

 UNI-PRES

Kindercottage

Home of the Busy Bees!

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564 Veronica Avenue, East St. Louis, Il. 62205, www.unipreskindercottage.org

Happy New Year Everyone!!!

By Brenda Crisp, Executive Director

Inside this Edition

Breakfast at Applebee's, pg 3

Board of Directors

Brenda Crisp, Executive Director
Carla Monroe-Posey, Chair
Flo Jeffreys, Vice Chair
Judy Brickey, Secretary
Tim Boyce, Treasurer
Jerie Artz
Jane Buck
Fred Cornell
Alexandra Hendrickson
Flo Jeffreys
Tom Kuergeleis
Milton Walter
Jim Younger

Mission Statement:

Uni-Pres Kindercottage is a quality early childhood program in East St. Louis serving low-income families with at-risk infants and preschool children six months to five years old.

I trust you have weathered the cold delivered by "Old Man Winter." It hasn't been that cold since 1999.

As I write this article, we're praying for those in Haiti, that our world comes together, not only in prayer but also with the needed supplies to help the Haitian people. The Uni-Pres Kindercottage staff has decided to send money to help. We encourage you to do the same. Mom always said, "It's not how much you share, but you should always share with others."

Did you enjoy the Christmas holiday? The children, families and classrooms of Uni-Pres surely did. You helped to make all of us very happy. Even the building was happy to receive paper products and cleaning supplies. I have been writing thank-you notes to each of you, but I jump from pile to pile on my desk. If you've not gotten one yet, accept my apology - it is coming. Christmas is the best time of the year; it allows me to see some of you that I've not seen in a while, meet new people, and most of all it allows me to see some very big smiles on faces receiving gifts to open. If only you and I could be in each home as the wrapping paper is being torn off all the gifts. Thank you all very much for making each and every one of us very happy.

I also thank those of you who were concerned with my energy level during your visits. I wasn't ill but just extremely tired. There were many occasions when sleep didn't come until time to arise. I visited many congregations, attended numerous meetings, searched for funding, completed paperwork and got excited about the holiday. On top of all of that, I am getting older and wider. Yes, I said that. Hopefully 2010 will allow a change to come and there will be help for me. The Lord keeps blessing Uni-Pres Kindercottage and me. I stumble and fall sometimes, I use words that I shouldn't sometimes (a lot with the

STATE of Illinois), but I know when I ask God to forgive me, I am forgiven and then He blesses me with yet another angel in my life.

2009 as a whole was not a good year. It began after reading the newspaper article in December that we were closing January 1, 2009. You responded with donations to keep us going until State Funding arrived. It was after that time, that we heard the large amount of jobs lost, the foreclosures, auto-dealerships closing, etc. Crime rates increased, mental illnesses were quite obvious, and we lost faith in our leaders. In all of that bad news, did you notice the sighting of Jesus increasing? His face was on the potato, cookies, and cheese sandwich, in the sky too. God's son was everywhere trying to remind us and give us victory. During this period of reflection, I thought of friends and family who've gone on to heaven, but what really got my attention was the song playing in the inner space area of my mind "How Great Thou Art." Even with those bad times, you have made it possible for Kindercottage to survive. I thank each and every one of you for making our mission possible and making kids happy.

"We inspire people to fulfill their hopes and dreams. Each One, Teach One!"



Kindercottage Board Officers



At the December, 2009 meeting of the Uni-Pres Kindercottage Board, we bid farewell to Board member Johann Ellerbrake of O'Fallon UCC, O'Fallon, as she "retired" after completing several terms. Out-going President, Jerie Artz of First Presbyterian in Collinsville was thanked for her 2 years as President. The following slate of officers was unanimously received:

Chair: Dr. Carla Monroe-Posey, is a member of St. Paul UCC in Lebanon. Retired as a Lt. Col. from the U.S. Air Force, she currently serves as Senior Vice-President of Student Resource Services. Carla has been a member of the Uni-Pres Board for 3 years.

Vice-Chair: Ms. Flo Jeffreys is an Adult Nurse Practitioner at St. Louis University-Cardiology. She is a member of O'Fallon UCC, O'Fallon where she chairs the Health Ministry Team and has been a leader of mission trips to the Biloxi area. She has been a Board member for one year.

Secretary: Mrs. Judy Brickey is a former teacher and IBM Sales Representative. She is a member of St. John's Evangelical UCC in Collinsville. She has been a Board member for 4 years and has been involved with fund raising for Kindercottage.

Treasurer: Mr. Tim Boyce continues as Treasurer of the Board. He is a member of St. John UCC in Mascoutah and is a CPA with the firm of Boyce, Hund and Associates. Tim has been a Board member for 4 years.

