



# THE CONNECTION

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Mid-Cities  
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## FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS 2008: A ROCKIN' GOOD TIME ENJOYED BY ALL AGES!!!!

The Mid-Cities Care Corps (MCCC) Festival of Friends, held November 6th, was quite a celebration. Regular and first time attendees captured the tone of the event with similar observations: "What a nice and fun event."

The Festival of Friends is an annual event that reflects the spirit of MCCC. The caring spirit of our volunteers is a legacy of MCCC and the Festival of Friends captures that same caring spirit of friends and supporters of MCCC throughout the community. Contributions donated by local businesses, volunteers, and friends of MCCC result in an amazing array of tempting gifts and entertainment opportunities for all attendees during the silent and live auctions: everything from a week stay in Hawaii to an autographed Tony Roma football, hand made quilts to collectable gift wares. The variety of over 200 auction items caught the interest of attendees.

A BBQ dinner, catered by Colburn's, addressed the appetite of guests. MCCC is fortunate to have Barry Nalls, the auctioneer, as a friend who makes the live auction entertaining for all and rewarding for the cause. A video created by Susan Stokes played in the background and revealing some of the MCCC services and interactions between volunteers and clients.



The auction really got rocking when the hand crafted rocker donated by MCCC friend Jim Southworth was put up for bid. Jim crafted the rocker from east Texas pin oak and walnut in a design woodworkers marveled at because all the joints were made with wood dowels. The rocker was experienced by many attendees who could not resist sitting in the chair to appreciate the sturdy construction, feel, and comfort in this "one of a kind" rocker.

Guests were attentive during the rocker auction as it became a battle of endurance of interested bidders. Smiles of the contenders were matched by smiles etched on the faces of the entertained observers. Sharon Driskell prevailed to win the rocker; and then the audience learned the rest of the story!

Sharon's motive and interest in this "one of a kind" rocker was revealed when she asked Jim Driskell to come forward and try out the rocker. Jim is Sharon's father-in-law who relocated in October from California to The Wellington in North Richland Hills to be closer to his son Cecil, an active volunteer with MCCC. Words

could not describe the father and son relationship revealed in this moment. But all who witnessed the event certainly understood as Barry shared the insight with attendees!

Cecil has mentioned that his father Jim became an instant celebrity at The Wellington, meeting many of his new neighbors as they stopped to inspect the new addition to his apartment. Jim has the rocker positioned next to his bed where he pauses daily to read the Bible, recite the rosary, and rock before retiring each evening.

The success of an event like the Festival of Friends is dependent upon the generosity of supporters who contribute items to the auction, the willingness of attendees to participate in the auction, and a group of dedicated individuals who give of their time and energy to make the celebration happen. The final results made the 2008 event the most successful Festival of Friends in the history of MCCC. But what really distinguished the 2008 gathering was the caring spirit that permeated the event.

That caring spirit is the legacy behind the mission of Mid-Cities Care Corps. Be assured the Board of Directors and staff are appreciative of everyone's support as we continue the MCCC legacy in 2009.





# HOLIDAY BASKETS: A MID-CITIES CARE CORPS TRADITION THAT BRIDGES THE GENERATIONS

For a number of years, Mid-Cities Care Corps has been matching individuals, area churches and other organizations with senior neighbors who requests a Holiday Basket. The baskets provide a bit of cheer during the holidays. We get the response cards out to our senior neighbors and those groups who participated in the past in early October so we can match up and coordinate the distribution of baskets early in the holiday season. This year we tried something different and included the Senior Neighbor Basket Request in the Fall newsletter.

Each year we have a mix of faithful groups for whom Holiday Baskets are part of their Christmas rituals. We would like to thank Good Shepherd Catholic Community, Richland Hills United Methodist Church, St. Luke United Methodist Church, St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Peace Lutheran Church, St. Andrew Lutheran Church and Oak Hollow Alzheimer Unit. These groups have been the backbone of the Holiday Basket Program

for many years. They are joined by new groups and individuals looking for a way to serve in their local communities. This year we welcomed three new groups: Covenant Church of Colleyville, St. Philip's Parents Day Out and Pre-School, and TOPS Chapter 193.

