



# THURSDAY'S CHILD Newsletter

Volume XXVI

Founded in 1984

May 2013

## Dear Friends:

*Thursday's Child, like many worthwhile nonprofit organizations, is watching its pennies closely these days. One way to save money is to reduce the size of our annual newsletter, saving printing and mailing costs. Another way we have chosen to save money is to discontinue our toll free phone number. These days, with almost everyone using email or cell phones, we decided that having a toll free number was just an unnecessary expense.*

*Our minimal administrative expenses allow us to put just about all of the money we receive to good use helping kids who need a wish. Stamps, letterhead and brochures are the extent of our expenses.*

*We've had a good year. The Jingle Bell Run, the Madison College Turkey Trot, the Kappa Alpha Sigma Sorority Spaghetti Supper, the Kelly Meier Memorial Trail Ride, Culver's of Grafton, Dodgeville, and Tomah as well as all of our individual supporters keep us going. Thank you, everyone!*

## Memorial Trail Ride

We had 90 riders, ages 6-84, at our annual Trail Ride. We had several people from the Rockford, IL area, who enjoy it so much that they are coming yearly. We had a perfect day!

Justin Reding helped me with the trail this year and was my trail boss. He also helped the day before with Jackie Ley and Wyatt, and got things ready at the barn. Winner of the yearly Montana belt buckle give away was Colleen Kowalski Ploessl, who has been a wonderful supporter of the trail ride and Thursday's Child. The belt buckle is donated yearly by the Lazy L Ranch – Jackie and Wyatt. This is a free raffle. Rules are you must ride a horse, be over age 12, and can only win it once and must come back next year (my rules! Ha ha!) Last year's winner let her 6-year-old son receive the belt buckle as the winner, and he was again on the trail ride this year. He has not taken the buckle off since he won it last year, per his mother!

--Sandy Meier

*Many thanks to Sandy for once again raising money to benefit not only Thursday's Child but also the 4H Horse Camp. The September 16 trail ride raised \$1500.*

*The 2013 Trail Ride is September 15, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. prompt. Enjoy riding through the beautiful hills and valleys of southwest Wisconsin.*

*For information contact  
Sandy at 608-732-7737.*



## **Dear Thursday's Child...**

I would like to send out a huge thank you to all those who are involved in making Thursday's Child a reality. I am one of those children that was able to make a wish. I am eighteen years old and will be starting my first year of college in the fall of 2012. Being the practical person that I am, I decided to make a wish for a laptop with programs on it, a case, a wireless mouse, and a printer. I knew that next year in college it would be a very beneficial move for me to find a way to attain these items. One of the social workers at the American Family Children's Hospital, Joyce Kilgore-Carlin, was the one who informed me on Thursday's Child organization. With the help of Ms. Kilgore-Carlin and my doctors at UW Health, I was able to submit a wish.

I was informed by Steve Maerz that I would be granted my wish. Mr. Maerz was very considerate to what I had to say and was more than capable of informing me of what types of laptops would be best. He made sure all the programs I was looking for were on the laptop and helped me to make

decisions when it came to "computer" information. He was very informative; in that, he would send me an e-mail or call while he was in the process of ordering the laptop and accessories. The entire process was speedy and effectual. When the laptop arrived, Mr. Maerz let me know that he was more than happy to answer any questions or concerns I might have about my laptop, printer, etc.

Overall, my experience with Thursday's Child was exceptional. In terms of the school's grading system, I'd give an A+. Again I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this wish come true for me; as well as the many other wishes that are granted for numerous other children. This wish being granted was like having a bright spot shining on me when I was in a dark place--going through troubling times. Thank you for your consideration, support, and all those involved in making this organization possible.

***Sincerely, Olivia Erl  
Medford, WI***

## **Meals Provide Food for Comfort**

Thursday's Child funds six evening meals per year for parents of seriously ill children who are patients at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison. Often the parent does not want to leave the child's bedside, the child does not want the parents to leave, and for some families who spend much time in the hospital, the cost of their food becomes a significant budget concern.

This is the 11th year that Thursday's Child has been able to continue this worthwhile service.



Each evening meal serves 50-60 people. Thursday's Child donates \$3,000 per year to provide six meals.

The hospital, through money donated by NFL Alumni, funds one meal per week. Other meals come from organizations like ours.

Any sick child's wish is to have Mom or Dad close by. Providing family members with a hot meal at the end of a stressful day is very much appreciated.

