

The Building BLOCK



E-Newsletter

Veteran's Group Hosts Annual Christmas Party for the Kids

Despite a major ice storm and lingering power outages, the 40 et 8 of Oklahoma hosted their 59th annual open house and Christmas party for invited guests, and the inpatients and staff of the J. D. McCarty Center.

The 40 et 8 of Oklahoma is an honor society within the American Legion and the founding organization for what is now the McCarty Center. The 40 et 8 established this pediatric rehab hospital in 1946. When the hospital first opened it only treated one diagnosis...cerebral palsy. Today, the hospital has treated more than 70 different diagnoses in the developmental disability category.

The festivities began at noon with an open house. This was an opportunity for guests to look around the hospital and participate in the annual tradition of judging the office door decorations. This year's theme was a centennial Christmas and the winner, for the fourth year in a row, was the administration department. The decorating team for the winning door was led by Tina Martinez from human resources.

Just prior to Santa Claus making his arrival at the party, there were two announcements made regarding donations to the hospital. The first announcement involved the various 40 et 8 Voitures and Cabanes in the Oklahoma City metro area that donated \$4,280 to the hospital.

Amy Herritt, a junior marketing major from Oklahoma City, made the second announcement. Herritt was representing the Sooner Sleep Company, a company formed by business students from the IBC class in the Price School of Business at the University of Oklahoma. Each year students in this class form companies that develop, produce and market a product with the profits from the product sales going to a charity. This year the Sooner Sleep Company chose to support the McCarty Center. They sold OU blankets with the slogan "Before there was a state, there was Oklahoma football" printed on them.

Herritt announced that her student company would be donating more than \$13,000 to the McCarty Center from the sale of these blankets.

Christmas cheer was everywhere this day. Two blocks down Robinson Street from the McCarty Center there was a crew working to restore electric power lines. The crew was made up of power crews from Houston, Texas, Tennessee and Eastern Oklahoma.

The McCarty Center invited the men to come to the party for lunch. Due to work rules and a tight schedule, the crew members weren't able to come to the hospital for lunch, so lunch was brought to the grateful crews along with heartfelt thanks for their help in putting the area back together after the ice storm.

The party concluded with a visit from the jolly old elf himself. Santa delivered presents to the inpatients of the McCarty Center with the help of his 40 et 8 elves.

As is a tradition at the 40 et 8 party, all children under the age of 12 were invited to go to Santa's toy box to pick out a gift for themselves.



Santa Claus, portrayed by McCarty Center employee Jason Wheeler, waves farewell to the crowd after handing out gift bags for 33 inpatients.

Ghosts, Goblins and Ghouls Roam McCarty Center Hallways

Ghosts, goblins and ghouls, sprinkled with a few super heroes, roamed the halls on Halloween at the J. D. McCarty Center...and that was just the staff.

It is a long standing tradition at the McCarty Center for members of the staff and patients to dress up for Halloween and go trick or treating at the various offices within the hospital. This year was no exception.

Volunteer groups from the University of Oklahoma were instrumental in helping the patients at the McCarty Center have a good time. The McCarty Center's therapy department hosts a fall carnival with games that lend themselves to therapy activities for both inpatients and outpatients.

The activities included pin the face on the pumpkin, coloring Halloween pictures, bean bag toss, fall bingo, scavenger hunt, soccer kick and temporary tattoos. The kids earned "boo bucks" at each activity stop. The kids then used their "boo bucks" to buy gifts from the prize room.

McCarty Center volunteer Hanna Grosse, a senior speech-language pathology major from San Antonio, Texas, enlisted the help of members of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, and the Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity to set up the activities and hand out "boo bucks" to the kids.

"Fraternities and sororities are always looking for volunteer opportunities," said Grosse. "Our houses wanted to do something for Halloween and helping with this fall carnival was something that interested both the Theta's and Fiji's so we made it a joint project." Approximately 17 members from both houses were on hand to help with the fall carnival.

The women of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority hosted the "Kappa Karnival" for the inpatients on Halloween night. The carnival activities included face painting, cookie decorating, fishing for prizes, marble painting and basketball throw. Approximately 45 members of the Kappa house were on hand to set up the carnival activities and play with the kids.

