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# The Children's Volunteer Health Network Times

Volume XV

Spring 2011

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Each month, a different local restaurant gives back to the kids by supporting CVHN. In the last year, we have visited La Cocina, Havana Blue, Café 30A, Paradis, Shades at the Loop and Borago. If you know of a restaurant that would like to partner up with us to continue our Moveable Feast please contact the office 622-3200.

## CVHN Turns 6!

Walton County Commissioners declared April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 as CVHN Day in Walton County in honor of our 6<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> birthday by honoring our volunteers who make CVHN a success. This special group included: doctors, dentists, mental health counselors, transportation volunteers, special events volunteers, and Mobile Dental Clinic volunteers who work together to strive to see that the children of Walton and Okaloosa County are happy and healthy. Each type of volunteer is critical to the success of the mission. We were privileged to celebrate this giving group of people who make CVHN possible! Thank you to Cecilia Jones for attending and making it a special day for CVHN.



## Borago and Shades at the Loop give back!

We continued our Moveable Feast and stopped at Borago in March and Shades this May. Friends of CVHN came and dined on decadent dishes and sipped on delicious drinks. Not only did folks get to enjoy food and fellowship but a portion of the proceeds from dinner were given to CVHN to help support healthy and happy kids in our community!



## Special Thanks!

Hibiscus Café and Guesthouse  
Borago Restaurant  
Point Washington Men's group  
Butch Phillips  
Fusion Spa Salon  
Alys Beach  
Design 360  
Snowbirds Association  
Employment Screening Services, Inc.

Caliza Pool and Restaurant  
All the DCWAF Volunteers  
Community Church  
Resort Resale  
Shades at the Loop  
SETCO  
Kim's Cakes  
The Wedding House  
Crosspoint Community Church

Kiwanis Club of Freeport  
David and Sandra Adair  
Kelli Arnold  
George Barnes  
Jim and Linda Boerma  
Kristan Brinkley  
Robbie Carroll  
Anna and Jason Comer  
Harriet Crommelin  
Ray and Vickie Dollar

Steve and Lynn Dugas  
Dan and Helen Gerberding  
Reynolds and Stacy Henderson  
Janet Hornish  
Judd and Penny Jackson  
Robert and Carolyn Kamm  
Stephan and Lori Karian  
Ella Koscik  
David and Peggy Levesque  
Lowry and Marla Lomax

Richard and Demetria McNeese  
Claude and Elaine Mott  
Brett and Ann Person  
Dennis and Lisa Peters  
Diane Scruggs  
Barron and Nancy Strother  
Kurt and Barbara Tape  
Lauren Thompson  
Mike and Valerie Thompson  
Steve and Sandy Weiner

**Children's Volunteer Health Network, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) faith-based, nonprofit organization.

**Our Mission:** We seek to enhance the lives of uninsured and underinsured school-aged children in Walton and Okaloosa Counties by facilitating free immediate access to medical, dental, vision and mental health care.

*A note  
from  
our  
founder*



## Childhood Memories and Super Heroes

How we grew up as children defines many of our childhood memories and who we are today. Some of us may recall a magical time, when we were dragon slayers saving the damsel in distress. Or girl detective, Nancy Drew, solving the mystery of the lost locket. Maybe even a super hero leaping tall buildings in a single bound with our mom's kitchen towel for a cape. Life was like summer, carefree and filled with laughter.

Or for some it may have been a painful childhood journey of ear and toothaches, squinting at a blackboard or being depressed due to family circumstances. A time in your childhood, when laughter was rare and life felt like winter, cold and dark. These sad memories may still impact us today.

However, what we experienced as children is not as important as how we use past experiences. We can choose our future. Do we remain a victim of circumstance, immobilized by the past or become dragon slayers saving today's child, who needs a hero and has no one else to help change their circumstance?

It's really simple. Being a hero means stepping up, seeing a need and finding a solution. Today we can improve the lives of children who have limited family resources. We can help a child see with a pair of glasses, eliminate tooth pain with a root canal or mental health counseling for a depressed teen. We are the dragon slayers of bad memories and the giver of childhood dreams. It only takes the hero in you to make a difference with your commitment of time and resources. CVHN exists because of our heroes.

