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Naperville CARES is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Celebrating 10 Years of Service

In 1998, a group of representatives from local congregations, social service agencies, and civic organizations armed themselves with Naperville's famous community spirit and got together to discuss ways in which they could work together to improve the lives of struggling residents. The group found that our community was home to an ever-increasing number of families who were faced with financial problems, resulting in an inability to meet basic human needs, including food, heat, or even shelter. At the time, the U.S. Census confirmed that 2% of Naperville's population lived below the poverty level; today that number has increased to 3% or 4,600 Naperville residents.

The group conducted a nine-month long study and identified the magnitude of the obstacles these families faced. They also recognized a critical lack of a centralized program that could coordinate and facilitate the aid and support that was being provided by various Naperville agencies, organizations, and congregations. In response to their discoveries, the group incorporated, organized a board of directors, composed a mission, and acquired 501(c)(3) status. In 1999 that group emerged as Naperville CARES (Community Acting in Response to Economic Stress).

Judy Stratman first operated CARES from her home. St. Raphael Catholic Church and volunteers headed by Barb Dinon held spaghetti dinners to provide funding. As funding and needs of the community increased, operations were moved to Loaves and Fishes, which generously donated space behind its freezer to CARES. It was a cold hands and warm hearts location; some of our long-time volunteers remember wearing gloves while they worked.

In 2005, Naperville CARES moved to its own office space on West 5th Avenue. The spaghetti dinners evolved into a gourmet sampling of popular Naperville restaurants called *Cuisine for a Cause*. A second fundraiser held in the fall, *Toasting for a Cause*, features an elegant dinner at Sullivan's Steakhouse that pairs exceptional wines with a sumptuous five-course dinner.



Barb Dinon and Judy Stratman accept a donation.



Anne Wentz and Tom Cordaro at the 2004 Cuisine

Over the past 10 years, Naperville CARES has distributed \$779,000 to families in need and spent \$231,000 to repair cars to make them roadworthy. Our volunteers have put in more than 37,500 hours helping others in the community.

With the help of 40 program volunteers who work in the office and the many people who make *Cuisine for a Cause* and *Toasting for a Cause* realities, we expect Naperville CARES to continue to grow and meet its mission of offering aid to those in need in the com-

Janet Derrick named executive director

Last January, Naperville CARES hired Janet Derrick as its first executive director. She will be responsible for handling all of the day-to-day business activities of CARES.

“Janet is perfectly suited to be our executive director. She is a long-term CARES volunteer and has served on the board, so her first hand knowledge of the CARES mission coupled with her extensive business background made the choice an easy one,” said Tom Cordaro, president of CARES.



Janet Derrick

Janet served as CARES’ vice president for three years and copresident for one year. As a board member, she was responsible for updating the members on the daily operation of CARES. She has been a CARES volunteer since 2002 and served on the board since 2004. Janet also helped to generate \$20,000 in sponsorships for both the 2007 and 2008 fundraiser, *Cuisine for a Cause*.

Janet has also worked directly with clients during the application process and with churches, public agencies, and other groups to develop assistance packages for clients.

The Board of Directors and volunteers of Naperville CARES give a warm welcome to Janet in her new position.

Naperville CARES launches new Web site

Naperville CARES has launched a new Web site at www.NapervilleCARES.org. This new Web site has been designed to provide more information about the CARES mission, the services it provides, and how to get involved.

“We wanted people who needed our services as well as those who wanted to provide aid to have a resource with all the information they needed,” said Janet Derrick, executive director of Naperville CARES.

“We want to be a real presence in the community and one of the ways we can do that is to have a greater online presence. I think this new Web site design really helps us achieve just that,” Derrick said.

The Web site was designed and created by generous members of Naperville’s business community who donated their time and creativity to this project. Thanks to Marilyn L. Schweitzer of MLS Web Works, Sun Kwok of Integral Corp., and Sue Walsh, the Web site not only gives Naperville CARES a new look but is extremely functional and easy to update.

Take a moment to check out the new look!

1,000 Cars for CARES

Even during the country’s economic recession, Mark Leonardelli has found a way to help those less fortunate. In fact, he is the 1,000th person to do so for Naperville CARES. When Mark donated his car to Naperville CARES, he helped CARES reach a major milestone. Naperville CARES has been accepting donated cars for the past nine years, averaging 100 car donations a year.

“We are excited to reach this milestone and grateful to all of our donors over the years. We encourage people to continue supporting others in the community by donating their old cars,” said Executive Director Janet Derrick.

“Naperville CARES is a great nonprofit organization, and I am honored to be the 1,000th donor. I know that CARES will give our van to a deserving Naperville family, one that needs our help,” said Leonardelli.

The CARES car program is different from other organizations requesting donated vehicles because CARES is one of the few nonprofits that actually seek to repair donated cars and give them to people who need them. Some other organizations sell the cars for cash. Every car donated to CARES that can be made roadworthy is given to a local family.

The 1,000th car was given to a mother of six children who is in a housing program with a local organization. By collaborating with another social service agency, CARES was able to provide a client with a way to get to work, school, and medical appointments, which will help the client become more self-sufficient.



Mark Leonardelli gives the keys of the 1,000th car to Burt Toepp. Burt and Al Dinon, on the left, are volunteers in the car program.



