



OPEN ARMS SHELTER

Changing Lives

July 2011

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A Change in the Wind

Just as the weather in Arkansas can never be predicted or expected, so the winds of change at the shelter keep moving in unexpected ways. The last year has seen the construction of a new wing to house long-term children, several staff changes, a slow economy, an increased need for sheltering children in need, and a large dose of faith that everything will work out.

When the OAS Board starting looking at the possibility of adding a new wing for children on a long-term basis, they knew the significant need for this in the state of Arkansas from discussions with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and took a leap of faith. They got a state grant and a federal low-interest rate loan, and were confident of a government contract from DHS that the shelter can apply for every four years. Then the winds changed. The building began, but government budgets were cut, including DHS. Moreover, changes in staff at the shelter along with a tougher economy brought about a decline in donations to the shelter.

But perhaps the winds will change again. Just like devastation from severe weather in Arkansas calls communities to work together for the good of others, so might we all pull together to help the shelter meet the needs of the abused and neglected children that call it home.

Pat Beaverson, the Open Arms Shelter director, has resigned, and Susan Bransford, retired OAS director, has stepped in as interim until a new director can be hired. We also changed bookkeepers at the end of last year. With changes in staff, there were some thank-you notes, honorariums, memorials and tax letters that weren't recognized properly. Please forgive if you did not see names mentioned in the memorials and honorariums in the newsletter, or get a timely thank-you note or tax letter. We have addressed these problems and have taken measures to correct them. And with our promise of doing better, please consider making a donation to the shelter in honor or memory of someone special.

With the current cut-backs in DHS funding, we are planning to have three long-term beds in the new building until we can raise the funds for the other nine beds. Some of these might be used for emergency beds as well.

Inside this issue:

Annual BBQ Supper and Auction	2
Scary-Oke Bash to Benefit Shelter	2
The Great Pumpkin Patch and 5K Pumpkin Run	3
Memorials and Honorariums	3
Needs and Wish List	4

Each of these rooms also needs to be furnished. Please consider adopting a room, and naming it after yourself or someone special to you. Another way to help is to purchase a brick to be remembered as a friend of the shelter. The next page has more information on the bricks and other opportunities to support the shelter through several fundraising events coming in the next few months.

We at the shelter ask you to please remember us in your giving. We know times are tight for everyone, but there are still many children needing a place to call home.



Kids like these call the shelter home

Join us for our annual **BBQ Supper and Auction** **Tuesday, August 2** From 5:00-7:00pm **Lonoke Primary School Cafeteria**

“Serving abused and neglected children for 25 years”

OPEN ARMS SHELTER

Annual BBQ Supper and Auction- Appreciation Night

It's that time of the year again to come and enjoy Bubba's Bar-B-Que or hotdogs with all the fixins, and find that auction item that is just for you. The Open Arms Shelter's annual BBQ supper and silent auction will be back at the Lonoke Primary School cafeteria this year on Tuesday, August 2nd, from 5:00-7:00p.m. This year's event is dedicated to our donors. We want to let you know how much we appreciate your generosity and dedication to the shelter.



Folks visiting and looking over silent auction items at last year's event.



All items this year will be in the silent auction and will include fantastic choices of household items, gift items, coupons, and travel. Come and give your best bid on two Southwest Airline tickets flying anywhere Southwest flies with no blackout dates. Or bid on one of the top comfort recliners from Dillard's. Or get your Razorback plate or Razorback Tom's painted by Jona Plummer plus much more.

We want to say thank you to our meal sponsors: The Foresters Razorback branch #1681, AgHeritage FCS, The Bank of England, BanCorp South, and 1st State Bank. Thank you to Lonoke Primary for the use of their facility. And most of all, THANK YOU DONORS, for making the shelter a wonderful home to the special kids who live here.



"Thank you to all the staff at the Open Arms Shelter for helping me through this hard time in my life. You gave me a warm place to rest, and hot meals. If I was upset, you cheered me up. You tried to make our stay with you as much like home as you could. You helped us to look on the bright side."
Written by an OAS child

Scary-Oke Mystery Celebrity Talent Show Bash - October 15

You won't want to miss this! An exclusive opportunity to see local personalities compete karaoke 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 Steve "Wildman Wilson", 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 a "Scary-Oke" prize basket," says Rhonda House of Cabot. There will also be a live auction for two Southwest Airline tickets to anywhere Southwest Airlines flies, a week's stay in a log home in beautiful Southfork, Colorado, and other great items.

Come see what your future holds from the fortune teller and enjoy halloweenish 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 hopefully become a yearly event," says Rhonda Harps, also of Cabot.

Only 256 tickets will be sold to this exciting and fun-filled event. Call Rhonda House to reserve your tickets at 501-843-9460.



The Great Pumpkin Patch and 5K Pumpkin Run - October 1



Join us for our annual Great Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin 5K supporting the Open Arms Shelter. This one-day event is the perfect opportunity for you to run or walk for a cause and get everything you need to decorate your yard in beautiful fall colors. We will even have volunteers available to help deliver to your home if you live nearby.

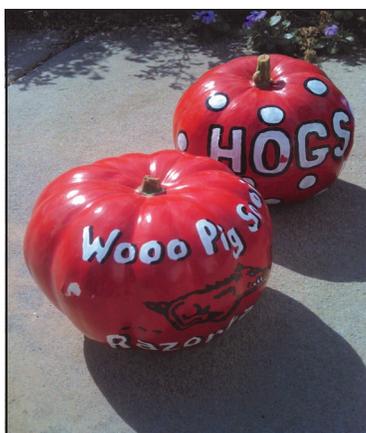
There will be all kinds of locally-grown pumpkins and gourds for sale including traditional long-handled jack-o-lanterns, pie pumpkins, and miniature jacks. You will also find many varieties of decorative pumpkins and gourds in all kinds of colors such as cinderellas, fairytales and luminas. And don't forget your mums, hay bales and corn stalks.

