

CINCINNATI NEWS



Fall 2012

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Yogi Wess, Director

I did not have the opportunity to meet Armand Marquiset the founder of Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly; everything I have learned about Armand has been through reading, listening and witnessing how his vision of "igniting fires of love across the earth" has inspired and transformed the lives of many.

Armand not only founded LBFE in Paris in 1946 but also founded several other organizations that served unemployed artists, poor suburban children, refugees in internment camps during WW II. Later in his life he traveled to Calcutta where he was invited by Mother Teresa to assist at her home for the dying.

It was there one Christmas day he bought 140 bouquets of 12 roses each, cakes and tangerines:

"We began by giving the roses. Many held out their hands; others with atrophied hands held out their stumps; others gave them to those who could not hold them. I bent down to place a bouquet next to a woman whose body was shriveled. Mother Teresa said to me: "These are her first flowers of eternity. She came here to die." These bouquets illuminated the room and beside these poor skeletons, took on an extraordinary majesty."

Daily I am reminded of the immensity of Armand and Mother Teresa, their greatness, humility, and devotion to the poor. Armand's philosophy of "flowers before bread" existed in everything he did – to provide for each individual not only their basic needs but also to love, to give the niceties. Mother Teresa believed "the hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread." Armand observed that "the greatest poverty of all is the poverty of love" and Mother Teresa exclaimed "the most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved."

It is an honor to send this newsletter which highlights the on-going work of our volunteers who daily remind our elderly that they are remembered and loved; our student volunteers who have embraced the philosophy of LBFE and Ryan Fitzgerald who travels home every holiday to volunteer and our many devoted volunteers who assist us in our fundraising efforts. Cathy Rolfes shares her experience of attending The International Federation assembly in Montreal and being there to celebrate Montreal's 50th anniversary. It was an amazing experience to be able to go to Montreal with Cathy and be part of the assembly. The assembly closed with Dublin's board member Jim O'Brien recalling that Christmas day in Calcutta over 40 years ago when he was with Armand and saw firsthand the interchange of greatness and the impact of pure love.

It is a privilege to work in the shadows of greatness and to be part of what Armand Marquiset began in 1946. Thank you for your belief in the work of LBFE, please continue to support us financially. As this year draws to a close I wish for you a blessed holiday season and New Year.

Lovingly,
Yogi Wess

15th Annual Tom Wess Memorial Golf Outing



First prize winners (l to r)

Paul Egbers, Dan Egbers, Rick Yauss, Chip Schneider

Saturday September 15th was a spectacular day for our 15th annual golf outing. The golf committee of Larry Gibboney, Nancy Erwin, Mark Browning, Kimberly Anderson, Jerry Teuschler and Rick Yauss organized an event that made all ninety-five golfers in attendance happy. All golfers were presented with a "Swag Bag" filled with a variety of items thanks to the hard work of Kimberly Anderson.

Thanks to Gold Sponsors: Kamphaus Plastering LLC, Glenmary Home Missioners, Mark Berning, Jeanette Wess, Yauss Family Dentistry and our Hole in One Sponsors PDT Architects and Stanley Rolfes. Over seventy-five donors contributed which resulted in sixteen baskets creatively assembled by Sue CaJacob- thank you Sue! Jim Dandy's Family BBQ catered the dinner which was enjoyed by the hungry golfers.

(continued on page 3)

Board of Directors

Paul Minbiole	Carol Bross-McMahon
Mark Browning	Jack Henn
Cathy Rolfes	Kimberly Anderson
Marc Rolfes	

Summer Outings 2012

Our summer outings typically start in May and this year was no exception. As soon as the weather improves we head to Great America Ballpark and River Downs Racetrack. We celebrated a Reds win and the life of Mildred Robinson, the aunt of Jane and Don Gardner who sponsored the event. Mildred was Jane's aunt who died in January at 104; she was an avid Reds fan, loved coffee and chocolate ice cream and we enjoyed some that evening in her honor. Our day at River Downs gave us plenty to cheer about as the horses provided us with some close races; we enjoyed a delicious lunch in the clubhouse.



