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Meet Tahjae

By: Christina Forsyth, Client Care Coordinator

My Mom, Susan Forsyth recently volunteered for us and transported Tahjae to an eye appointment. Tahjae's older sister came along for the trip...

My Mom arrived early to pick up Tahjae and his sister so she decided to treat the siblings to Chick-Fil-A. They had never eaten there and Mom said they were so excited about trying something new! After the meal, they went to see Dr. Fowler and Tahjae got fitted for his spiffy glasses. Mom gushed to me, through texts, the whole time they were together about what a polite and kind little boy Tahjae was. She snagged a photo of him donning his new glasses, as you can see above!

Tahjae was very appreciative. He said he was most excited about how much his basketball skills were going to improve now that he can see the hoop better!

Each month, a different local restaurant gives back to the kids by supporting Children's Volunteer Health Network. Come along and join us at each location for a great time and a great cause!

A portion of the proceeds from anyone having dinner there that evening will go to CVHN.



Next stop: March 3rd

Borago

Volunteer Opportunity:

Many of our children's families are not able to drive their kids to their appointments due to their work schedules or simply not having any means of transportation.

Transportation volunteers are currently needed in Fort Walton Beach, Freeport and Defuniak Springs. Destin and Santa Rosa Beach transportation volunteers are also needed.

Call the office today at 622-3200 to find out about our fast process to get you started as a volunteer. Your time can make a difference in a child's life.

Special Thanks!

Hibiscus Café and Guesthouse
The Community Church of Santa Rosa Beach
Keri Atchley and Design360, llc.
Ann and George Hartley
La Cocina Mexican Grill & Bar
Smiling Fish Café

Rob Bullock
Emerald Coast Wine & Spirits
Vie Magazine
Cabana Blue
Alexa Pleas
Lloyd Blue
Fire Restaurant

Café Thirty-A
Krutz Family Cellars
Bryan Krutz
Patrick Krutz
Restaurant Paradis
Borago Restaurant
A Simple Faith Church

Employment Screening Services, Inc.
Mike and Janet Huckabee
Charles & Shirley Simpson
Kate and JD Johnson
Tony & Diane Carvalho
Dale Trice & Tom Rymer

Steve & Lynn Dugas
Mr. & Mrs. MD Scroggins
Ray and Vicki Dollar
Jane Solomon
Nina Horn
David & Peggy Levesque

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

Love Thy Neighbor: An Invitation

Okay, I really do get it...the emails, solicitations and year end letters asking us all to donate to a variety of good causes and charities. In fact, I received over 32 solicitations. Yep, as they came in we stacked them up and counted them. Some were charities I had given to and others were established nonprofits with a generic mailing list. As I chunked a majority of the letters in the trash, I had a twinge of guilt over the ones tossed aside and deleted.

This is nothing new, it happens every year. And any of you reading this may be in the same position, of wanting to help everyone who asks for assistance. So, just how do we decide to help some and not others? According to the nonprofit journals and articles, we base our giving to a certain charity on either a personal experience or as a business decision. Simple enough? No, here is where it gets complicated. More decisions.

Do we give locally or nationally? Who should we help if we have limited or if any resources? Do we use the Titanic Model for survival, women and children first? Or do we make a judgment call and say, "they shouldn't have been on the boat in the first place." "Or isn't the government supposed to be taking care of that problem?" Much easier to pass the buck. "And what about churches aren't they suppose to feed and clothe the poor?"

So, what do we do? First, we must recognize we are the government, the church and the community and therefore any help we give helps us individually. So that buck stops here. Secondly, get involved with the charity you wish to support by using your time and talents. It's not always about the "money." Participate at whatever level you are able. Lemonade stand, 5k Run or car pool driver. If you are giving money out of guilt...Stop. You will only resent it. Participate and you become part of it.

Most of you who receive this newsletter know about the work that CVHN does. It is YOUR organization.

You volunteer, serve on the Board, work events, attend fundraisers and tell the story about the first little boy and his brother who needed our help. We "loved our neighbor" by taking action and forming the framework for CVHN. Your belief that all children deserve to be healthy and happy sustain it.

We would like to reignite your passion for this cause with an invitation to remain involved, or get involved and to invite others to be a part of the CVHN's story and future.

There are big dreams ahead for CVHN and the kids we serve. So as you make your giving decisions for 2011, please make us a part of that "action" plan. We can solve some problems and that may be just enough for today.