Please visit our web site for volunteer needs. We need your expertise. The kids need you.

*Tricia Carlisle-Northcutt*



## "Just for Grins"

The **Just for Grins** Mobile Dental Clinic (MDC) is currently at Freeport Elementary, the final stop for the 2010-2011 school year. We have completed visits at Mossy Head, Paxton, Butler, Bay, West DeFuniak and Maude Saunders. To date we have seen 457 children for cleanings and sealed almost 800 teeth. This is our first year to provide restorative treatment at all 7 Walton County Elementary schools as well as continuing our preventive care. We have been blessed with a wonderful MDC team. Gary Crosson, DMD and Tabitha Carlton, CDA joined us this year to provide much needed restorative care and for her 3<sup>rd</sup> year Kelly Taylor, RDH continues to provide excellent preventive care for these wonderful children.

In August, we provided 600 oral hygiene kits for a back to school event at Mary Esther United Methodist Church. We also visited Choctawhatchee High school and spoke to the BETA Honor Club. The students stapled 1000 permission form packets for the MDC. While at Butler Elementary in January, we had visits from The Destin Charity Wine Auction, Northwest Florida Daily News, and Channel WTVY Panama City. We had a great visit from Jenn and Jill who operate Bess the Book Bus. They travel all over donating books to schools and children. Thank you for the books! The children love them and we enjoy reading to them while they are visiting the MDC. On February 4<sup>th</sup> we participated in the National Give Kids a Smile Day. We joined with the Dental Assisting Program at Northwest Florida State College. Our MDC was onsite and provided

## Mobile Dental Clinic

x-ray service for needy children. We enjoyed this very much and hope to continue this in the years to come. The MDC traveled to Santa Rosa Beach for the Circle of 100 gathering on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We want to extend our thanks to all who participated. On Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> we spent the day at the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center in Freeport. They were hosting a Kid's Day and we handed out goodies to the children and gave tours of the MDC. During FCAT testing at the elementary schools in April, we made our yearly visit to provide dental care for the children at Children in Crisis in Fort Walton Beach. We look forward to this each year!

We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has donated their time, services and/or funding to benefit the operations of the **Just for Grins** Mobile Dental Clinic. This includes our CVHN volunteers, school nurses, staff and administrators, Walton County School Board, Walton County Shop, Patterson Dental, Sunstar Butler, Dentsply, Oral Health America and the National Sealant Alliance, BCBS Foundation of Florida, Dugas Family Foundation, Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation, everyone from Chi Chi Miguel Throwdown and all of our individual donors. We are blessed to be able to provide much needed dental care for these wonderful children and this would not be possible without your generosity and involvement. **Thank you!**

Have a wonderful summer!

*Denise Johnston, RDH  
Program Manager Mobile Dental Clinic*



### As always, the kids have kept us entertained...

I cleaned a little boy's teeth this morning. He was getting ready to have a seat in the dental chair and he said, "Last time I went to the dentist they waxed my teeth!"

We repaired a broken front tooth on a little girl and when we were done she looked in the mirror and said, "Wow! It looks like brand new!"

I walked into the Music room at Freeport Elementary to get a child to come out to the MDC to get his teeth cleaned. The children in the room greeted me with... **Hey! It's the Tooth Fairy!!**



Destin Wine Charity Auction Foundation's "Wine and Dine in Paradise"

was April 29th - May 1st and we were a proud partner for this fabulous weekend. Friday night's CVHN Patron dinner was held at Caliza Restaurant in Alys Beach. Chef John Currence, from City Grocery in New Orleans, prepared a 5 course meal paired with a variety of different wines from the Arista and Kosta Browne wineries in California. Thank you to our celebrity chef, John Currence; out vitners, Dan Kosta and Mark McWilliams; our hosts, The Hendersons, The Strothers, and The Comers; and our patrons for making this weekend a huge success.