Enjoying the Reds game and chocolate ice cream

The summer continued with a favorite outing – the B&B Riverboat Cruise sponsored by one of our favorite (anonymous) donors again this summer. Over fifty people attended and enjoyed the delicious buffet, beautiful weather and a comfortable cruise up and down the Ohio River.



Cheering on the Reds

We made trips to two well-known cultural institutions in Cincinnati: the Museum Center where folks enjoyed the Pompeii exhibit with an I-Max movie and a group travelled to the Underground Railroad museum and had lunch at Frisch's. We enjoyed a day out for lunch followed by a current movie. For our nature lovers we went to Kestral Point at Winton Woods on a glorious day where we were all challenged by a Nature Scavenger Hunt that Karen created, Paul Oldiges lent his expertise to the grilling and a smorgasbord of food was enjoyed by everyone.

Due to the increase in the temperature we moved our 4th of July party from the beautiful home of Jeanette Wess to the office. Although everyone missed being out of doors it was comfortable to be in an air-conditioned environment enjoying a picnic lunch.

New this summer was an outing to Star Lanes at Newport on the Levee where Jack Henn applied his bowling skills and instructed several of our friends who had not been bowling for years. We closed out the summer with a trip to Findlay Market where everyone had the opportunity to shop for cheese, bread, meat, sausages, and had lunch at the Vietnamese restaurant.



Jack giving Maxine serious bowling instructions

Not to forget our elderly friends who can't get out for the outings we had our annual July picnic at home where they enjoyed metts, brats, potato salad, fruit salad, iced tea and a visit from one of our volunteers.



Aidan prepares Stella to roll a strike

The summer outings give our elderly an opportunity to meet with each other at locations in the Cincinnati area that are fun, educational, stimulating, and life enhancing.

The Generosity of Llanfair



Dick Ostendorf

Faced with an increasing number of elderly friends in wheelchairs and with a wheelchair van that can accommodate just one wheelchair we called upon Llanfair Retirement Community to ask for assistance and for that we are grateful! For the last two years Dick Ostendorf has been graciously providing transportation for our Third Thursday Nursing Home program, providing monthly transportation for our elderly friends

at Judson Village Nursing Home and Oak Hills Nursing Home. In addition, Dick is readily available to assist with our other parties and events. Dick is always willing to assist and provides a much needed service. We are thankful to Sheena Parton and Rosie Wake at Llanfair who allow Dick's schedule to accommodate our needs and many thanks to Dick who not only provides a service but has become a friend to all of us! Thank you Dick. Your involvement with LBFEE has made a huge difference.



Dick, Laurie and Gene enjoying lunch at Third Thursday

My Trip to Montreal

by Cathy Rolfes

On October 25-28, 2012, I had the privilege of traveling with Yogi to Montreal to attend the International Federation of Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly Conference. It was a great experience! Montreal was chosen as the site in recognition of their 50th anniversary. Representatives attended from the US, Canada, Mexico, and Europe – including Paris, the birthplace of Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly. Despite the diversity of geographies, customs, and available social services, each chapter was clearly dedicated to the common mission of relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. One presentation that I particularly enjoyed was about the scientific study of loneliness. The problem is real, measurable, and detrimental to physical and mental wellbeing. Some of the contributing factors such as separation from family and loss of a social network from steady long-term employment are likely to become even more widespread as the population ages.

On the last night of the conference, we were invited to share in the celebration of Montreal's 50th anniversary at a grand dinner dance or "soiree" as they say in French. Over 600 people attended including volunteers and elderly friends from several chapters in the province of Quebec. The night reminded me of a very classy Senior Prom. The anniversary was truly a major milestone in Montreal's history, and they celebrated in grand style. There was a wonderful dinner and lots of dancing. The French-Canadian entertainers were well known among the elderly, and there was a kind of "Idol" excitement.

