



Volunteer News

By: Jackie Wynn, Volunteer Coordinator



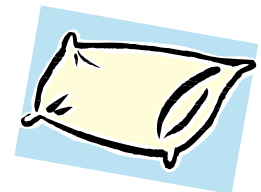
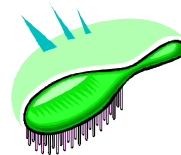
2008 CHRISTMAS 'MAKE A WISH' THANK YOU!

I must admit that with the sluggish economy our country is experiencing I was a bit concerned about donations for this year's Christmas 'Make a Wish' program, but after all these years I should know better than to doubt or be concerned about donations – our community is so very generous! Once again, you all demonstrated that you give from the heart to make Christmas a very special time for the children we serve. On behalf of the 307 children you helped, I thank you. I feel blessed to live in such a caring community!

CLOSET OF HOPE NEEDS

The Closet of Hope could use the following donations:

- Baby Sleepers (especially 9-18 months)
- Car Seat Headrests
- Teen/Adult **Winter** Clothing (sizes 5 to 16)
- Children's **Winter** Clothing (sizes 3T to 12/14)
- New or "Like New" Practical Shoes of All Sizes
- Payless or WalMart Gift Cards
- Deodorant
- Combs/Hair Brushes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Sample-Size Cosmetics for Teen Girls
- New Back Packs
- New Standard Size Pillows & Pillow Cases
- Fleece Blankets



Please call Jackie Wynn, Volunteer Coordinator, at 330-345-5340 Ext. 2378, with questions, or before bringing in donations for permission to drop items off. (This is due to space/storage issues.)

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In recognition of National Mentor Month, I wish to thank all of our volunteers who mentor the youth we serve. Mentoring can be a very rewarding experience for both parties, however, it does come with challenges that our volunteers must face with professionalism. Our mentors freely give of their time and demonstrate compassionate understanding to all they encounter. Thank you to all who mentor ~ you make the world a better place, one child at a time.

THEN & NOW....



THEN...(back row L to R) Chris Gulgass, Steve Baughman, Shaun Fontaine, Doug Huston (middle row L to R) Chris Brubaker, Tim Hagen, Mike Askin, Dave West (front row L to R) Dave Terrano, Andrew Weaver

Some of you may remember our very first program house from the College of Wooster – Iceman House. It was a group of guys who served as volunteer mentors their sophomore through senior years...and they did a great job. It's hard to believe they graduated nearly eight years ago! It has been my pleasure to remain in contact with some of the individuals of the house.

My husband, Dave, and I have been honored to attend a few weddings and other celebrations for the guys, and this September we attended Tim Hagen's wedding. I thought you might find it interesting to see a photo of what the guys look like today.



NOW...(L to R) Dave West, Chris Brubaker, Chris Gulgass, Shaun Fontaine, Tim Hagen, Doug Huston, Andrew Weaver, Steve Baughman

Given the huge impact they had on the youth they mentored, it's no surprise to hear that one guy is a psychologist now, one is completing his doctorate in neuroscience, one is a librarian, two are band directors, one is a probation officer, and another is a professor at a university. All report to be very happy and the majority of the group continues to volunteer in their local communities. It was great to see the guys and some of their families this fall, although I must admit that I felt a bit old when one of them introduced me to *his* daughter – yikes!