



OPEN ARMS SHELTER

Changing Lives

March 2011

Volume 1 Issue 21

Ground Breaking of New OAS Wing

The Open Arms Shelter will soon have a wing to keep more children long-term. The ground breaking ceremony took place Tuesday, March 1 and completion of the wing is scheduled for July.

OAS Director, Pat Beaverson, stressed the importance of the entire village in raising these kids and that Lonoke is a great place with people and businesses involved in helping these children. He acknowledged Susan Bransford as the driving force behind the Open Arms program and how fortunate he was to take over such a well-run program.

Shelby Hillman, who has served on the board since the inception of OAS and retired off this year says, "Under the leadership of Susan Bransford, the board went from a vision to an idea. She suggested we needed a new wing to keep older teens who could either graduate from high school or earn a G.E.D. We would then be able to house young mothers with babies and help them, as well as boys who are



about to turn 18, prepare themselves for jobs and an opportunity to support themselves."

The 7,338 square foot wing, being built by Scott Key with AMB General Contractors in North Little Rock, will connect to the existing emergency shelter that was built in 2002. It will have six bedrooms, a staff residence room, classroom, safe room, utility room, computer room, donation center and counseling rooms. The addition will also expand the existing dining area and provide additional food storage.

The \$1.1 million dollar project is being funded through grants, loans and donations. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission in Lonoke awarded a grant of \$215,000 to the shelter.

"We are glad this project is going to bring in a few more jobs to this community and be helping children. We are always delighted to help with these kinds of projects that help our community," says Amanda Leigh of The AR Economic Development Commission.

The shelter also received a plaque from Lawrence McCullough of the United States Department of Agriculture in recognition of the low-interest loan of \$700,000 given to the shelter by the USDA. The shelter is currently seeking private donations and support for the remainder of the cost. Please consider filling out the donation form on the following page or buying a brick. Further information on buying bricks will be available in the next newsletter or at the shelter anytime.

As Lonoke County Judge Doug Erwin says, "Anytime you are helping children, you are building on our future."



Pat Beaverson, OAS Director; Lawrence McCullough, USDA; and Merritt Holman, Board Chairman.



Lonoke County Judge Doug Erwin and board member Rhonda House of Cabot.

Inside this issue:

Shelter Welcomes New Board Members and Staff	2
Race for the Children at The Great Pumpkin Patch and 5K	3
Scary-Okie Bash to Benefit Shelter	3
Memorials and Honorariums	3
Needs and Wish List	4

"Serving abused and neglected children for 25 years"

OPEN ARMS SHELTER

Shelter Welcomes New Board Members and Staff

The shelter board and staff are happy to welcome new bookkeeper Misty Canales. Misty has lived in Arkansas since 1991 and currently resides in Cabot. She has been married 18 years to husband David and has six children ranging from age 3 to 17. She has worked in office management and general accounting for 18 years and will be a great asset in updating the shelter's bookkeeping process and preparing for expansion.



We are also excited to welcome Janet Kelly to the Board of Directors. Janet has been married to Jerry Kelly for 37 years and lives in Carlisle. They have two grown children, Ashley and Matt, who are both married, and one grandchild. Janet is a retired school teacher after teaching in Hazen and Carlisle for 28 years. She and her husband are active members of the First United Methodist Church in Carlisle.

"I hope to be able to volunteer my services to help these children who need some loving, encouraging words and actions during unfortunate times in their lives. I feel that the shelter and it's employees are such a blessing. I will do my best to support it and the amazing members of the board," says Kelly.

We also welcome JoSara Walker to the Board of Directors. JoSara is from Carlisle and has been married to Mike for 25 years. They have two children Margo, 22, and Ben, 18, as well as a granddaughter Kenzlee who will be 4. They are members of Immanuel Baptist Church. JoSara has worked with AgHeritage Farm Credit Services for 15 years. Before AgHeritage, she owned her own beauty shop and was a hairdresser.



"I read a statement not too long ago - 'You can be successful but not significant'. I feel successful - I love God, have a wonderful husband and children, great extended family, enjoy my job, have great friends. But I also want to be significant and I believe and pray that through working with the Open Arms Shelter I will become more significant, that I can make a difference in a child's life," says Walker.

How You Can Help

Even with the AEDC grant, OAS needs your financial support to help create a new future for abused and neglected

Pledge Your Gift for Open Arms Expansion

Open Arms Shelter, 1500 Navajo Trail, Lonoke, AR 72086

Please help us serve neglected children in Arkansas with your special gift.

\$25 \$100 \$200 \$300 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

I wish to make a monthly donation of \$ _____ for _____ months.
(# of months)

Enclosed is my check payable to Open Arms Shelter.

Open Arms has full 501-(c)3 status. Your gift is tax deductible.