Overall, I gained a greater appreciation of the history of Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly. I have a new sense of Cincinnati being part of a bigger and better connected organization as the US chapters have committed to sharing ideas and best practices via regular communication. As Cincinnati celebrates our 15th anniversary in 2013, I look forward to many major milestones like Montreal's in our future, too. Thanks for this opportunity.

15th Annual Tom Wess Memorial Golf Outing

(continued)

When the scores were tallied it was the foursome of Paul Egbers, Dan Egbers, Rick Yauss and Chip Schneider that took first – Congratulations.

Thanks to volunteers Cathy Rolfes, Marc Rolfes, Peggy Dadone, Paul D'Alessandro, Lucy Wess Yauss, Rosemary Olding, Laurie McGrail, Paul Oldiges and Jacqueline Wollman for assisting with the outing and thanks to the work of a great committee!



Kimberly and the "Swag Bag"



Nancy Erwin and John Schomaker getting ready to face the course



Mark Berning receives the "Early Bird" prize from Yogi

Serving our elderly, Serving our country

My name is Ryan Fitzpatrick and I am 19 years old. I graduated from Oak Hills High School in 2011 and I am currently in the Marines Corps where I am stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I have been volunteering with LBFE with Nick and Debbie Valitutto for almost 9 years now. Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet some great elders, a few of them I still see to this day. In my opinion it is very rewarding seeing the faces of people who don't always have someone to spend the holidays with and have an hour or two to just talk to someone. LBFE is a fantastic organization that does many good things for people in need. For the past two years I have been in the service, I have been lucky enough to make it to all of the major holidays and I will continue to do so as long as the corps allows me too. I would highly encourage anyone that doesn't already help to please give a hand to someone in need. Thank you LBFE you have made a HUGE impact in my life in the sense of being a good person and a better man.



Debbie Valitutto and Ryan Fitzgerald on Thanksgiving Day

Students embrace the mission of LBFE

In the beginning of the school year we received calls from area schools asking if we would like to be involved with their students to which we replied - yes!



McAuley Freshmen Service Day Group

ten of our elderly friends arrived we engaged in our version of "speed dating" in which the students would travel from table to table asking the elderly questions about their lives and the elderly had the opportunity to ask the girls about life as a fifteen year old girl. We enjoyed a delicious lunch together and afterward we shared observations with the whole group. At the end of the time together the students entertained with cheers, songs and followed up with inviting us to attend some of their sporting events which we hope we will be able to do in the spring. Thank you McAuley!

For the third year we are a service site participant for La Salle High School's Senior Religion Class, Catholic Social Teaching. We have been assigned two seniors - Jake Eisenacher and Alex Bowman. Jake and Alex average one class period a week when they come to the office and assist with whatever is needed. Jake and Alex have assisted with Third Thursday, clerical needs, decorating the office, cleaning, running errands and have done whatever is asked with a smile. It is a pleasure to have them with us for the academic year.



Jake Eisenacher & Alex Bowman



Morgan Rogers

As a senior at the Lindsey Wilson College, School of Profession Counseling, Morgan Rogers is required to complete a practicum with a non-profit. Starting with us in August, Morgan has been instrumental in developing our new Nursing Home Visiting Program. Morgan has spent hours visiting our elderly friends in area nursing home interviewing them discussing their likes, dislikes, commenting on their personalities which will assist us in matching them with a volunteer. Morgan has participated in summer outings, assisted with assessments, cooked for events, bowled and has twenty elders she visits. In early December Morgan will make a presentation to our board summarizing her experience and highlighting

what she has learned and what impact the practicum has had on her professionally. As Morgan's graduation approaches we wish her the best and thank her for completing her practicum with LBFE!

Memorial Service

On November 1, 2012 our annual memorial service was held. A candle was lit and memories shared for each of our old friends that passed away this past year. They will be missed and we are blessed to have called them friend.