## **GIFTS IN THEIR MEMORY:**

**Jerry Barton, Glen Haven**

(given by a friend)

**Shane Hess, Stoughton**

(given by his grandparents)

**Kelly Meier, Potosi**

(given by her parents, brothers and grandmother)

**Drew Morris, Janesville**

(given by his parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle and cousins)

**Nicolas Seta Ratsimihah, Madison**

(given by his mother)

**Paul Schumacher, Potosi**

(given by his wife and daughters)

**Edith Wetter, Lancaster**

(given by her son and daughter-in-law)

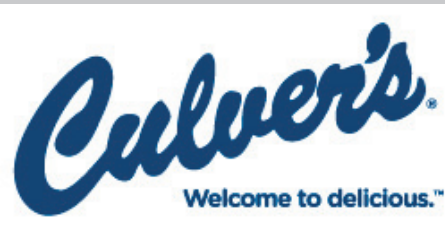


## **About Thursday's Child**

*For 29 years Thursday's Child has made wishes come true for thousands of seriously ill children living within and/or treated within southwest and south central Wisconsin, thanks to the generous support it has received from so many good people.*

*Thursday's Child has no salaried staff and its administrative expenses continue to hold at less than 10% of all donations received, which is a requirement of the organization's bylaws.*

*Charitable contributions are down and the cost of providing nonprofit services are up. Thursday's Child is no exception to this fact. Please continue to support this organization by sending your tax deductible contribution to Thursday's Child, P.O. Box 95, Mt. Hope, WI 53816.*



## **Culver's Commitment**

*Culver's continues its long standing commitment to many area nonprofit organizations that greatly benefit from their contributions. Many thanks to Craig and Lea Culver, the Dodgeville Culver's, the Grafton Culver's, and the Tomah Culver's for their continued support of Thursday's Child.*

# New Board President

Diane Puccetti, M.D. is our new President. She is the third person to assume this responsibility since our inception in 1984.

Many of you will recall Ron Thorstad, our first president and co-founder. We never could have gotten off the ground without his able leadership. His business talent and countless hours of commitment put us on the map.

When Ron retired from the Board in 1995, Founding Board member Paul Dvorak, M.D., became President. A member of the Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology staff at Dean Clinic since 1972, Paul knows first hand the value of a child's wish, and has been an advocate for the hundreds, if not thousands, of children and their families who can benefit (and have benefited) from Thursday's Child's services. Dr. Dvorak is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology. His guidance and wisdom have defined our organization for 17 years. He remains on the Board of Directors where he will continue to work on behalf of the families we want to help. Paul is a treasured friend who is loved and appreciated by all of us who work with him.

Diane Puccetti, M.D. is a Faculty member of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, a Pediatric Hematologist and Oncologist on staff at American Family Children's Hospital and Meriter Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and a mom to a young daughter. One of Madison Magazine's Top Doctors, 2012, Diane is devoted to her patients and their families. She has been a member of the Thursday's Child Board of Directors since 1997. Thanks to Diane and Paul, who are guided by both their medical expertise and their hearts, we know who needs our help.

## TRICOR FRIENDS



It all started with Lisa Roh, Platteville, who was once on the Thursday's Child Board and has always maintained ties with the organization. An employee of Tricor at the time, Lisa suggested that the company look at Thursday's Child as a beneficiary of their fund raising plans. Jack Kussmaul was invited to speak to the Platteville Tricor staff and tell them about the work that we do, and with Lisa's help, the Jingle Bell Run was born. So we thank not only the wonderful people at Tricor and all who participated the day of the Jingle Bell Run, but we want to especially thank Lisa for always being a special friend of Thursday's Child. \$4200 was raised for Thursday's Child that day.

## KAPPA ALPHA SIGMA SPAGHETTI SUPPER



On December 13, during what we suspect was a busy season of finals and Christmas preparations, the young women from Kappa Alpha Sigma held a spaghetti supper for us and raised \$337.00. We thank everyone who worked and cooked and took the time to think of Thursday's Child during the holiday season. Everyone who attended enjoyed a delicious supper and helped Thursday's Child, too. Thank you, also, to the First English Lutheran Church for hosting, and especially to Potosi native and UW-Platteville student Ronna Lefeber.

***If you read our newsletter completely, it seems like there is a Potosi "thread" throughout, just evidence of the many kind-hearted people who live in Potosi.***

## Thursday's Child: Help for ill children & their families

A Grant County-based organization and one of southwest Wisconsin's larger businesses are teaming together to help the organization.