We captured the spirit of MCCC Holiday Basket program with some pictures. The children of St. Philip are our neighbors down the hall from the office and asked us to come and look at the food they had collected and sorted for the Holiday Baskets. It is always exciting to see the children fired up about their projects. We also went along with MCCC Board member, Edith Vaughn, and MCCC supporter, Doris Wilk, as they delivered Holiday Baskets. They told us that one senior neighbor they visited who was moved to tears by the generosity of MCCC in helping her over the years and another who played some Christmas carols for them on



AN ASSEMBLY LINE TO FILL THE "BASKETS" WITH GROCERIES



DOUBLE CHECKING THE "BASKETS" WITH THE LISTINGS



THE ST. PHILIP PDO PRE-K's WITH THE FOOD THEY COLLECTED



SMILES ALL AROUND WHILE DELIVERING A "BASKET"



## DIRECTOR'S MUSINGS:

I am privileged from my vantage point to see and experience the "Spirit of the Season". The hustle and bustle surrounding the holiday season combined with nationwide uncertainties are compounding distractions for everyone this year. The contrasting view from the MCCC office windows reveals a community that glows with the Christmas spirit from the gratitude of senior neighbors touched by Mid-Cities Care Corps combined with caring volunteers motivated by a spirit to give of their time and skills.

2008 has been a banner year for Mid-Cities Care Corps. The number of services tracked by our statistics are up from last year levels. The Festival of Friends celebration (see front page) was a grand success reflecting the genuine support of MCCC friends though out the community in spite of trying economic times. MCCC outreach activities continue through the end of the year with the distribution of Holiday Baskets to our senior neighbors and gifts for the "young at heart" collected through The Wellington Sugar Plum Christmas.

As we wrap up 2008, we look forward to 2009. We have plans for a M.A.R.I. (Making A Real Difference) Helping Hands Spring Outreach program in honor Mari Donaldson, one of the original founders of Mid-Cities Care Corps in 1981. The program is targeted to coordinate youth and civic group work days in the spring to tend to client's seasonal yard work and general home maintenance needs. A Phone Pal program is also targeted for a pilot early next year. All this as we continue to explore opportunities to efficiently address the legacy services MCCC is known for. We are able to undertake these initiatives because the MCCC volunteer spirit is not just seasonal but year round!!

Thank you for the time and spirit you share with MCCC. As you and your family enjoy the Christmas festivities, may this spirit and genuine peace be with you. For it is by giving that we truly receive.

Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings to all.

Blessings,

*Duane E. Buuck*

Executive Director

## *BLESSINGS RECEIVED FROM MCCC NEIGHBORS*

Dear Care Corps Volunteers,

I would like to express my appreciation for all the help you have given me this past year. Everyone has been so kind and gracious and I am truly thankful.

My special thanks goes to DB she has been so wonderful and I really appreciate her. She has become a good friend

Sincerely, MS

Dear Care Corps,

Thank you so much for helping us. Please thank the two gentlemen who repaired our bathroom floor. They were so nice and courteous and did an excellent job.

We wish you and your organization all the best and we will link our Kroger card to Care Corps.

Thank you , JW

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Care Corps,

Many thanks for all your help this year. I enjoyed the basket that was delivered. Please thank the church who made it.

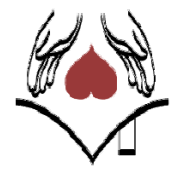
May God Bless you all, BW

We enjoy all the cards we get and send a copy to the volunteers who are mentioned.

*Anne*

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# SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO THE WELLINGTON



(To arrive by helicopter Dec. 13 between 2:00-2:30 P.M.)

Come visit the Wellington's Fabulous Christmas Tree Display!  
Bring an unwrapped gift for an underprivileged Senior Neighbor  
And put it under the tree you like best or bid on a tree to take home!  
December 1 through December 13

Mid-Cities Care Corps is proud to partner with The Wellington for the third year!  
The proceeds from the tree sale benefit MCCC programs  
Gifts are distributed by MCCC and local Public Safety Departments



THE WELLINGTON RETIREMENT COMMUNITY  
6150 Glenview Drive North Richland Hills 817-577-0226

