

MARY JO BROWN FOUNDATION

- Spreading Smiles Through Acts of Kindness -



Special Edition Newsletter

www.maryjobrown.org

Aloha Everyone!! So much has happened since you last heard from us that it is hard to know where to begin. We are back with our NEW LOGO, which those who attended the luau in October helped us select. We hope you like it as much as we do—and we will be using it in a variety of ways. Special thanks to Serena Young, who designed this and submitted to the Foundation for consideration as part of a class project. Overall, the design concept behind it was inspired by "Random acts of kindness produce positive ripple effects." After researching the Mary Jo Brown Foundation email, website, and Facebook page, Serena saw the importance of Hibiscus and therefore made it the focus of the design. Serena said in an email that she thinks of this foundation as this Hibiscus flower that continuously creates positive ripple effects or smiles. Thanks also to Steve King of King's Ink in Action. At Christina's request, Steve designed an alternate logo for us. We had such a hard time deciding that we decided to put it out to our supporters at the annual luau to make the decision for us.

We are also launching a NEW SCHEDULE for keeping you posted on our philanthropy and fundraising efforts. Instead of a quarterly newsletter, we will be doing an annual version. It will be supplemented with shorter news "updates" throughout the year as events and plans evolve. This will keep us more timely—and keep you, our supporters, more informed and included.

SO, without further ado, let us begin this TRANSITIONAL newsletter that we shall call:

CATCHING UP  AND MOVING FORWARD 

CATCHING UP:

October 20, 2013



Our second luau was a great success, thanks to our supporters who attended, those who gave financial donations, and our growing list of vendors, businesses and individuals who provided us with a wide array of goods and services for our silent auction. Moving the event date from September brought us closer to the holiday season and many of our auction items were bought as holiday gifts by some savvy shoppers who recognized the great value and quality of what we had on display. We truly had something for everyone, including: Coach Bags, spa services, art work, fragrances, sports collectibles, event tickets and a wine tasting!

This is our primary source of funding and we couldn't be successful without your support. Our detailed list of vendors and supporters and individual thank yous can be seen in entirety at our website: http://www.maryjobrown.org/html/luau_wrap_up_.html Should you take a look, please make note of the businesses that have been so generous to our cause—and consider them for your personal needs.



CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Once again, we partnered with the people at Bridge House shelter in Lynn, who provided us with the Christmas wish lists of two families in need; both households with single moms, one with 2 children, the other with 4 children.

Saturday November 16 (the last warm day before the longest winter ever!!) We left Christina's house bright and early in our convoy headed up Route 93 to Salem, NH where we swarmed the stores on Route 28. After several hours of shopping for the best bargains for our budget (including pj's and slippers for everyone) we moved on to stockings, stuffers, and toiletries. With fully loaded car trunks we headed home for phase 2 the next day. While Christina shopped for inline skates, helmets and protective pads, Sharon and St. Nick headed out in his Honda sleigh and bought bicycles, a talking toy plane, Barbie play house and other items on the kids lists. Then it was back to Nick's workshop to put together the bikes and whatever needed assembling. All that was left was grocery gift cards to complete our purchasing.



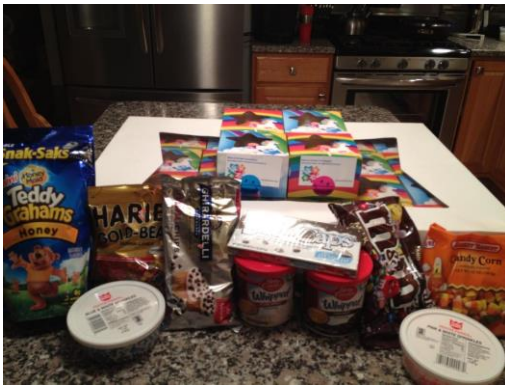
Friday, December 13 – The board members met for a night that was a “wrap-a-thon” and got all of our purchases boxed, wrapped, tagged and ready for delivery. We learned there is NO way to wrap a bicycle helmet!! It was a fun evening and provided us with a way to celebrate Christmas together in the best way—

The weekend before Christmas, Christina and Kevin filled their delivery sleigh (twice) and made sure that everything was under the respective trees for Christmas morning. Although we were not there to witness their reaction, we know that these acts of kindness definite spread some smiles—mission accomplished.



And more...

We are continuing to work with HeroBox to provide care packages to the troops. The first month, we sponsored a unit of 25 serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. Since then, we have provided these care packages to both male and female heroes stationed all over the world! While we are working with HeroBox to be connected with servicemen and women, we will also be happy to send a care package to friends or family members of our Supporters that are deployed on active duty. Please let us know if you know someone that could use a smile and would enjoy a care package from the Mary Jo Brown Foundation by sending their contact information to us at Christina@maryjobrown.org – Please include their mailing address, as well as email contact information if available so we can let them know a care package is on the way.



Floating activities continued throughout 2013 included October pumpkin decorating, cupcake decorating in November, giant gingerbread cookie decorating in December, and New Year's Eve fun packs for January.

MOVING FORWARD:

Stay tuned for a very special announcement on Mother's Day, May 11.

Visit our website at:

<http://www.maryjobrown.org/> or

Like us on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryJoFoundation>