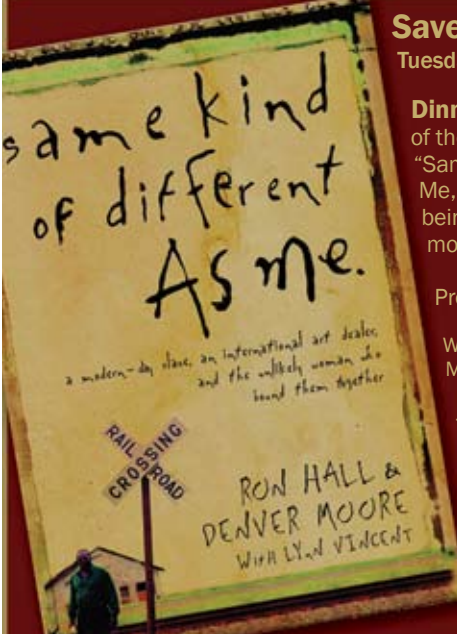
Dinner with the Authors
of the best-selling book
"Same Kind of Different as Me," a true story that is
being made into a major
motion picture.

Proceeds benefit NAM.

Woodlands Waterway
Marriott, 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$150 each;
tables start at \$1,000.
For more information,
call 281-885-4605.

Find information
about the book and
its authors at
www.samekindofdifferentasme.com



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*See page 7 for NAM's
September Appeal and help
our neighbors in need.*

NAM needs donations for annual Thanksgiving Program

Northwest Assistance Ministries invites churches, organizations, businesses and individuals to support its annual Thanksgiving Project by making food and monetary donations. This year, the challenge to feed families in need is substantially greater than in the past. Requests for NAM's services have increased by more than 35 percent this year, so now more than ever, families and individuals will benefit from donors' generosity.

For more than 20 years, families have counted on NAM and its supporters to provide much-needed Thanksgiving meals. In 2008, NAM volunteers col-

lected and distributed enough food to feed more than 800 families for three to five days. The 800 families represented 4,023 individuals whose holiday was made brighter by generous donors.



Tenika (center) stands with children Matthew, Johnathan, Takaira, Tommy and Clarence, and volunteer Ruth before taking home her Thanksgiving dinner supplies (2008).

"The Thanksgiving Project at NAM is a wonderful way for the community to share their blessings with families experiencing tough times," said Carole Little, NAM President and CEO. "Many of our supporters find that giving thanks by giving back to the community is truly rewarding."

Turkeys, other food items and cash donations for the purchase of food for the Thanksgiving Distribution will be accepted at NAM's

Food Pantry located at 15555 Kuykendahl Road, one block south of FM 1960,

during regular business hours Monday through Friday. The food will be distributed to pre-registered families during the week of Thanksgiving.

Help a Neighbor in Need this Thanksgiving:

- **Donate food** to NAM's Food Pantry. Call Lynn Mikhail at (281) 885-4587.
- **Donate cash** for the project. Call Maria Magee at (281) 885-4605.
- **Organize a food drive** for NAM. Call Linda Fullerton at (281) 885-4609.
- **Donate online** at www.namonline.org. Visitors to the Web site will find a Holiday Food Wish List as well as a Virtual Food Drive.
- **Volunteer** to help organize and distribute food during the event. Call Linda Fullerton at (281) 885-4609 or visit the Web site and click on "I want to volunteer."
- **Tell your friends and neighbors** about the opportunity to share their blessings through NAM.