Estelle Wilson

MC Wright

Johnnie Mae Stanford

Mary Miller

Evelyn Molinari

Sylvia Townshend

Billy Gray

Richard Marries

Billie Reinhart

Robert Young

Elsa Kenning

Rona Riibner

Martha Peak

Lena Pendery

Carl Van Kamp

Mary Franzoni

Annette Sears

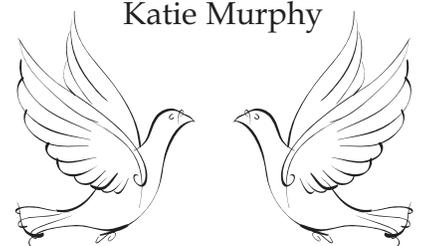
Trudy Hierlinger

Elmer Michael

Eugene Martin

Dorothy Adams

Katie Murphy



Halloween Party

Traditionally Halloween is a well-attended party because it is fun and gives people a chance to be creative; this year was no different. The large crowd enjoyed garlic meatballs, cheese and cracker appetizers followed by a delicious dinner of pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, cranberry salad, and rolls with butter. For dessert we had pumpkin ice cream and Halloween cookies.



(l to r) Volunteers Lucy Wess Yauss, Elijah Mock, Randi Maxwell and Samantha Norton show their creative carving work



And the winner is.....Jackie the television set!

After dinner those in costumes paraded for our judges competing for the top two prizes. To the beat of disco music, participants danced through the crowd trying to make the best impressions on the judges. Jackie Gilroy (dressed up as a television) and Ron Bingle (confined to a wheelchair but that didn't make his monster costume any less scary) were the winners and awarded with a nice prize.

The party continued with a spectacular magic show performed by Bill Pryor. He put on the bumbling show which had people completely amazed but also howling with laughter. Bill could make many things disappear but he couldn't make any of the delighted and happy faces of people enjoying themselves disappear.

When leaving the party everyone received a party bag with cookies, candy, and beautiful flowers. A great time was had by all.

Malcolm Dinner

For his fifth year of coming to Cincinnati to raise money, impress, delight and amaze us with his culinary skills Malcolm Hudson did indeed do it again! On a cold Saturday evening in October outside in a tent at the home of Beth and Tom McLean felt like an evening in Paris. With their keen ability toward detail and artistic skill Beth along with her friend Vicki Frisch gave the fifty diners in attendance an atmosphere rivaling that of any French restaurant and then there was the food! Beth and Malcolm presented five different appetizers that delighted everyone's palate. The salad was outstanding, there were baguettes served throughout the meal with herb butter and Malcolm's smoked sea bass chowder was a crowd pleaser. Beef tenderloin with madeira sauce and roasted root vegetables served as the main course and left everyone satisfied. Dessert was presented inside where everyone enjoyed chocolate dacquoise, petit four and Beth's indescribable homemade caramels (several diners were observed sticking several in their pockets). We are grateful to Steve Shockley for his culinary skills and being available again this year, for the hard work of Anne McLean, Gai Russo, Mary Seguin, Diane Peterson, Vicki Frisch, Neal Gellenbeck for setting up the tent, Beth and Tom McLean and Malcolm who made it all possible.

International Day of Older Persons

On December 14, 1990, the UN General Assembly made October 1 the **International Day of Older Persons** which was observed for the first time throughout the world on October 1, 1991. On October 1, 2012 LBFE chapters around the world celebrated by passing out flowers and Cincinnati was no exception. On the morning of October 1 a group of



Cathy Rolfes and Deborah Mauk ready to meet the crowd on Fountain Square on October 1

dedicated volunteers gathered on Fountain Square to pass out 600 red carnations donated by Adrian Durban Florists and tagged with information about LBFE and aging. Although some people reacted skeptically we successfully distributed the carnations and spread the word about LBFE as did LBFE in Warsaw, Barcelona and Paris. Thanks to all the volunteers who tagged the carnations and those who participated on Fountain Square.



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SAVE THE DATE

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday February 10, 2013

Celebrity Bartender Night

Tuesday February 19, 2013

15th Year Anniversary Celebration

Saturday March 2, 2013

Italian Dinner with Mary Seguin

Sunday May 5, 2013

16th Annual Golf Outing

Saturday September 14, 2013



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NPO # which is **83275**

(if you have any problems or issues with registering, call Karen 542-7555)



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