For large gifts and naming rights, please contact the shelter at 676-6166.

children through our new long-term care program and the expanding facilities. Additional grants and donations are sought from corporations and individuals, and gifts of any size will be greatly appreciated. Naming rights are available for the wing itself, for individual rooms, and/or for the host of other equipment and furnishings needed for the children. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will be used to make a positive difference in a child's life.

Volume 1, Issue 21

Get Your Pumpkins and Race For the Children at The Great Pumpkin Patch and 5K Race

Start thinking now about the Great Pumpkin Patch and 5K coming October 2, 2011 to Lonoke. Last year's pumpkin patch landed on a beautiful fall day and raised \$3000 for the shelter. This year, a 5k walk/run/race will also be going on during the pumpkin patch.

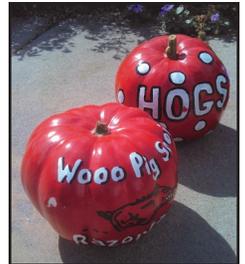
For serious racers, the race course will be certified and Macs timing service will be used for pinpoint finish line timing. This involves a computer chip put on each racers shoes so that when they cross the finish line an exact race time will be sent to the computer. Groups will be divided by age and gender, and prizes for winners of these groups will



include medals, free pumpkins and pumpkin displays.

More relaxed runners and walking groups are also welcome. Drinks and snacks will be provided and, of course, lots of pumpkins and activities at the pumpkin patch including face painting and pumpkin decorating for kids, a professional photographer to take fall family photos, homemade treats for sale, along with mums, hay bales, and many varieties of pumpkins and gourds to choose from including specialty painted pumpkins.

We are seeking sponsors for the race and looking for volunteer groups to sponsor water stations, snack stations, etc. Please contact Shannon Holman at 501-676-0579 if you are interested in being a sponsor or volunteer.



Razorback pumpkins painted by Jonah Plummer of Lonoke.

Scary-Okie Mystery Celebrity Talent Show Bash Coming October 15, 2011

You won't want to miss this! An exclusive opportunity to see local personalities compete karoke style to some of your favorite hit songs at the newly renovated Argenta Community Theater on October 15th. The evening will feature celebrities such as Angela Cooper, former Miss Cabot, Mayor Gary Fletcher of Jacksonville, former Razorback player Joe Kleine and Judge Doug Erwin, just to name a few. There will also be celebrity judges including local TV personalities.

"The event promises to be a night of fun and entertainment! Each person will get a trick-or-treat bag with goodies and a number that could be the winning number for two Southwest Airline tickets to anywhere Southwest Airlines flies," says Rhonda House of Cabot.

Come see what your future holds from the fortune teller and enjoy halloweenish alcoholic beverages, then get geared up for the open-mike after party for anyone wanting to show off their singing skills. "This is a first year event that we expect to go over very well and we hopefully will make it a yearly event," says Rhonda Harps, also of Cabot.

There are a limited number of tickets, so if you would like to reserve yours, contact Rhonda House. Or if you or your company is interested in being a sponsor, please contact Rhonda House at 501-843-9460.

Memorials and Honorariums from Nov. 2010 to present:

In Memory of:

Howard C. Miller Sr., by Rick, Susan & Sara Brandsford
Robert & Teresa Bailey
Neil & Debbie Compton
Jim & Nancy Godsey
Brian & Jill Cunningham
Danny & Barbara Chivers
William (Jim) & Glenda Wheat
Judy Wallace
Lee & Ann Davis
William & Melissa Moody
Charles & Tiffany Hunter
Kenneth & Jenie James
Jacob & Melanie Fox
Fred & Terry Schumaker
Ron & Jan Harrell
Clay Turner
Matt & Kaylene Towner
Kathy Millard
Mike Hardke, by Bari & Lori Cain
Jimmy & Linda Price
Mitchell & Laura Webb
Sue Carter

Dr. Michael & Pam Fox
Lonoke County Co-op
Charles Purdue
Tommy & Shelby Hillman
Mickey & Pam Maddox
Diana & Kevin Newcomb
Ron & Kathy Goss
Ron & Debbie Burks
Edwin Bennett
Hugh Keller III, by Ann Bishop
Barbara Elmore
Bill & Shirley Beaumont
Bill, Martha and Kenny Dunlap
Bobby & Beverly Jones
Carolyn McCrary
Cabot United Methodist Church
Charles & Carolyn Horton
D. McGee
Danie & Dot Glover
Debbie & Tommy Hill
Dorothy Hogue
First State Bank
James & Lucille Nix
James & Sue Waymack
Jean Davenport
Jim & Doretta Malone
Joe & Barbara Melton
John & Sara Shaw
Knox Realty Co.