New Provider Spotlight: Cook Family Dentistry



Dr. Cassidy Cook and his wife, Stephanie, moved their Cook Family Dentistry offices into the Santa Rosa Beach Dental Center when Robert Radcliff retired. Dr. Cook has graciously agreed to see some of our children needing root canals! CVHN is so excited to welcome Dr. Cook aboard!

Provider Spotlight: The Merkle's

Dr. Art and Dr. Carol Merkle are two of our providers who go above and beyond the call of duty. CVHN has seen an increase in the need for root canals recently and there are not many Endodontists in the area. The Merkle's stepped up to help CVHN with this tremendous challenge. During the 2010-2011 school year they have seen 46 of our children who need root canals! Their service to our children is truly appreciated. CVHN is proud and blessed to have the Merkle's on our team. Thank you from all of us at CVHN!



From the Executive Director's Desk

"A Volunteer Can Change a Life"

A little girl has a toothache that has lasted three weeks. She has sat in the classroom unable to concentrate and unable to socialize normally because of the pain. She does not want to say anything because she knows her Mom cannot afford to send her to the dentist. She thinks, even if Mom could afford the dentist trip, Mom couldn't take time off work now that Dad is not around. The pain gets so bad, either the school teacher notices and sends her to the school nurse, or the parent notices and frantically tries to figure out what to do.

CVHN's office receives this phone call from the school nurse or the parent on a regular basis. This is where our super heroes are put into action. Our providers step up and schedule a time to help. Our transportation volunteers take time out of their day to transport the child to the appointment. The network is in place because of volunteer board members and committee members' planning and hard work. Everyone works together. The child, no longer in pain, can now learn, socialize, grow and have an opportunity to be happy and healthy and a contributing member of society.

This is why we are all here. Without volunteers, CVHN simply would not work. Would you like to join our team?

CVHN is in need of transportation volunteers to take children to and from appointments. Please call our office at 850-622-3200 to get signed up as a transportation volunteer.

Calling Community Leaders!

CVHN is looking for leaders in the community with a passion for helping children to get involved by serving on committees or the board. The volunteer positions open are:

Fundraising Committee – provides guidance and direction in the selection, evaluation and financial performance of all growth development and revenue generation activities of the organization; including donations, grants, events and general membership.

Events Committee – provides guidance, oversight and direction of specific annual and single event activities required to manage the operations and coordination of all board approved fundraising events.

Board Member – please contact us for details on board member responsibilities.

Contact Zach Billingsley, CVHN's Executive Director at 850-622-3200 for more information.



The end of March we had our Circle of 100 Appreciation Happy Hour where people pledged for the upcoming year. A big thank you to Ray and Vickie Dollar who hosted the event at Resort Resale! Stay tuned for our September Circle of 100 Appreciation event!

Stay tuned for the following exciting events:

- August Moveable Feast event
August 27th - 30A Style Party
September Circle of 100 Appreciation Happy Hour
November Cottages for Kids Raffle

We buy

14 million gallons of toothpaste every year!



Children's Volunteer Health Network, Inc.

PO Box 2142 Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

"Make a Child Smile"

Over the course of one year, as little as \$50 a month can provide 12 children eye glasses or treat 4 kids on the Mobile Dental Clinic, or send 7 children to the doctor or 7 children to receive mental health counseling. Help CVHN fulfill its mission to give every child the opportunity to be healthy, happy and reach their full potential. Make a Child Smile today with a gift to CVHN.

Name, Mailing Address, City, State, Zip, Home Phone, Email

I/We Pledge \$ per month to be auto deducted monthly from: Checking, Credit Card #, Exp. Date, Security code, Signature

I/We enclose our one time gift of \$

(required for credit card transaction)

CVHN is a 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Help us out by making a tax deductible donation of your unwanted car, boat, or RV! For more info, contact Zach at 622-3200.

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Rx Prescription Drug Card form with fields for name, phone number, and pharmacy information.

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PO Box 2142 • Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 850.622.3200 • www.cvhnkids.org • admin@cvhnkids.org

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