

# Giving Circle of HOPE Newsletter

Helping Other People Everyday

July 2009

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## Dates to Remember

**Aug. 18, 6:30 PM:** Book Discussion (This Child Will Be Great by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf) & Dinner @ 2005 Lakewinds Drive, Reston

**Sept. 1:** Grant applications due

**Sept. 10, 7 PM:** Quarterly Meeting, location TBA

**Sept. 16, 7 PM:** Grant Review Sub-Circle Orientation @ Reston Interfaith's office

**Sept. 29, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, 7 PM:** Grant Review meetings @ Reston Interfaith's office

**Nov. 12, 7 PM:** Quarterly Meeting & Voting, location TBA

**Dec. 5:** Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Gift Fair @ Truro Church, Fairfax

**Jan. 30:** Grantee Celebration @ Lake Anne Rose Gallery

## Have You Renewed?

Don't forget to renew your membership and help the Giving Circle of HOPE make a positive difference in our community. To be a Voting Member and eligible to vote on grants, you must contribute \$1/day or more. Both Voting & Service Members are welcome to participate in all of our social and service events.

**All contributions are tax-deductible.**

The Giving Circle of HOPE is a component fund of the Northern Virginia Community Foundation.

## Dear Members & Friends:

The Giving Circle of HOPE was profiled in an article, **7 Reasons to Donate Through a Giving Circle**, in [U.S. News & World Report](#). Check it out!

Many thanks to members who expressed an interest in serving in a leadership position or on a sub-circle committee. We will introduce new Guiding Circle members and share our updated organizational chart at the September meeting.

Our **Flashes of Hope** team, led by **Ginger Bertness**, traveled to Winchester for a Camp Fantastic Friends photo shoot on July 11. Thanks to Jane Williams, Carolyn Gambrel, Donna Cash, and the photographers and makeup stylists for their time. Over 50 teen cancer patients/survivors and their best friends were photographed.

## Recipes Wanted

We are creating **A Cookbook of Our Favorite Soup Recipes**. These books will be typeset in an easy-to-read format and will be professionally printed and bound. They will be sold at the **2010 Empty Bowls** event, and proceeds will be used to fund future and on-going projects supported by the Giving Circle of HOPE.



Please help us make this project a success by submitting your soup recipes. Recipe forms and instructions will be emailed to members or can be requested from [GCHCookbook@msn.com](mailto:GCHCookbook@msn.com). Any member or friend of the GCH may submit a recipe! Your name will be printed along with your recipes. Multiple submissions will be appreciated. Many thanks to **Cheryl Freeman** and **Rebecca Berntsen** for leading this effort!

Early submissions would be appreciated, but the **final deadline is October 1, 2009**.

## Grant Schedule

Grant applications from nonprofit organizations serving needy people in Northern Virginia must be received by **Sept. 1, 2009**.

Sept. 6: Grant screening committee begins  
 Sept. 16: Orientation for grant review committee and distribution of applications  
 Sept. 29, Oct. 7, Oct. 14: Grant review meetings with discussion  
 Oct. 21: Grant application summaries due by reviewers  
 Oct. 29: Grant summaries and ballot distributed to Voting Members  
 Nov. 12: Vote on grants at Quarterly meeting

To serve on any of the grant committees, please contact Diana at [dakatz17@gmail.com](mailto:dakatz17@gmail.com) or Peggy at [peggy.cressy@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy.cressy@yahoo.com).

## Helping Hungry Kids

At our June meeting, Sarah Newman of **Floris Grace Ministries** explained that many elementary students at Title 1 schools (those with a large percentage of students on free/reduced lunch) were at risk of not having adequate food on weekends. Floris was providing storage bags with 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, snacks, juice, and milk to identified students but needs outnumbered their supply.

**Sandy Amato**, **Connie Laurent-Roy**, and **Rebecca Berntsen** decided to take action by forming a new, ongoing program within the Giving Circle of HOPE called **Helping Hungry Kids (HHK)**. They are committed to providing 40 storage bags of food per week to identified

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## We're on Facebook

Join our group  
[GCH - Facebook](#)

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## New Website - Coming Soon

A new, completely redesigned website will be up and running soon!

Visit  
[www.givingcircleofhope.org](http://www.givingcircleofhope.org)

Join Our Mailing List!

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## Quotation of the Month

The best thing about giving of ourselves is that what we get is always better than what we give. The reaction is greater than the action.

Orison Swett Marden

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students at a local elementary school for the coming year, but hope to expand the program in the future.

### How can you help?

- Become a Backpack Buddy by pledging to provide a certain number of food packages per week or month
- Donate money for the purchase of food or bags
- Donate specific food items from the HHK wish list
- Sign up to assemble food packages
- Ask your neighborhood, workplace, faith community, bridge club, or any other group to make a commitment

For more information, please contact Sandy at 703-405-2631 or [smamato@verizon.net](mailto:smamato@verizon.net) or Connie at 703-318-8850 or [conroy@hotmail.com](mailto:conroy@hotmail.com).

## Other Nonprofit News & Needs

**Kids R First**, one of our grantee organizations, will be assembling school supply kits at Langston Hughes Middle School on August 3-7 and August 10-12 from 9AM-12 Noon and 1PM-4PM. To volunteer, please contact Patty at 703-264-0186 or [thegehrings1@verizon.net](mailto:thegehrings1@verizon.net).

On **Works Sunday**, August 16, members of 15+ faith communities in the Reston-Herndon area will join together to do charitable works. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts to collect food items for the Reston Interfaith Food Pantry at 4 local grocery stores. Please contact Joan at 703-620-1611 or [joankasprow@yahoo.com](mailto:joankasprow@yahoo.com) or Marilyn at 703-860-5141 or [marilynsilvey@comcast.net](mailto:marilynsilvey@comcast.net).

**Graceful Spaces**, a non-profit organization that works with families in Reston Interfaith's Transitional Housing programs to create attractive and comfortable homes, seeks donations of non-upholstered furniture, lamps, linens, pictures, flower pots or any other decorative household items. Clean out your clutter and help a needy family at the same time! Contact Anne Strange at 703-309-8277 or [akss@comcast.net](mailto:akss@comcast.net) or Karen Hale at 703-407-7553 or [karenandkirby@comcast.net](mailto:karenandkirby@comcast.net).

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