Mark & Ann Nicholson
Evelyn Watson
Charles Knox
Mr. & Mrs. Jerrell Boyette
Lonoke High School Class of 57
First Community Bank/Kay Dillon
Michael & Betty Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. J.A. McAlister
Tressie Bryant
Ruby Gagliano
Neil & Caroline Bennett
Polly & Ladies Brantley
Ralph & Brenda Gentry
Ray & Joyce Sullivan
Richard & Karen Phelps
Rick & Susan Bransford
Ron & Joyce Underwood
Shannon E. Hamilton
Shirley Hardke
Troy & Carolyn Evans
W.P. Dortch
Woody & Sherylon Mason
Brandsford Family LTD Pt.
Dick & Johnnie Bransford
Beverly Massey
Jim Harris, by Kathy Millard
Alec Allison, by Lisa Privett
Jess Brown, by

Dr & Mrs Holmes
Doyle McGee, by Jim & Doretta Malone
Gladys Cates, by Ron & Debbie Burks

In Honor of:

Susan Bransford, by Pat & Sarah Hagge
Shelby & Tommy Hillman
Becky & Bill Paxton
Leann Hanshaw, by Carole & Jerry Jones
Merritt & Shannon Holman, by Sybil Strickland

Please forgive us if any names are missing from this list of memorials and honorariums. We have had a turn over in staff and are training current staff in our bookkeeping systems. Thank you for your patience. Please contact our staff if you notice anything missing so we can include it in our next newsletter.



Changing Hearts

Open Arms Shelter
P.O. Box 161
Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

Phone:
(501) 676-6166

Fax:
(501) 676-6174

Email:
info@openarmsshelter.org

The Open Arms Shelter Team

2010 Board of Directors

<u>England</u>	<u>Cabot</u>
Pam Foster, <i>Advisor</i>	
Sherry Sandage	Rhonda Harps
Gary Canada, Jr. V.C.	Rhonda House, <i>Sec</i>
<u>Lonoke</u>	Pat Hagge
Peggy Anderson	<u>Carlisle</u>
Merritt Holman, <i>Chair</i>	JoSara Walker
Kaye Anderson	Janet Kelly
Betty Wilson	David Woods, <i>Treas</i>
<u>Members at Large</u>	
LuAnn Ashley, Sherwood	

OAS Staff

Pat Beaverson, Executive Director
Matty Cooksey, Weekend Supervisor
Tammy Donahue, Resident Manager
Tiffany Parker, Case Coordinator
Misty Canales, Bookkeeper
Shantonda McClain, Relief Worker II
Virginia Ramirez, Relief Worker II
Gayle Tanner, Relief Worker I
Nora Cooney, Relief Worker I
Mattie Williams, Relief Worker I
Joyce Butler, Cook

2010 Advisory Board

<u>England</u>	<u>Cabot</u>	<u>Lonoke</u>
Ben Foster	Jennie Gates	Jamie Anderson
Amy Brantley	Holly Huckabee	Carrie Holt
<u>Carlisle</u>	Karen Marlatt	Gina DeBerry, <i>Sec</i>
Kristel Petrus, V.C.	Jana Hagge, <i>Chair</i>	<u>Little Rock</u>
		Katie Anderson

Open Arms Shelter Needs and Wish List

<u>Food</u>	Gallon Ziploc bags
Bell Peppers	Kids clothes
Bread	Laundry soap (liq)
Breakfast cereal	Lotion
Canned fruit	Maxi Pads
Chili	Paper cups
Corn	Paper Plates
Cornbread mix	Paper Towels
Crackers	Pine-sol
Eggs	Pull-ups (S-XL)
Garlic powder	Sandwich bags
Hamburger helper	Shampoo
Honey	Shoes (kids-all sizes)
Hot sauce	Sleep pants for older kids
Instant potatoes	Tampons
Ketchup	Toilet Paper
Lettuce	Toys
Milk	White bath towels
Mixed veggies	White face towels
Onion	White trash bags
Pickles	
Pork-n-beans	<u>Meds</u>
Ravioli	Benadryl
Seasoning salt	Cough drops
Spaghetti noodles	Cough syrup
Taco Shells	Ibuprofen
Tomatoes	Rubbing alcohol
Tomato soup	Vinegar (white)
<u>Misc</u>	<u>School Supplies</u>
Aluminum pie pans	Binders
Axe Body spray	Composition books
Bath soap (bars)	Copy Paper
Beach Towels	Dividers
Bleach	Graphing paper
Deodorant	White Out

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____ EMAIL: _____

My donation in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed, and is in honor/ memory (circle one) of _____

Send notification of gift to: _____

Address: _____

Please contact me about other opportunities to assist OAS

Open Arms Shelter
P.O. Box 161
Lonoke, Arkansas