

MARY JO BROWN FOUNDATION

- Spreading Smiles Through Acts of Kindness -



2016 Wrap-Up

December 28, 2016

Santa has gone back to the North Pole, the elf is off the shelf (and back in the box) and we are getting ready to ring in 2017. It's time to catch up on Foundation happenings.

OCTOBER In the weeks following the luau, our Kindness Campaign finalists were featured in both the electronic and print media. We were so happy to see these kids get public recognition. We want to extend our sincere thanks to: Krista Bresnahan, of the Wilmington Town Crier, for attending the luau and her feature article; Joe Lipovich of Patch.com for reaching out to us; Robert Hayes of the Wilmington Apple; Matt Reid of wickedlocal.com for his assistance; and Jeanette "Jenny" Hinkle of the Melrose Free Press for taking the time to interview Sharon at home and the impressive article she wrote about our finalists and Mary Jo.

As planned, our board members held the annual meeting on the 28th at Marcy's home and planned for the rest of 2016 as well as a master plan for the new year. Families were chosen for our Christmas initiative, dates were set for upcoming events and ideas were shared for new projects.

NOVEMBER Our Veterans Day Care Package for the Troops was sent to a U.S. Navy serviceman aboard the U. S. Mason. Thank you to board member Kara Waldron and our friend and supporter, Sue Grant, for doing the shopping, packing and shipping. The boxes were a bit late in going out as we waited for the Mason to reach safe harbor—it was in the news several times around the date of the luau: it was fired upon multiple times while off the coast of Yemen. Our thanks

go out to these men and women and we wish them a safe return home to their loved ones.

Saturday, November 12, six of us met at Kohl's in Woburn to begin our annual shopping for our Christmas families. Unlike prior years, we did not invade N.H. as this trip was focused strictly on non-taxable clothing and accessories. It turned out to be one of our best decisions. We want to publicly thank Caye Coleman, store manager, and her entire staff. Once they knew who we were and why we were there, they went above and beyond in helping us find everything we were looking for—and the cashiers were just as helpful getting our items checked out and bagged in designated piles. Christina and Sharon finished the shopping on-line and in person and had everything boxed and ready for paper and bows.



DECEMBER Saturday, the 17th, five of us met at Christina's to wrap the piles of gifts for our four adopted families. With a total of 12 kids, there was plenty of tape and paper used—adorned with our usual special Santa's workshop gift tags. With two of our members unable to attend, we were extremely fortunate and are forever grateful to Christine Warner-Weidner, cousin of board member Terri DiOrio, for joining us and getting us to the wrapping finish line. Once we were done with our elf duties, we had our Yankee swap, featuring the Left-Right version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. By Wednesday, Kevin, Christina, Terri and Sharon had all of the packages delivered to their respective addresses. On Christmas morning we heard from all of the families—parents who were so appreciative of what we provided—thanks to YOU, our supporters.

COMING IN 2017!!!!!!

SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!

Sunday April 23rd 12 Noon Muse Paint Bar Market Street Lynnfield

Because so many of you have asked, we will be hosting another painting event—this time at the lovely Muse Paint Bar in the Market Street Shopping Center. Art choice has not yet been decided. Watch for further information in February.

Early May Exact date to be determined

Cleaning out closets to make room for all the loot from Santa?? Ready to toss those old table linens, curtains, household textiles?? Once again, we will be partnering with the Epilepsy Foundation to collect clothing (including footwear, accessories, handbags) and household soft goods. Please use kitchen size trash bags (easier to load onto the truck) If you have donations that you cannot store until May, please contact Christina or Sharon to arrange for pickup. Should you start your spring time closet clean outs in April, please remember us!! All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt from the Epilepsy Foundation of New England as well as the Mary Jo Brown Foundation—everyone wins!!

Sunday, October 15th 3PM 6th Annual Indoor Luau Saugus Elks Hall

Our annual event with auction items and prizes sure to please!

Time to shut off the computer—but not before wishing you all the very best in the coming year: health, joy, laughter, family, friends and all the love your heart can hold.

May All Your Dreams Come True!!