The McCarty Center is the Kappa's local philanthropy project. "I wanted more girls to get here to see the hospital and interact with the kids," said Helen Tracy, a junior early childhood education major from Cheyene, Oklahoma, and philanthropy chair for the Kappa's. "It's important for the girls to see first hand what they work hard to support through the Kappa Klassic golf tournament and the Fairy Tale Friends project.



Tiffani Holder (left) gets her face painted by a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority from the University of Oklahoma. The Kappa's hosted the "Kappa Karnival" for the inpatients of the J. D. McCarty Center on Halloween night. Kappa's were one of three Greek organizations from OU who volunteered to help with different activities during the day of Halloween.

Kappa Klassic Continues to Grow

The women of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at the University of Oklahoma continue to raise the bar in their support of the McCarty Center.

In a brief presentation ceremony during chapter meeting on Monday night, October 22, the Kappa's philanthropy chairperson, Helen Tracy, presented a check to the McCarty Center in the amount of \$21,561. Accepting the check for the McCarty Center was Uwe von Schamann, director of development.

"We can't thank these young women enough for what they do for the McCarty Center," said von Schamann.

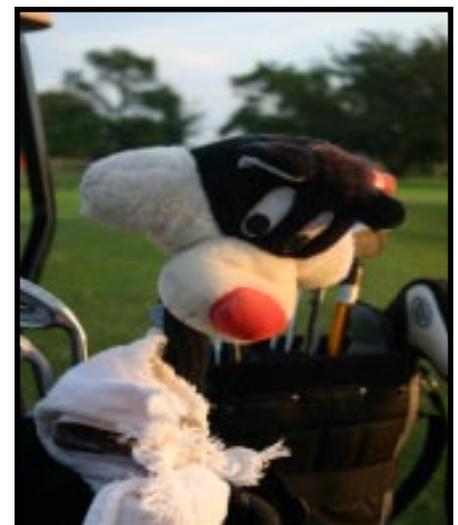
The check for \$21,561 represented the proceeds from the 9th annual Kappa Klassic golf tournament held on Saturday, September 29, at the Westwood Golf Course in Norman. This year's scramble tournament had 200 golfers playing in both a morning round and an afternoon round. The number of golfers was up from last year's 172. Golfers participating in this year's event came from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Tulsa, Dallas, Wichita Falls and Oklahoma City.

This year's Kappa Klassic raised almost \$6,100 more than last year's event.

According to von Schamann, the money from this year's Kappa Klassic will go into a scholarship endowment fund for Camp ClapHans. Camp ClapHans is the summer camp that the McCarty Center is building on its 80-acre campus on the east side of Norman.

"Many families that would like to send their children to a summer camp can't afford to do so," explained von Schamann. "This endowment fund will allow Camp ClapHans to help some families by providing a full or partial camp scholarship to attend a week of summer camp."

Besides supporting the McCarty Center financially, the Kappa's also invest their time in the hospital. This year marks the third year for their Fairy Tale Friends program where members of the sorority volunteer to read bedtime stories to the patients.



Sylvester the cat head cover.

OMCA Decks the Halls of JDM

Members of the Oklahoma Municipal Contractor's Association (OMCA) helped put the McCarty Center one step closer to Christmas in what is becoming an annual tradition for OMCA. Members of OMCA, which is a statewide trade organization for the municipal contracting and construction trades, have been decorating Christmas trees in the main building of the McCarty Center for the last three years. Each tree is themed.



OMCA member Fran Krapff puts the finishing touches to the cowboy tree. Looking on is OMCA member Donny Noble.

"The first year we did this we decorated three trees in the main lobby of the hospital," explained Rick Moore, executive director for OMCA. "This year we've decorated seven trees located in the main lobby and in the main hallways of the hospital," he added.

The themes of this year's trees are a candy cane tree, a cowboy tree, a Hawaiian tree, a McDonalds toy tree, an animal cracker tree and a lollipop tree. A tall, elegant old-fashioned Victorian style Christmas tree, complete with an oversized train set filled with stuffed animals, greets visitors to the McCarty Center in the main lobby.

"We are so appreciative of the time and effort OMCA invests in supporting our hospital," said Uwe von Schamann, the McCarty Center's director of development. "Our association with OMCA spans more than 40 years. Besides the tree decoration, OMCA hosts an annual charity golf tournament to raise money for the hospital and a wonderful Christmas party for our inpatients," von Schamann added.