Board members continuing their terms are: Milt Walters, Rev. Fred Cornell, Rev. Alex Hendrickson, Jane Buck, Jerie Artz and Tom Kuergeleis. Ex-officio members are Brenda Crisp, Kindercottage Director and Jim Younger, Financial Officer.



Uni-Pres Kindercottage Website

After waiting for just the right person to help us re-vamp it, the Kindercottage website www.unipreskindercottage.org is now up and running. We express great appreciation to Mr. Bill Whicher of St. Paul UCC in Belleville and his wife, Helen, for donating hours of time to create an up-to-date website for Kindercottage. We encourage you to visit the website to hear comments from Brenda and the teachers, to see photographs of our students and to read each edition of this newsletter. A new feature of the site is that you may now make a secure donation to Kindercottage via PayPal. (You should have heard Brenda when she received the first donation via PayPal!) We are so pleased to have a website that we may continue to up-date from East St. Louis. Thank you so VERY much, Bill and Helen!

GOODSEARCH. Com

Help Kindercottage each time you use a search engine on your computer. Instead of using Google, Ask, or others, go to GoodSearch.com and enter Uni-Pres Kindercottage as your charity of choice. (It's already on their list.) Bookmark www.Goodsearch.com and then each time you want to search the web, use it and earn money for Kindercottage. If you shop GoodShop on the GoodSearch website, you can earn even more money for Kindercottage. It's easy. Try it!

Breakfast at Applebee's™

It's a whole new neighborhood.™

It's that time of the year again when we invite you to dine out for an all-you-care-to-eat Flapjack Breakfast at the Applebee's restaurant in Swansea, IL. Region 9 churches of the Illinois South Conference, UCC, (those in the Belleville-O'Fallon area) are sponsoring this event for the 3rd year. We have realized about \$2000 per year in profit from this event. This year's date is March 6 when volunteers will serve breakfast from 8-10 AM. Cost of a ticket is \$10. Tickets are available from any Kindercottage Board member or Region 9 church. Contact Pat Morris, the Region 9 Convener, at 476-3481 or Jane Buck at 654-1896 if you need a ticket. See you there!

Adopt a Child at Kindercottage

Last year, the Kindercottage Board mailed letters to Presbyterian and UCC churches in our area asking them to accept the challenge of adopting a child for a year at Kindercottage. The cost for a child to attend Kindercottage for one year is approximately \$6000 per year. We are pleased to announce that several churches have accepted this goal. Thanks to:

ST. PAUL UCC, LEBANON, IL
ST. JOHN UCC, MASCOUTAH, IL
O'FALLON UCC, O'FALLON, IL
and
ST. PAUL UCC, FREEBURG, IL

We hope that other churches will follow their lead and accept the challenge to adopt a child. These churches have found creative ways to fund their child such as finding 25 people to give \$20 per month for 12 months. If there are other churches who plan to meet this goal, please contact Brenda at Kindercottage.

We also received responses from several churches telling us that although they could not afford to adopt a child for a year, they would send what they could towards that goal. We extend appreciation to them as well.

Althoff Catholic High School Students serve at Kindercottage

By Brenda Crisp, Executive Director

Althoff Catholic High School believes that service is an important part of life. Through service, students learn the value of their Christian identity in practice, grow in their awareness of social issues and commit to service of those in need. Through the service-learning project, seniors spend three weeks in full time volunteer service at people servicing agencies throughout the community. Satisfactory completion of the project is a requirement for graduation. This January, Madeline and Maureen Nesbit of Althoff are working at Kindercottage. Uni-Pres has been a collaborative partner of Althoff and Gibault High Schools since January 1999.





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Kindercottage Wish List

Board Members Needed:

Do you have a passionate fire burning with your heart for Kindercottage? Are you willing to give of your time to work for Kindercottage? Would you like to serve on the Kindercottage Board for a 3-year term? If so, we ask you to pray about it and then contact Brenda Crisp at Kindercottage or Board Chair, Dr. Carla Monroe-Posey at 622-1719. Requirements are that Board members be members of the United Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ or live in the Kindercottage community.

Coming Soon to a Screen Near You!

By Rev. Alex Hendricksen

As part of our ongoing commitment to publicize and share the good work that Kindercottage is doing in the East St. Louis community, the Board is working with a marketing and video specialist to produce a promotional video about the center. Dan O'Saben, a member of First United Presbyterian in Belleville, and his Marketing28 advertising/marketing firm, are working on a DVD and promotional packet which church groups, mission committees, community groups, and others can use to learn more about the work and mission of Kindercottage. In addition, Kindercottage Board Members and other volunteers are being trained to give presentations about the center, with the new DVD being at the heart of those presentations. Please contact Board President Carla Monroe-Posey if you would like to request one of these presenters to come to your church or organization with this new promotional material.