

Generous Response to Our Holiday Wish List



IS-Care members present gifts of place settings to Go-Getters consumers



Go-Getters staff served 100 Thanksgiving meals with turkeys donated by OPEIU Local 494

Our third annual Holiday Wish List drew a generous response from two dozen supporters who donated gifts and items to needy families and individuals served by our programs. The response represented a 30% increase over the previous year.

Families in our Children, Youth and Families (CYF) program benefited from two major gifts. Julie Kelly, youth minister at St. Clare de Montefalco Catholic Church, presented more than 100 toys, games, and sports balls donated by the youth at her church. Megan Jennings, director of student affairs at University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, coordinated a collection among students that yielded more than 50 toys and games.

Gwyne Coles, founder of IS-Care, a transitional life skills program for mentally ill adults, organized donations from her consumers to benefit our Community Living Services program. Her group presented 10 boxes to our Go-Getters consumer-run drop-in center. The boxes contained complete four-person place settings, including dishes, silverware, and glasses. These settings were passed on to mentally ill adults currently living in adult foster care homes and who are being assisted by Community Living Services to move to more independent-living environments.

Belfor USA continued their annual commitment to help the homeless by contributing 100 hooded

sweatshirts to Go-Getters. MacDermott Roofing and OPEIU Local 494 also donated to Go-Getters. Shirley Cockrell, Go-Getters director, said, "Our consumers were extremely grateful to receive winter clothing and household goods. We're fortunate to have such generous corporate and union friends."

ALCOS / Brown & Brown Insurance Company, a long-time supporter of our agency, organized an employee drive to provide hats and mittens to young children in our family literacy and supportive housing programs. Three large bags of these essential items were delivered just in time for holiday parties.

Behavioral Health Professionals Inc. (BHPI) once again demonstrated their holiday spirit by supporting low-income families in our counseling and housing programs. BPHI "adopted" 25 children and presented them holiday gifts. Since 2003, BHPI has supported Southwest and seven other agencies through this charitable program that is funded by employee contributions and fundraising.

Families in Southwest once again benefited from the good will of the Women's Council of Realtors Annual Holiday Auction. This gala event, held on the Detroit River in Grosse Pointe Farms, generated a bounty of hats and mittens, books and toys for children in our literacy and housing programs. A portion of these goods was procured by realtors associated with the

Philanthropy Education Organization and Higbie Maxon Agney. We are also grateful for the extraordinary response we received from the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors which donated more than 100 toys, books and games for our Resident Services program for low-income families.

For the second year in a row, the advertising agency Mullen supported a particularly disadvantaged family in our Migrant Even Start program. Three days before Christmas, Mullen employees delivered two cars full of gifts to a family with five children that had suffered from misfortune earlier in the year. The children, ranging from infancy to early adolescence, were thrilled at the unexpected beneficence that included a microwave, clothes, toys and cameras.

The law firm Adkinson, Need & Allen donated art supplies and other items to our new Center for Healing Arts, Recovery, Guidance and Empowerment (CHARGE) based at Go-Getters. The program helps mentally ill and homeless adults realize their creative potential.

We are grateful to all those who contributed their resources and time to make the holiday season more heartening for families and individuals in need. We hope you will continue to grace Southwest with your generosity next holiday season and for many years to come.