InBev beer sampling at the 2009 Cuisine

Sixth annual *Cuisine for a Cause* a huge success

The sixth annual *Cuisine for a Cause* raised over \$118,000 to benefit needy families in Naperville, thanks to the partnership of Naperville CARES and My Chef Catering.

The event showcases signature dishes from more than 30 Naperville restaurants and five wine and beer merchants. All proceeds from *Cuisine for a Cause* go to Naperville CARES, a volunteer-driven organization that aids Naperville families experiencing economic crisis. This event, CARES' largest fundraiser, was especially important this year as CARES has seen a 20% rise in requests.

Naperville CARES' executive director, Janet Derrick, was happy to report that the funds raised exceeded CARES' expectations. The 2009 *Cuisine for a Cause* raised \$118,782, an increase of more than \$20,000 from last year's total of \$96,114.

"It is especially nice to see the Naperville community generously reaching out and recognizing that although this year has been tough for everyone, it has been even tougher for those who started out with less," Derrick said. "In this tough economic climate our requests have risen, and thanks to the funds raised at *Cuisine*, we will be able to assist more Naperville families in need. Because of the generosity of Tellabs, our sponsors, the SECA grant from the City of Naperville, and the donations of food and wine by Naperville restaurants and wine vendors, 100% of our ticket and auction sales will go directly to helping Naperville CARES clients."

Karen Garlough, owner of My Chef Catering, CARES board member, and chairperson of *Cuisine for a Cause*, said she is also happy with the success of the event.

"*Cuisine* is a fabulous event. It is a perfect opportunity for the people and restaurants of Naperville to

come out and have a good time and support their community. I look forward to it every year," said Garlough. "The work Naperville CARES does is so important especially in these challenging times. The members of the Cuisine steering committee who work nine months on the event are dedicated to the success of the fundraiser."

Both Naperville CARES and My Chef Catering are excited about working together on next year's event and are hoping for the same enthusiasm from sponsors, auction donors, event attendees and participating restaurants and merchants.

Save the date! The seventh annual *Cuisine for a Cause* will be held April 24, 2010, at Tellabs' Global Headquarters at 1415 Diehl Road, Naperville.

Will you help?

Dear friends and supporters,

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter celebrating Naperville CARES' 10 years of service to our community. From the beginning our mission has not only been to provide assistance to our neighbors in need, but also to create a place where their dignity and stories could be honored and respected.

Building on this legacy of compassionate service, we invite you to join us in strengthening these bonds of caring as we look ahead to serving our community in the next 10 years. Your continued financial support will help us to face whatever challenges the next ten years may bring.

Please consider making an end-of-the-year donation or becoming a CARESgiver by completing the enclosed envelope. Any donation you can make will be gratefully appreciated. On behalf of all our volunteers and board members we wish you a joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Janet Derrick, Executive Director
Tom Cordaro, President of the Board



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CARESGivers—A special group of donors

The news headlines are dire with foreclosures and unemployment soaring. In these tough economic times, social service agencies are responding to an every-growing need in the community, and Naperville CARES is no exception. In our 2009 fiscal year, CARES received 1,055 requests for assistance from 775 households containing 2,152 residents. We were able to provide \$154,000 in direct assistance and coordinated with area agencies and congregations to provide an additional \$103,000 to

497 households that contained 1,392 residents of whom almost half were children. We also spent \$27,000 repairing 27 cars that were donated to members of the community who needed transportation.

In honor of our 10th anniversary, Naperville CARES is launching a new program called CARESGivers. A CARESGiver is an individual, family, business, or service organization that will give annually to support Naperville CARES' programs and operations. An annual donation of \$300 will provide a Naperville family with the assistance to persevere in an economic emergency. You may donate online at www.NapervilleCARES.org, or send a check to the office. Naperville CARES welcomes all financial contributions, but we hope you will consider becoming a CARESGiver in honor of our 10th year anniversary celebration.

A CARESGiver is an individual, family, or business that, within a calendar year, independent of the purchase of tickets or other items supporting CARES fundraisers, contributes at least \$300 to support Naperville CARES programs and operations. CARESGivers will receive a gift of recognition and be recognized in newsletters annually, on the Naperville CARES Web site, and at Cuisine for a Cause. The following are our initial CARESGivers.

Larry and Carol Althoff
Brian and Caryl Andersen
Jennifer Berg
David and Sandra Bogart
Judith Brodhead
David and Jeanne Buddingh
Thomas and Carol Byron
A.J. and Catherine Cederoth
Joe and Chrissy Censullo
Tom and Cathy Colgan
John and Susan Colucci
John and Deborah Covington
Art and Sandy Davis

Al and Barbara Dinon
Garden of Eden Landscape Co.
Jim and Sandy Freeburg
John and Katherine Koschwanez
James and Gail Krema
Sun and Grace Kwok
Dominique Martucci
Lindsay Mikita
Kenn and Janice Miller
Brien and Carolyn Nagle
Chuck and Diane Nicholas
Don and Gail Niermeyer
Robert and Rebecca Obarski

Ernest and Karen Pierz
Michael and Janet Rohr
Thomas and Jeneane Ryan
Michael and Verona Ryder
Philip and Carolyn Schneck
Claude and Margaret Scholin
Patrick and Rhia Sheehan
Shannon and Suzy Sheley
Rod and Trish Shoemaker
Don and Barb Swanson
Tom and Margie Tarpey
Randall and Jan Tylín
Samuel and Karen Williams