

# ONE TO ONE

The Key to Compassion



Volume IV, Issue III Winter 2011

## Hearts of Gold Campaign Exceeds Expectations

“Thank you! Thank you!” Executive Director, Abbie Cox expressed gratitude at the tremendous outpouring of generosity during the recent Hearts of Gold annual gift collection campaign, as 4500 items were distributed to the 2415 residents in the 23 area nursing home facilities served by Project Compassion. Key Persons and facility Activity Directors transported the gifts to their respective nursing homes in time for each facility’s holiday Christmas party. Hearts of Gold focuses on those nursing home residents without any family or friends, and then distributes gifts to the remaining residents. In addition to the many items collected, cash donations were also received. “Money is certainly appreciated as it allows us to shop for those hard-to-find sizes, typically 4x up to some requests for 8x,” said Betty Coots, board member and Hearts of Gold chair. Residents at twenty-three area nursing homes received gifts.



The 20th annual campaign kicked off with an Open House which was hosted by longtime supporter, Simmons First National Bank. Pianist, Bill Murray and soloist Sherry Savage, Activity Director, Fianna Hills Health and Rehabilitation (pictured here left to right) entertained those in attendance.



Others participating in the program were, Drew Michaels, ABC 40/29 Meteorologist; Nancy Zornes, co-Key, Methodist Nursing Home (shown top right); and

the crowd-pleasing, Jack & Jill Daycare Center singers.

*Related story and additional photographs-page 3.*

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- Highlights from the Key Person Brunch and the World’s Best Ever Cranberry Salad!

“...Bringing Joy, Companionship and Quality of Life to Nursing Home Residents.”

**Project Compassion  
Member Facilities**

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Alma Health & Rehab

**Arkoma, OK**

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**Barling, AR**

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**Charleston, AR**

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**Fort Smith, AR**

Chapel Ridge H & R  
Covington Court H & R  
Fianna Hills Nursing Home  
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Methodist Nursing Home  
River Valley Health & Rehab  
St. Scholastica Infirmary

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A United Way Community Partner  
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**Joyce Henderson Receives Key Person Award**

Accolades all around for this year's recipient of the Marion Stephens Key Person of the Year award, Joyce Henderson, (pictured here with the 'Key' award). Henderson began her volunteer career with Project Compassion in 2000. She currently serves as co-Key at Chapel Ridge Health and Rehabilitation (formerly Medi-Home, Fort Smith).



Henderson for her contributions to better the lives of Chapel Ridge residents were Administrator Kristi Terry, and Activity Director, Sue Bly (pictured below, left to right with Henderson).

The award is named after one of the first Key Persons, Marion Stephens; who also served as the first President of the Board from 1975 to 1983. The award was designed as a jeweled-key by Daryl Schultheiss and produced locally by Newton's Jewelers.

Henderson, along with co-Key and sidekick, Betty Stutts, can be seen regularly on Friday during the weekly bingo session. "It just makes me feel so good when I can help the residents enjoy playing," stated Henderson. She added, "It is a blessing to be able to spend time (with the residents) and know that I can make a difference in their lives." On hand to recognize



**FSACF Awards Grant**

Darrel Cunningham, Executive Director of the Fort Smith Area Community Foundation, was on hand recently to present a check to Project Compassion representatives. Cunningham addressed the assembled group and explained the FSACF is a non-profit public charity which manages endowment funds, and makes grants to non-profits. Established in 1988 to help solve community problems, address unmet

community needs and build the philanthropic capacity in the Fort Smith community.  
Thank you, FSACF!



Accepting the FSACF grant from Darrel Cunningham were (l to r) Sister Judith Marie Keith, Abbie Cox and Betty Coots

**Training scheduled**

A two-day training session was recently held on February 10 & 11. One of the days was devoted to the 'under-21' volunteers, known as, Morning Gloria's and Gloria's Guys. Both sessions were sponsored by Area Agency on Aging. Look for additional details online regarding the next two-day training in May.

## Applause for Our Supporters

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**When someone asks what you would like for a gift, please suggest to them to make a donation to Project Compassion. We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit agency so your gifts are deductible.**

## 2011-2012 Officers Installed



Congratulations to the recently-elected Officers and Directors (see complete listing on page 2). Rotating off the Board of Directors were Dr. Calline Ellis, Mark Buergler and Monty Watts, CPA, JD. Their tenure was noted with appreciation for their service. (Pictured left to right above: Sister Judith Keith, Betty Coots, Sister Elise Forst and Pat Fellner share a chuckle before being sworn into office.)

The annual Easter Bunny Collection Campaign hops in March 15 - April 15. Last year almost 600 bunnies and other soft, stuffed toys were distributed. Member facilities receiving 'bunnies' are on a rotation basis from year to year. Look for details coming soon online.

## More...Hearts of Gold



(Starting above clockwise) Jack & Jill singers join the crowd to sing 'Silent Night', Simmons' staff make sure guests have plenty of refreshments, and two young 'angels' sing along with J. W. Taylor. **The 2011 Hearts of Gold Open House will be Wednesday, November 30, from 11am—1pm.**



### Gloria White Community Angel Award

- **Outstanding Record of Community Service**
  - **Compassionate Nature**
  - **Dedication to the Welfare of those in Need**
- Know someone? Provide examples of the three criteria and mail to the PC office before March 1st. Winner will be recognized at the March 10th PC Birthday party event. Look for your invitation coming in the mail.**

## Key Person Brunch, very nice, very tasty!



Buergler thanks a Trinity student for helping.)

Guests attending the annual Key Person brunch were treated to a great meal prepared by the Sisters at St. Scholastica, which included the world's best-ever cranberry salad! Trinity Jr. High students assisted by serving. (at left: Bill

(below) Abbie Cox slows down a minute during the event to pose with Past-President, Debbie Findley





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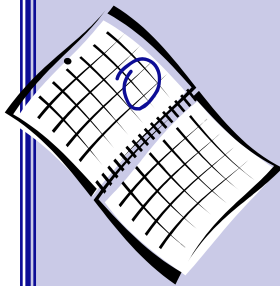
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### *Dates to Remember*



- March 1 Gloria White Community Angel Award (GWCA)-nominations due
- March 10 GWCA Award & PC Birthday event
- March 15 Easter Bunny collection ( through April 15)
- April 14 Volunteer Appreciation luncheon
- April 20 Easter Bunny collection distribution
- April 21 United Way Day of Caring
- May 12 Key Person Workshop