



THURSDAY'S CHILD Newsletter

Volume XXVIII

Founded in 1984

November 2015

Dear Friends:

So often we are asked "What is Thursday's Child. I've never heard of it?" Even after almost 32 years and a history of providing wishes to thousands of children, it is a question we hear quite often. We don't have an office, a paid staff, an advertising budget. It's just us--the Board of Directors. So far it has worked. We offer whatever we can to enrich the lives of children and young people in families who have been broadsided by life-changing illness. We can provide trips, arrange for celebrity meetings, and build playgrounds. We can also give Santa a hand, award scholarships, and feed families.

Although we will soon have a Facebook presence, and we do have a website, a simple brochure can come in handy, too. A Thursday's Child brochure is enclosed for you if you would like to share it with someone who doesn't know who we are!

You probably notice that our newsletter has been shrinking over the last few years. Why? A multi-page newsletter was getting to be very expensive and feedback told us that most people don't have time to read a long newsletter anyway. Even so, it is very important that we share our activities with those who so generously support us.

Best Wishes and Thank You from the Thursday's Child Board of Directors!

The Van Dyke Bequest

A bequest of \$143,500 from the Van Dyke Family Revocable Trust was received in 2014 and 2015. Lt. Col. L.N. Van Dyke and his wife, Nancy, were generous supporters of their community, their financial legacy benefiting several Madison area organizations, including Thursday's Child.

Hospital Meals

For the 13th year, Thursday's Child is funding one meal every month for parents of seriously ill children who are patients at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison. Each evening meal serves 50-60 people. Thursday's Child donates \$3,000 each year to provide these meals. The hospital itself, through money donated by NFL Alumni, funds one meal per week. Other meals come from organizations like ours.

Sandy's Trail Ride

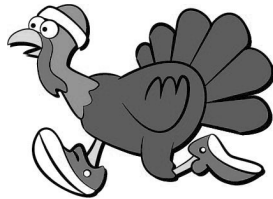
The Kelly Meier Memorial Trail Ride was held on a beautiful day, September 19. As always, Sandy and her friends open their hearts and donate raffle prizes, provide food, allow trail access on neighborhood farms and pitch in every way they can to assure a successful day. "We had 48 riders and lots of great help." said Sandy. They raised \$1700, which benefits both Thursday's Child and provides scholarships for the popular 4H horse riding camp. The date has been set for next year's Trail Ride: September 17, 2016



Madison College Turkey Trot 2015

This year's Turkey Trot was held on November 1 in Warner Park. For 20 years now, the kind folks in the athletic department of Madison College have raised money to benefit two local Foundations: The Madison College Foundation, which provides educational assistance to their students, and Thursday's Child. Find out more about the 2016 Turkey Trot at madisonturkeytrot.com.

We received a generous \$1000 check from last year's Turkey Trot, which was held on November 2, 2014. There were 600 participants!



Thank you to Culver's of Grafton (Here's the Scoop) and Culver's of Dodgeville for continuing to support Thursday's Child. Both restaurants have donation boxes on their counters, and proceeds are sent to us several times a year.

Thank you also to Craig Culver and Ryan Conlin from Culver's Corporate and Michelle Ratchman, Partnership Services Coordinator, Milwaukee Office, Green Bay Packers who stepped in and made it possible for a family of four from McFarland to attend a Packers Game last November 16 in Green Bay. Culver's provided the tickets and a package of mementos, Warco Travel in Platteville miraculously found a motel suite in Green Bay for the family on a sold out weekend, and Green Bay friends who choose to donate to someone or an organization every Christmas showered them with all the Packers gear their arms could hold.

WEST BEND
TRICOR INC. *and* **THURSDAY'S CHILD**
INSURANCE

Bring you the...
2nd Annual
Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk
Saturday, December 5
9 a.m.
Platteville Middle School
40 E. Madison Street
8 a.m. Registration - 8:30 a.m. Elf Run

\$30 Early Registration Fee
due November 10, 2015 (Guarantees a t-shirt)

\$35 Day of Registration Fee

\$20 Elf Run
1/2 mile (ages 12 and under)

To register, please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Wi/Platteville/JingleBellFunRun>
All Proceeds Go To Thursday's Child. www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org

The deadline for the Jingle Bell Fun Run registration has been extended to November 18!

Recent Thursday's Child Activity

Since our last newsletter, we have provided \$2000 tuition assistance to the college junior (nursing major) whose brother was diagnosed with leukemia soon after entering college last fall, and we have a Jamaican vacation coming up for a family who will enjoy escaping our upcoming winter for a few days.