You won't want to miss the fall photo

booth, face painting, pumpkin decorating, and cotton candy, homemade fudge and other goodies!

Or bring home a razorback pumpkin and one in school colors from your community. Put it on your

calendar and bring the family for a morning run and some pumpkin fun while supporting abused and neglected children. All proceeds go to the Open Arms Shelter.



The Great 5K Pumpkin Run



The race is certified and using Mac's Chip Timing Service

Memorials and Honorariums from April to present:

In Memory of:

- Howard C. Miller Sr.**, by Pat J. Watkins
- Joe & Nina Gasaway
- Tommy & Shelby Hillman
- Ruth E. Johnson
- Blake & Torrie Swears
- Jack & Shon Evans
- Mike & Betty Freeze
- Woody & Sandra Bryant
- Kyle Moery
- Hugh & Peggy Keller
- David Hunt
- Kenneth Orlice
- David Garner Sr.**, by Dean and Misti Morris

- Tim & Terrie Collins
- Lewis & Beverly Morris
- Rachel Parker**, by Randall & Margaret Gammill
- Larry Buffalo**, by Tommy & Shelby Hillman
- Chris Hobson**, by Francis Oylar
- Dr. Claude Gillette**, by Tommy & Shelby Hillman
- Bernice G. Daniels**, by The Dohm Family
- Bill Brightwell**, by Charlotte Cerrato
- Lou Beatty**, by Dean & Misti Morris
- Rosa Lassiter**, by Troy & Carolyn Evans

- Marion Foster**, by Harold & Carole McDonald
- Jo Ann Hagge
- Bobbie and Darrell Henderson
- Michael and Susan O'Malley
- Rick and Susan Bransford
- Sarah SS Class FBC of England, AR

In Honor of:

- Micheal & Edith Holladay**, by Mike Dolan
- Pam & Max Foster**, by Ben Foster
- Jana Hagge
- John and Bridgette Morris**, by Mike Dolan
- James B. Wiertelak**, by Mr. & Mrs. Darrell J. Cox

Buy A Brick

Leave a legacy for many years to come on the front walkway of the shelter.

Bricks come in regular size or 8"x 8".

- Patrons \$100
- Contributors \$250
- Supporters \$500
- Founders \$1000

For more info call Shannon Holman at 501-676-0579 or check out our website.



Changing Hearts

Open Arms Shelter

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Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

Phone:

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The Open Arms Shelter Team

2010 Board of Directors

England

Pam Foster
Sherry Sandage
Gary Canada, Jr., V.C.

Lonoke

Peggy Anderson
Merritt Holman, *Chair*
Kaye Anderson
Betty Wilson

Cabot

Angela Cooper
Rhonda Harps
Rhonda House, *Sec.*
Pat Hagge, *Adv.*

Carlisle

JoSara Walker
Janet Kelly
David Woods, *Treas.*

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LuAnn Ashley, Sherwood

OAS Staff

Susan Bransford, Interim Ex. Director
Matty Cooksey, Weekend Supervisor
Tammy Donahue, Resident Manager
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Misty Canales, Bookkeeper
Shantonda McClain, Relief Worker II
Virginia Ramirez, Relief Worker II
Vic Gooden, Relief Worker II
Gayle Tanner, Relief Worker I
Nora Cooney, Relief Worker I
Mattie Williams, Relief Worker I
Joyce Butler, Cook

2010 Advisory Board

England

Ben Foster
Amy Brantley

Carlisle

Kristel Petrus, V.C.

Cabot

Jennie Gates
Holly Huckabee

Lonoke

Karen Marlatt
Jana Hagge, *Chair*

Lonoke

Jamie Anderson
Carrie Holt

Little Rock

Jona Plummer
Katie Anderson

Open Arms Shelter Needs and Wish List

Food

Apple juice
BBQ sauce
Black pepper
Bread
Brown sugar
Canned chicken
Canned fruit
Cereal
Chili
Chicken bullion
Chicken soup
Chips
Chocolate chips
Cooking oil
Corn (whole kernel)
Cornmeal
Crackers (saltine)
Cream of chicken soup
Cream of mushroom soup
Fresh fruit
Fresh onions & potatoes
Gravy mixes
Great Northern beans
Green beans
Hair brushes
Hamburger buns
Hamburger helper
Hot dog buns
Hot dog relish
Instant potatoes
Juice boxes
Kool-Aide
Lettuce
Macaroni & Cheese
Marshmallows
Mixed vegetables
Onion flakes
Onion soup mix
Pam cooking spray
Pancake mix
Pickles
Pork & Beans

Pudding
Ranch dressing
Rotel
Salt
Snack foods
Spaghetti
Sugar
Sunny Delight
Taco shells & seasoning
Tomato sauce & paste
Tuna
Vegetable oil
Vegetable soup
Vinegar
Yeast
Misc
Aluminum foil
AA batteries
Clorox bleach
Clorox clean-up
Comet
Deodorant
Diapers & sleep pants
Dishwashing liquid
Face wash for teens
Liquid hand soap
Lysol spray
Napkins
Paper towels
Pledge furniture polish
Shampoo
Socks (boys, all sizes)
Teen bras, sports bras & panties
Tide laundry detergent (liquid)
Tilex
Toilet bowl cleaner
Trash bags (large kitchen)
Tylenol, Ibuprofen & Benadryl
Windex
Ziploc bags (gallon size)

Give a Gift to Open Arms

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: _____

Open Arms has full 501-(c)3 status. Your gift is tax deductible.
For large gifts, please contact the shelter.

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