Thursday's Child is described by board member Sandy Meier of Potosi as "a nonprofit — all board members volunteer — to help seriously ill children and their families."

"Children want more than a trip to Disney World, and a lot of their wishes are so simple — a special doll at Christmastime," said Meier.

One Thursday's Child's newer financial supporters is Tricor Insurance. The company sponsored the first Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk in Smith Park in December, raising more than \$4,000.

"Tricor has always wanted to give back to the community in ways that made sense," said Tricor's Kevin Long. "We kind of came to the conclusion that we wanted to focus on something that had a little more impact and could contribute more than just a \$20 check."

"Our board goes to any extent we can to get children's wishes fulfilled," said Meier.

That is not an understatement. The organization learned about Chris Lezpona, an Onalaska man whose brain surgery to remove a brain tumor left him in the hospital for three months and in a wheelchair for 18 months. Lezpona was a high school golfer, but the brain surgery ended his ability to play golf.

Lezpona also was a hunter. "For me there is nothing more American than hunting, especially in Grant County, WI," said Meier, who hunts deer and whose husband hunts elk.

So work began to create an elk hunting trip to New Mexico. Bob Johns of Potosi, an elk hunting guide, and Ed McKenzie worked with Meier and others to arrange the trip.

"He didn't know how he could get Chris into the mountains to hunt," said Meier of Johns. "And he said I'll carry him on my way back if I have to. I was just honored to be able to help." Lezpona didn't get an elk, but saw elk on the trip. He is now in Onalaska rehabilitating.

**(A story about Lezpona can be viewed at [www.wxow.com/story/21292451/2013/02/20onaska-man-inspires-others](http://www.wxow.com/story/21292451/2013/02/20onaska-man-inspires-others).)**

Tricor commissioned Platteville High School Cross Country Coach Rob Serres to set up the Jingle Bell run/walk.

"Thursday's Child is a localized organization to start with; it's pretty much southwest Wisconsin," said Long. "The other thing we liked about it was there was no real upper age limit; if there's a need and the person is in their early 20's, they'll try and do what they can."

One of the beauties of this thing is there's so little office expense. That was one thing that really attracted us. This is hopefully a long ongoing relationship we have with Thursday's Child."

—Excerpts reprinted with permission from  
**Steve Prestegard  
& The Platteville Journal.  
Wednesday, February 27, 2013**

## Santa's Helpers



We continue to be dedicated Santa's Helpers. During the 2012 Christmas season, the parents or guardians of 173 children received JC Penney \$50 gift cards per child for Christmas shopping. \$50 can stretch a long way on Black Friday. Young families hit hard by the costs of a child's major illness were very grateful for the gift cards and their receipts reflected their children's clothing needs, especially for coats, mittens, pajamas, boots, and shoes. Thursday's Child Vice

President Susan Hefty and Treasurer Steve Maerz make sure that every child referred to them by social workers and doctors receive gift cards. For years now Sue and Steve – with the cooperation of their loved ones – have quietly gone about the business of helping Santa. Sue's own children, now adults, have grown up watching their mom tackle the annual Christmas project!

Whatever the wish, we want to make them come true. The generous support we have received not only this past year but also for the previous 29 years allows us to continue to be able to meet all of the requests that come our way.

I want to extend our most sincere thank to you and Thursday's Child for granting Morgan her wish!

As you know we went to the Dells and a shopping spree at Tanger Outlet Mall.

We had fun and most importantly we had great family time together! The staff at the Wilderness were very accommodating and Michelle at Tanger was very nice also.

We did many things. From shopping to swimming to rope climbing and eating at a fancy restaurant one night. We attended the Rick Wilcox magic show one evening. Most of all we spent time as a family.

The cabin was great. It had four bedrooms and a fire place and all the furnishings of home and more. Siting in front of the fire while it snowed was special!

As you can imagine, this time in our lives it the hardest thing that a child, family and parents could ever go through. Thursday's Child provided us with an exceptional get away that we will always remember and are deeply in your debt.

I have and will continue to pass on Thursday's Child information on to my family and friends as a great organization to support and hope and pray that you and your team can continue to grant wishes to sick kids. It really made our up side down world seem normal and fun for awhile.

