

MARY JO BROWN FOUNDATION

- Spreading Smiles Through Acts of Kindness -



Holiday Newsletter 2017

www.maryjobrown.org

The week after the Luau we held our annual meeting and 2018 is already filling up with plans and events to ensure our continued success. See the end of this newsletter for details.

Our Kindness Campaign finalists: Anna Burtnett, Scarlett Timm, Mason Adams and grand prize winner Kailey Moras were featured in several media articles: Eagle Tribune, Melrose Free Press/Wicked Local, Patch.com and the Gloucester Daily Times all shared the stories of these inspiring young people. We hope that all the love and joy that they have so selflessly given comes back to them many times over. In case you missed our last edition, you can read all about them on our website—just click on the newsletter tab in the navigation bar.

In November we mailed our Veterans Day Care Package for the troops. We feel fortunate to have been paired up with Gunnery Sgt. Brian Auten and his battalion of U.S. Marines currently stationed aboard the U.S. Theodore Roosevelt: 25 Marines on a ship with about 5000 sailors! Since their year-long assignment just began in October we decided to “adopt” them for the duration and will be sending our next two scheduled shipments (Valentine’s Day and July 4th) to them. We got some great feedback and sincere gratitude from them with their initial shipment. It seems the microwave Mac and Cheese we sent is far superior to what the naval chefs serve up!!



Next on our to-do list was to shop for the families that we had found for our Christmas initiative. This was our biggest year to date—we were able to help 5 families who suffered loss and/or hardship. We want to thank the following people for their assistance in leading us to these families:

Father Ron Barker, Mrs. Merry Nordeen and Mr. Robert Curran of St. Josephs Parish in Wakefield

Mrs. Maureen Cartier of All Saints Parish in Haverhill.

Once Christina and Sharon had finished shopping and sorting (and making sure siblings in each family had the same number of gifts to unwrap!) it was time to meet at Christina's Christmas Castle on 12/16 and get everything boxed, wrapped, tagged and sorted for delivery. We NEVER could have done this without the help of two angel wrappers who volunteered their time and wrapping talents: Christine Warner-Weidner and Linda Clarke. THANK YOU ladies for getting us across the finish line. We ended the evening with our Yankee Swap, a few laughs—and a lovely selection of food, drink and desserts that our hostess served.



Only thing left to do was deliver—so Christina and Sharon transformed their SUV's into sleighs and got everything to its destination in plenty of time. Big thanks to Sharon's cousin, Cheri Watson, for being her co-pilot and getting her to the Haverhill addresses.

Last item on the agenda for 2017 was our annual donation to Child Life Services at Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. In the past this has always been combined with money raised by the Mary Jo Smile Squad in the annual fundraiser walk held by the hospital. Since the walk was not held this year, Christina presented a check for this year's contribution to Steve Perna of the Philanthropy Department on Tuesday, December 19th. The check included our annual allotment as well as the proceeds of our spring Textile Drive, our fundraiser in April at Muse Paint Bar in Lynnfield, and a generous contribution from Elizabeth D'Alta.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018

(Dates will be announced in our Winter Newsletter)

Spring Textile Drive---Back by popular demand!! Think of us when you are cleaning out those closets and drawers!! Once again we will partner with the Epilepsy Foundation of New England. We will be collecting any and all clothing, shoes, handbags as well as household dry goods (linens, towels, bedding, curtains) Please use kitchen size trash bags!

Spring Wine Tasting Event—this will be held at Total Wines and More in Everett. Join us for an afternoon of wines and appetizers and learn about the wines of our chosen country/region.

Summer Wine Tasting Event—this will be held at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, N.H.

SCHEDULED EVENT

Our 7th Annual Indoor Luau

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Saugus Elks Hall 401 Main Street Saugus, MA 3PM to 7PM

We close with great appreciation for your support that fuels our mission. May the love and generosity that you've shown and the smiles that you have helped to spread come back to you many times over—not only at Christmas but throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas—and may all your dreams come true!

Christina, Marcy, Sharon, Kara, and Terri