"Our members have made it very clear to me that the McCarty Center is their project of choice," said Moore. "They believe that by focusing their efforts on one organization that they can make a real impact on that organization and they prove that theory every year," he added.



This Victorian style Christmas tree graces the main lobby of the McCarty Center.



Deana Jones with OMCA places large lollipops in the lollipop tree.

The Building BLOCK

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OU Women's Soccer Team Paint Dalmatians for McCarty Center Christmas Decoration Project

How do Dalmatians get their spots?

In the case of the 101 Dalmatian Christmas decorations being created by the McCarty Center, they get painted on by the University of Oklahoma's Women's Soccer Team.

Eighteen members of the 2007 Sooner soccer team answered the call for volunteers. "We're in the process of developing a 101 Dalmatian Christmas scene," explained Beverly Jennings, the McCarty Center's conference center director. "We're cutting out a few each year from plywood until we have our 101. The soccer team helped us out by painting the first group of 50 Dalmatians. We hope to have them back next year to paint the next group," Jennings added.

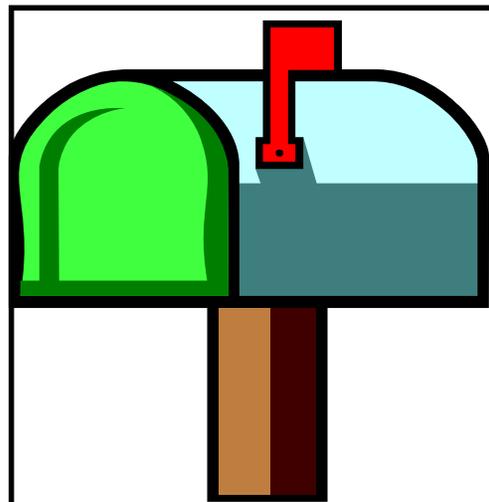
"I look for ways for our team to build a sense of community that goes beyond the university and the soccer field," said associate head soccer coach Christian Michner. "This project was something that the girls were excited about doing and it was fun for them. The McCarty Center got a project completed and the girls had a constructive diversion from their daily routine as student-athletes," Michner added.

University of Oklahoma student-athlete volunteers are not uncommon at the McCarty Center. According to Greg Gaston, director of marketing for the McCarty Center, the OU women's basketball team and a member of the OU volleyball team have volunteered at the hospital in the recent past. "The McCarty Center has always enjoyed good volunteer support from OU students," said Gaston.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the McCarty Center should contact volunteer coordinator Sarah Michner at 405.307.2800 or by e-mail at smichner@jdmc.org.



University of Oklahoma women's soccer team member Ashley Farrand is painting a nose on one of 50 Dalmatian puppy cutouts at the J. D. McCarty Center. Farrand, a sophomore midfielder from Jenks, Oklahoma, was one of 18 OU soccer players who volunteered to work on this 101 Dalmatian Christmas project for the McCarty Center.



We have a new mailing address

**J. D. McCarty Center
2002 E. Robinson St.
Norman, Oklahoma
73071**



Eighteen members of the University of Oklahoma women's soccer team display the finished product from their volunteer project for the J. D. McCarty Center. The soccer team painted 50 of what will eventually be 101 Dalmatians for a Christmas scene at the hospital. The McCarty Center is a pediatric rehab hospital for children with developmental disabilities in Norman.

Contractors Continue A Christmas Tradition

For Second Year in a Row Contractors Donate More than \$40,000 to the McCarty Center

Inpatients at the McCarty Center were beneficiaries of a tradition that has gone on for more than 40 years as the Oklahoma Municipal Contractor's Association (OMCA) hosted their annual Christmas party for the children.

Shortly after Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus arrived to dispense gifts to the inpatients, the OMCA dispensed a gift of their own to the McCarty Center. Allen Couch, with W. N. Couch, Inc. of Tulsa and current OMCA president, presented a check for \$40,278 to Curt Peters, director and CEO of the McCarty Center.

Couch is a second-generation president of OMCA. Both his father and mother were presidents of OMCA. Art Couch served from 1980 - 1981. Sylvia Couch served from 1984 - 1985. Sylvia Couch is the only woman to ever serve as president of this state trade organization.



Mrs. Claus offers an Elmo to an Earl...Earl Halbritter a young patient at the J. D. McCarty Center in Norman...during the Oklahoma Municipal Contractor's Association annual Christmas party for the rehab hospital's inpatients. Holding Halbritter is Natalie Bell, McCarty Center direct care specialist. Portraying Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus are OMCA members Don Manning and Vicki Moore.



Cousins Nick and Madie Noble, ages 10 and 8, volunteer as Santa's helpers during the Oklahoma Municipal Contractor's Association annual Christmas party for the inpatients of the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities in Norman. Nick is the son of Tom and Gabi Noble. Madie is the daughter of Donny and Cheryl Noble. Between the two families there are six children who volunteer as Santa's helpers.

This is the second year in a row that OMCA has donated more than \$40,000 to the McCarty Center. "Our members believe that by focusing on one charity that they can really make a difference," said Rick Moore, executive director of OMCA. "At this level of support we can help with various hospital projects in a very significant way," he added.

The money comes from the proceeds of OMCA's annual charity golf tournament held in September to benefit the McCarty Center.

It's hard to say who has more fun at this party...the kids or the members of OMCA who dress like elves and help Santa Claus hand out the gifts. The involvement of the members goes beyond the party. The members of OMCA and their families go out and shop for the individual patients to try and make some of their Christmas list wishes come true.

Several members of OMCA have begun including their children in this project as a

means of teaching volunteerism. Participating as Santa's helpers this year were Laurel Thomason, age 12, daughter of Charlie and Kris Thomason; Nick Noble, age 10 and Carter Noble, age 8, sons of Tom and Gabi Noble; and their cousins Dillon Noble, age 12, Madie Noble, age 8, twin sister Samantha Noble and Parker Noble, age 10, the children of Donny and Cheryl Noble.

This was the second year for this group of Santa's helpers to work this party. When asked what they liked best about it their answers included "seeing the smiles on the patient's faces when they got their bag of gifts" and "helping Santa by shopping for the gifts".

When asked what they had learned from the experience they all agreed that volunteering could be fun work, and earning some extra 'I've been good' points with Santa Claus didn't hurt anything either.

Uwe's Corner



with
Uwe von Schamann
Director of Development

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors for their continued support in 2007.

I also want to thank all the groups and organizations that held fundraising events on our behalf, including the Oklahoma Municipal Contractor's Association, Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority from the University of Oklahoma, the Coves Country Club at Grand Lake and the IBC class from the Price School of Business at the University of Oklahoma.

Here are the results of these events:

OMCA's 22nd annual golf tournament raised over \$40,000 for the second year in a row. The Kappa Klassic golf tournament continues to grow, raising \$21,500 this year. The Coves, in their second year of hosting a charity golf event, raised \$18,000. IBC raised more than \$13,000 from their product sales on our behalf.

We are in the process of finalizing the architectural plans for the Camp ClapHans summer camp project. Hopefully, we'll be able to make a big announcement this spring.

We are continuing to raise money for the Camp ClapHans scholarship endowment fund to insure that we can provide a one-week camping experience for kids who might not otherwise be able to afford it. Scholarships will range from quarter, half, three quarter, to full depending on each family's ability to pay.

Looking ahead at 2008, dates have been set for three of our events. Gutter Dance V, a charity bowling event, is set for Thursday, May 8 at the Sooner Bowling Center.

The 23rd annual OMCA golf tournament has been scheduled for Monday, September 8, at the Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City. The 3rd annual Coves golf tournament is set for Monday, October 6, at the Coves Country Club on Bird Island on Grand Lake.

I'm very proud to have been here for six years now, and I'm very excited about the upcoming year because of our summer camp project. I look forward to the day when we have our grand opening. That is what gives me the motivation to work with our individual donors, groups and organizations that share the same passion about our special kids as I do .

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tax Deductible Donations

We are a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit hospital. Donation checks may be made out to the J. D. McCarty Center or the J. D. McCarty Center Foundation. The IRS has designated these donations tax deductible.

For questions about supporting the McCarty Center, contact Uwe von Schamann, director of development, at 405.307.2804 or uschamann@jdmc.org.

Donation Card

Thank you for your support of the programs, services and capital building needs of the J. D. McCarty Center. Please fill out this card, cut it out and mail it along with your check to Uwe von Schamann, Director of Development, J. D McCarty Center, 2002 East Robinson Street, Norman, Oklahoma 73071.

Make your check payable to: J. D. McCarty Center Foundation

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