

MARY JO BROWN FOUNDATION

- Spreading Smiles Through Acts of Kindness -

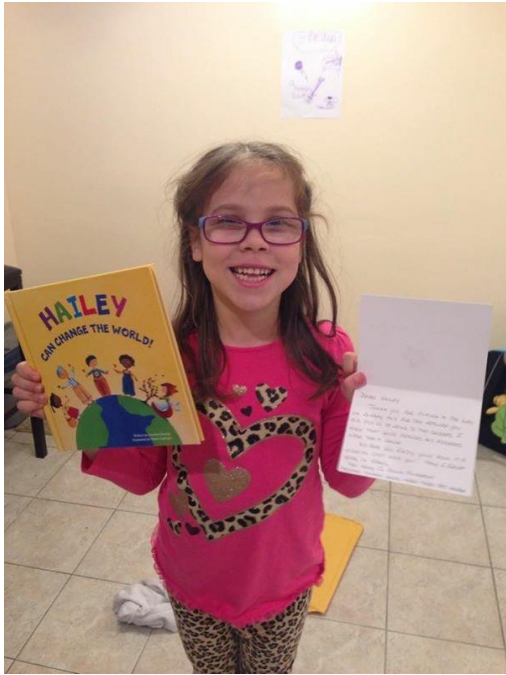


LUAU WRAP-UP—KINDNESS CAMPAIGN WINNERS—11/1/15

The Trick-or-Treaters have come and gone—we gained an hour of sleep and the leaves are falling fast. Time to catch up on foundation news before the busy holiday season begins.

We held our annual fundraiser, an Indoor Luau, on October 18th—and although it was pretty cold outside (some snowflakes were seen!!), inside it was warm and toasty. Hottest item was our photo booth that was thoroughly enjoyed by young and old alike. The timing was great for plenty of pictures featuring witches hats and devil ears!! Lots of great food, courtesy of Tom Brown, Connie Allen, Vicky Kluse, Zena Pantalone and Debbie Young. Our amazing DJ, Denise Lacarubba played our fave tunes and handled emcee duties as well. Our silent auction and 50/50 raffle were successful and we raised just over \$9000.

BUT the true stars of the day were 5 beautiful kids who were recognized for their incredible loving kindness. The first youngsters that we introduced to our supporters were Hailey Allocco of Wakefield and Adria Gregoire of Haverhill. Hailey was featured in our last newsletter for supplying artwork and messages for our July Herobox shipment. Adria was recognized for supplying artwork and messages for our Veterans day shipment. A personalized copy of the I See Me book –“I Can Change the World” was mailed to each of the girls as a token of our appreciation for their help in spreading smiles to the soldiers.



Hailey Allocco



Adria Gregoire

Kindness Campaign Winners

Rebecca (Becca) Bertera of Southwick, MA.

Becca was recognized for coming to the aid of a friend. When Becca learned that her friend Mya and her family had lost everything in a fire at their home, Becca approached her school principal about having a fundraiser. She made posters to promote a “mis-match” day where students paid a small fee and dressed in stripes, plaids, crazy colors etc. –basically anything their moms wouldn’t put together. Through her efforts several hundred dollars were raised and it provided Mya’s mom the funds needed to take time from work to start the arduous task of putting their lives back together.

Part of Becca’s prize was funded through donations received in memory of Sal Bonasoro (Mary Jo’s dad) who passed away earlier this year. Becca received a foundation trophy, personalized book and a Visa gift card. Congratulations Becca—everyone should have a friend like you!!

Jaden Hayes of Savannah , GA

6 year old Jaden lost his dad at the age of 4 and his mom died in her sleep earlier this year. Now living with his aunt and guardian Barbara, Jaden decided one morning that he wanted to do something to help prevent people from being sad and wanted to make them smile. And so, armed with a bunch of small toys, he went to downtown Savannah and started giving out the small toys and hugs to anyone that looked sad to him. His goal is to reach 33000 people. We think that he will probably pass that goal. Jaden has been featured in print media in Georgia as well as featured on the CBS evening news. He and his aunt were able to join us electronically and everyone got to see that incredible smile of his!! Jaden received a trophy, personalized book, Visa gift card and a contribution to his education fund. Although he is still quite sad about his loss, Jaden shares our foundation goal of spreading smiles and we are happy to be able to help him continue on his mission.



Becca Bertera and her mom, Pam



Jaden Hayes

Karissa Wheeler of Wakefield, MA

Karissa is a student at the Galvin Middle School and has been collecting donation for Toys for Tots for several years. Helping us honor Karissa was retired U.S.M. C. Bert Russell. Mr. Russell described in detail how Karissa has worked tirelessly to ensure that other children have a good Christmas. When the Toys for Tots storage facility in Danvers was robbed a couple of years ago and nearly all collections were taken, Karissa went to work replacing items and actually garnered two truckloads of replacements. Bert presented Karissa with a special award of recognition and thanks from Toys for Tots and her name will be written on the van that they use for their organization. We are proud to say that Karissa Wheeler is the winner of a trip for 4 to Disney World in recognition of her efforts on behalf of other children. She also received a foundation trophy, personalized book and a \$500 gift card for expenses associated with her trip. Thank you , Karissa!



Bert Russell and Karissa Wheeler



Proud Mom, LeeAnn & Karissa

October 19th—the day after the Luau—no rest for the weary. The Veterans Day Care Package for the Troops was shipped. This was special as it went to a young local soldier. Cullen Maroney, 19, of Revere is the son of one of the extremely helpful workers at the local post office. We were happy to send goodies to Cullen and his fellow soldiers. In addition to the artwork and messages from Adria and her classmates we had a generous and quite beautiful donation from Danielle Slmes Gregoire and her sister, LeeAnn Simes Cammett and their families. Upon hearing that soldiers in a previous group had asked for greeting cards to send home to loved ones (no Paper Store or Card Smart in Afghanistan), they and their children made the most beautiful cards for us to send—25 packages of 10 assorted cards and envelopes tied together with a bow and an ink pen. We want to thank these amazing families for their help and support. AND WE ASK ALL OUR SUPPORTERS: PLEASE, if you have a relative of friend who is in the armed forces and deployed, let us know so that we can add them to our list of recipients.



November 1 With all things luau-related completed until next October, it was time for our annual board meeting so we could plan our agenda for the upcoming year. We had one of our longest meetings yet, plotting the year ahead and our final order of business for 2015—adopting families for Christmas, and the associated shopping, wrapping and delivering to help make things brighter and maybe spread some smiles on Christmas morning.

Our next edition will be by years end and will include our shopping escapade scheduled for Saturday November 14th. Til then, the sign below says it all: To our treasured family, friends, supporters and well wishes—we could not do it without you!! Thanks~~ and may all your dreams come true.