Blessings,

Tricia Carlisle-Northcutt



Award Winning Winemaker Pairs up with Restaurant Paradis



Krutz Family Cellars joined forces with Restaurant Paradis on January 21st for a Winemaker's Dinner to benefit CVHN. When the amazing talents of these two were combined, the evening resulted in an experience to be remembered. Guests delighted in a five course gourmet dinner prepared by Paradis' culinary team Mark Eichin and Chad Uzdevenes, with

complementing award winning Krutz Family Cellar wines chosen by winemaker Patrick Krutz, himself.

Krutz Family Cellars was recently on the cover of Wine Enthusiast Magazine and received outstanding reviews. Krutz's wine was ranked 30 on its' Top 100 Wines of the Year and was ranked 40 for Top 100 Cellar Selections.



Thank you to Restaurant Paradis, Krutz Family Cellars and all who attended for a wonderful experience.

74% of Americans are affected by some type of periodontal or gum disease or gingivitis.



CVHN is proud to be a partner with the Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation. On April 29th, some of the Emerald Coast's most exquisite venues set the stage for the 2011 Patron Dinners. Each Patron Dinner will feature a nationally recognized chef paired with a world-class celebrity vintner. The dinners provide a unique opportunity to interact with fellow wine enthusiasts while enjoying innovative cuisine and the world's finest wines. Call our office today to find out more.



Mike and Janet Huckabee Spend Time with CVHN Supporters

Eight CVHN supporters had the opportunity to have lunch with Mike and Janet Huckabee in January at the Smiling Fish Café. Everyone enjoyed the experience of spending some time together and raising money for our local uninsured children. Thank you to Mike and Janet Huckabee for supporting CVHN.



CVHN in the News!

The "Just for Grins" Mobile Dental Clinic is currently treating children at Butler Elementary School and recently received a visit from News Channel 7. The children were on their best behavior as the cameras were rolling. A couple of the kids even interviewed with the reporter as shown above! Just for Grins' next stop will be Bay Elementary and will continue on to several other schools throughout the school year. Give our office a call if you are interested in volunteering on Just for Grins.



Café Thirty-A is remodeled and open again for business... be sure to visit them soon!

From the Executive Director's Desk

"Children You May Know"

Take a second to think back when you were growing up. Did you know a kid that was sick a lot, or had dental problems? Did you ever ask the question, "Why aren't their parents taking care of that"? Many of us were fortunate enough to have no worries, concerns or even give a single thought to how, if or when we would be able to see a doctor or dentist. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many children right here in Okaloosa and Walton County. CVHN's providers, staff and volunteers have the opportunity to reach these children on a daily basis and we are privileged to be able to help them. The reason CVHN is able to help our local children can be summed up in two words, "Community Support".

This community has a group of unbelievably giving healthcare professionals including medical doctors, eye doctors, dentists and mental health counselors, who volunteer their time and expertise to help our children. The Healthcare Referral component of CVHN's services is hard at work striving to reach hundreds of kids each year. CVHN depends on volunteers who help us on the mobile dental clinic, in the office, transporting kids to appointments and helping with events. Community support from our volunteers is essential.

CVHN also relies on funding from this community, exactly as it has since the first child was helped in 2005. As much as we would love for all things to be free, this is not the case. Most of you know CVHN does not receive any state or federal funding. We are blessed to have received support from family foundations for our programs like the Mobile Dental Clinic, which has treated approximately 1,000 kids each year since 2008. This takes a talented, professional team of a Dentist, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Assistants working feverishly to reach this large of a group year after year. This also means thousands of dollars needed for dental supplies and maintaining a 34' Mobile Dental Clinic. The people who love this community have supported these efforts, and the entire community is needed to carry out CVHN's mission.

So as you remember your childhood days and the kid that never seemed to get the help they needed, remember how necessary and valuable your individual support can be. It can mean one child living right here in our community, will not have to wonder how, if or when they will get the help they need and deserve.

With Gratitude,
Zach Billingsley



Wachovia Bank's "Kids Day"

CVHN participated in Kids Day held at Wachovia Bank in January. The kids were entertained with several activities and enjoyed refreshments while learning about good financial habits as well as good health habits. All of the kids received free toothbrushes and their parents learned about the services CVHN provides. Thanks to Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company for helping our local kids learn about the importance of forming good habits with their health and with their dollars!

Every year, 51 million school hours are lost because of dental related illnesses.



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 ____ (please attach void check)

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security code _____

Signature _____

(required for credit card transaction)

I/We enclose our one time gift of \$ _____

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.

Thank you
Courtyard Wine & Cheese
for your support!



FREE Discount Prescription Drug Card

Simply cut out the card to the right and take it to one of the pharmacies listed on our website for your 30-70% savings. It is even good for pet medications!

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