**Layout and design of
Thursday's Child Newsletter
by Cassville High School
Business Club Student, Taylor Ploessl.**



Thank You Thursday's Child...

We treasure the Santa Project thank you notes that we receive. Sue Hefty and Steve Maerz, make sure that all families referred to us are sent gift cards from JC Penney: \$50 per child with a \$200 limit per family.

We would like to share this sample of notes selected from our archives:

"We felt a little guilty taking this money knowing that our son was scanned in early December and they said he was in remission, but then we decided that it had been a really tough year for him with radiation, chemo and surgery, so we decided to spoil him and his brother. I'm glad we did. The next morning he woke up with a headache. We spent Christmas morning in ER, getting a CT scan of his head where they found a new tumor."

"We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the generous gift cards. You can be assured that they were put to good use this Christmas. We continue to be astounded at the wonderful care and outreach that we have received from both the UW Children's Hospital and Thursday's Child. We feel like we are not walking this journey alone."

"I am 15 years old. I have been dealing with my illness since I was six years old and have recently felt out of hope but, when my family and I received your letter and its contents it showed us that people do still care and that I'm not alone. My mother is the strongest person I know and when you sent her that letter she wept with tears of joy. You have no idea how it feels to know people still care and haven't given up. Thank you so much for what you have done. You have made this Christmas so special for my family and me."

"Thank you so very much for helping my family make this a great Christmas for my boys. It has been a very difficult seven months for our family. It was truly fantastic to see my son forget about being sick for just a little while. I really can't express enough how grateful I am."

"Thank you for your help with the gift cards. The kids were able to get a whole bunch of new clothes which they needed. Happy Holidays."

"Thank you so much for the generous gift card. Our son was diagnosed with a very rare cancer and we have been through a lot since then. We are only able to get through it with the love and kindness of people such as yourselves. Our son gained a lot of weight during his treatments as a result of the medications. He outgrew most of his clothes and was never well enough to shop for replacements. Finally this Christmas his immune system allowed him to get out and about. We were able to get some new blue jeans for him. Thank you for your kindness."

"....My children (ages 11, 12 and 14) know there is no Santa and they also understand that Christmas this year is more about family and health and what we have that others don't...such as love, friends, a home, food, etc. I went to JC Penny while they were at school purchasing a few select items which they will find under the tree. Because of their ages and different tastes, I then decided to share how I received the gift cards and took them shopping letting them make some choices. We had a marvelous evening. We all ended the evening in high spirits and renewed Christmas spirit. Thank you so much for the priceless shouts of joy I'll treasure as I said "sure" when they showed me something they chose. You have my deepest thanks for allowing us this experience."

"Thank you so much in order for my children to have Christmas."

This year, social workers have referred 194 children to us. Sometimes there are last minute additions, but we always manage to meet our Christmas Eve deadline.

To everyone at Thursday's Child, Culver's and our new friends in Green Bay:

"We don't even know where to begin to thank you. We had such a fantastic time in Green Bay at the Packers game and wow, what a game it was, too. You can't even imagine the smile on our son's face as we walked to our seats and he saw Lambeau Field for the first time on a game day. It has been a very long time since we have seen him so happy and smiling from ear to ear. That smile hardly disappeared all day. Thank you everyone for making this trip possible. We will remember that day forever"

Spaghetti Supper

The members of Kappa Alpha Sigma Sorority and the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity at the UW-Platteville had a very successful spaghetti supper during the last school year, raising \$306 for Thursday's Child. We thank these generous young people for their kindness. Their accompanying note said "we appreciate everything you do." Dear Sorority and Fraternity friends--Thursday's Child appreciates everything YOU do, too!



Gifts In Their Memory

Nicolas Seta Ratsimihah
Son of Kathleen Heimann
Issaquah, Washington

Kelly Meier
Daughter of Sandy & Doug Meier
Potosi, Wisconsin

About Thursday's Child

Thursday's Child makes wishes come true for seriously ill children and young adults living within and/or treated within southwest and south central Wisconsin.

There is no salaried staff and administrative expenses are less than 10% of all donations received.

Your support is important. Please send your tax deductible contribution to:

**Thursday's Child, P.O. Box 95,
Mt. Hope, WI 53816**



Board Note...

The Board meets every six months. For many years we have met in various places throughout our area, which might mean a two hour drive for some and a ten minute drive for others. Thanks to a "brotherly" connection, we are now able to enjoy a centrally located meeting place at the Riverview Spring Green Restaurant. We thank Owner/Manager Eric Ferguson and Owner/Chef Jerry Kohls for providing space and refreshments. We look forward to our meeting dates!

THURSDAY'S CHILD, INC

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Acknowledgments:

Kay Schmitz, Mt. Hope