***With our most sincere thanks!***

***--Ted, Tammy, Travis (19)  
& Morgan (17) Turnquist  
Madison, WI***



***The Turnquist family at their Wisconsin Dells cabin.***

**Richard Brockman,  
Platteville, Wisconsin  
May 25, 1947-April 22, 2013**

We mourn the death of Dick Brockman, a lifelong resident of Platteville. His dedication, commitment and generosity impacted many, including Thursday's Child. For 18 years, his Mastercraft Press in Platteville printed, sorted and delivered to our post office every Thursday's Child newsletter that we sent out and in addition printed our stationery, brochures and specialty cards. Sometimes our deadlines were unrealistic, sometimes we were in a panic because we needed 500 brochures right away for a fund raiser, but whatever we asked for, he did, with grace and patience. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family.

**"Enclosed is my donation to Thursday's Child. I am always touched by the work your organization does. You are all angels."**

**--A Platteville, Wisconsin  
Supporter**

## **Meet Our Newest Board Member!**

We are pleased to welcome Angele Walsh to our Board of Directors. She graduated from Loras College in 2000 with a degree in Psychology and from the University of Northern Colorado with a Masters Degree in School Psychology as an Education Specialist. She has been a school psychologist for ten years now; currently in the Potosi Public Schools and this year also in the Shullsburg Public Schools. She "loves working with the students and watching their growth throughout the years." Angele and her husband Chad have three children: Aspen, 8; Kadin, 7; and Irelyn, 2.

Angele is a graduate of Cassville High School, where she was active in Noël Ferguson's music program. She remembers Noël's stories about some of the children and their families who were helped by Thursday's Child.

"This organization is very important to me and my family, especially my Aunt Sandy (Meier), as it fulfills the wishes of others through Kelly's memory. Thank you for asking me to be a part of Thursday's Child."

And we thank you, too, Angele. You will be a valuable member and knowledgeable resource for Thursday's Child in the years to come.



## **2013 Newsletter**

**Cassville High School provides its students with a remarkably diverse array of opportunities for real world experience in many subject areas. Desktop Publishing is one of those areas. Thursday's Child has been very fortunate to work with Mrs. Alisa Oswald and her dedicated students as they have created posters, brochures, and newsletters for us over the years. This is the 22nd year they have prepared our newsletter for us!**

**This year, there is an "international connection", thanks to Teresa Timrott, an exchange student from Hanover, Germany and a member of Mrs. Oswald's Desktop Publishing Class. Under the direction of Mrs. Oswald, Teresa has assumed the responsibility for the layout of our May 2013 newsletter.**

**Note: Color printing donated by Dorothy Ferguson.**

# TURKEY TROT 2013

This year's Turkey Trot is set for November 3, Warner Park, Madison. Once again the kind and generous people from the Madison College Athletic Department will be gearing up to offer a great day. The proceeds benefit our own Thursday's Child and the Madison College Foundation, which provides educational assistance to students. This is a huge fundraiser that involves many generous people and businesses. We thank Steve Hauser, Jason Verhelst and their great team for their continued support of Thursday's Child.

Find out more about this year's Turkey Trot at [www.madisonturkeytrot.com](http://www.madisonturkeytrot.com).



February 9, 2012

Dear Dr. Dvorak,

*Thank you, again, for being a part of our annual Madison College Turkey Trot. We are so pleased to be able to be involved in your organization and what it stands for. Thank you for putting a smile on kids' faces.*

Sincerely,

Steve Hauser  
Director of Athletics  
Madison College



## THURSDAY'S CHILD, INC.

P.O. Box 95, Mt. Hope, WI 53816

608-988-4423 • [www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org](http://www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org)

**Executive Director:**

Noël Ferguson, Mt. Hope  
[noel@chorus.net](mailto:noel@chorus.net)

**Vice President:**

Sue Hefty, Mt. Horeb

**President:**

Diane Puccetti, M.D.  
American Family Children's Hospital  
1111 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705  
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**Secretary:**

Andrea Urbon, Madison

**Treasurer:**

Steven Maerz, Madison

**Presidents Emeritus:**

Paul Dvorak, M.D. DeanCare 1313 Fish Hatchery Rd. Madison, WI 53713 <a href="mailto:paul.dvorak@deancare.com">paul.dvorak@deancare.com</a>	Ronald Thorstad, Madison Co-Founder of Thursday's Child & President from 1984-1995
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**Directors:**

Paul Dvorak, M.D., Madison  
Dorothy Ferguson, Mt. Hope  
John Kussmaul, Lancaster  
Sandra Meier, Potosi  
Bob Shea, Jr., Madison  
Angele Walsh, Potosi

**Director Emeritus:**

Ivan Hoffland, Blue River