



Community Service, Family, Fraternity

Volume 4, Issue 2

FEBRUARY, 2010



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Middleburg Steak Night
- Higher Degree @ Suwannee
- Super Bowl Party
- Arlington Senior Dance
- Mardi Gras Party & Masquerade Ball
- Valentine's Day Dance
- Mandarin Breakfast
- Mandarin Dinner Dance
- Lakeshore Dinner Dance
- Trent's Seafood
- Oakleaf Shopping

Newsletter Editor:
Marina Mathews

A True Christmas Gift

Ralph Brooks, a member of Moosehaven's Maintenance Staff, gave the worlds best Christmas gift to his sister Donna; a kidney. Donna, age 44, was on dialysis for about 2 1/2 years. She required dialysis 3 times per week and was on a restricted diet. Her energy level was decreasing but her outlook on life was always bright.. Her hopes and prayers were to be a recipient of a new kidney and she put her name on the recipient list. One day her brother Ralph, age 48, told her, "Why don't I see if I am a possible donor?" Family members are more likely to be good matches. He was carefully evaluated on medical and psychological grounds. This ensures that the donor is fit for surgery and has no disease which brings undue risks or likelihood of a poor outcome for either the donor or recipient.

After several months of tests and waiting, the surgery was finally planned. Dr. Peters at Shands of Jacksonville was the surgeon in charge and on December 23, 2009 Ralph and Donna checked into the hospital. Later that day, the operation took place and everything went perfectly. Just 2 hours later both were in recovery and doing great. The recipient recovers a little faster than the donor and true enough the next morning Donna was up and checking on her brother. Just 2 weeks later she was enjoying 2 fruits she was not previously allowed to eat: oranges and bananas. Before the operation Ralph jokingly asked Dr. Peters if he could wrap it since it was Christmas. The Doctor replied, "No, but I will put it in a silver bowl."

The National Kidney Foundation estimates about 350,000 people in the US have end-stage renal disease. Around 47,000 are waiting for a transplant. Because of the shortage of donor kidneys, each year only a small percentage of people who need a transplant actually receive a kidney. The wait for a donor can take years.

Because this transplant took place at Christmas, it got media coverage. The story was on Channel 4 twice the Florida Times Union ran the story.

Ralph has 2 sons ages 25 and 27, is a Moose member and enjoys hunting, fishing and song writing. He said during his recovery that he plans on writing a song about his experience. He plans on being back to work in about 4 weeks.

Dennis Miller, Inventory Management Services Director



Donna Schramm (left) is the happy recipient of the Best Christmas Present Ever from her brother, Ralph Brooks (right.) Ralph donated one of his kidneys to his sister in December and both are recovering well.



Just John

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Have you ever asked this question or the more personal one, “why me?” Most of us have at one time or another during periods of suffering. You know what? Bad things happen to everyone regardless of whether they are good or bad people. Pain and death and the suffering they cause are the price we all pay for being alive.

As humans, we try to make sense of tragedy. We fix blame...sometimes on others or ourselves and even on God. Have you ever wondered why God allows bad things to happen? Why do babies die? Why doesn't he prevent wars, earthquakes and genocide? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why did this happen to me?

We take comfort in the fact that the laws of nature do not change. The sun always travels from east to west and water always flows down hill. But we forget that the very precision of these laws demands that they do not make exceptions for nice people. A bullet flies its course without conscience; neither does a malignant tumor nor an automobile gone out of control search out one person over another. This is why good people get sick and hurt as much as anyone. Nature is morally blind, without values. It churns along, following its own laws, not caring who or what gets in the way.

While the laws of nature are precise and reliable, there is often still a random quality to how, when and where events occur. Things sometimes happen that could just as easily have happened differently. An engine bolt breaks on one airplane instead of another, inflicting tragedy on some while sparing others. We struggle to make sense of these random acts by seeking explanation and establishing accountability, but the location, timing and other factors are often merely random.

Being human means being free to choose instead of doing whatever our instincts tell us to do. It means knowing that some choices are good, and others are bad. While it is our responsibility to know the difference, we can choose bad as freely as good. We can and do cheat, rob and hurt each other. The chances of becoming a victim can be accelerated or diminished by many factors, such as age, behavior, location, and work - a soldier in Afghanistan is more at risk than a sentry at Jacksonville NAS - but no one is completely exempt.

Too often, in our pain and confusion, we instinctively do the wrong thing. We add to our rejection, bereavement, injury, suffering or perception of bad luck a sense that we are a bad person who deserves to suffer. We don't feel we deserve to be helped. So, we drive away those people who try to come close and help us. We let guilt, anger, jealousy, and self-imposed loneliness make our suffering even worse.

The earthquake and the accident, like the murder and the robbery, are not the will of God or punishment for being bad, but rather those aspects of nature and humanity that surround us. We can sometimes lessen our exposure, but we cannot eliminate it. What we can do is decide how we will respond. Will we allow the experience to turn us bitter and envious? Or, will we use it to become sensitive and compassionate? It is this second result that will turn an otherwise empty and destructive event into a meaningful experience.

Just John

Happy Valentine's Day!

Up Close And Personal With Virginia Haws

Say hello to Jennie! Jennie was born to Anna and Vinton Barrow in Los Angeles, CA, on Aug. 20, 1918. She has one sister. Jennie grew up in the LA area and graduated from Polytechnic High School. She attended the Woodbury Business College and took a secretarial course. She obtained a position with Newsweek Magazine and worked at several other jobs, including working in a bakery, over the years. Jennie told me she always worked.

In 1939, Jennie met and married Chester Haws. He worked for Lockheed for 35 years, and Jennie worked there as well for a short time. Jennie told me a cute story: while pregnant and working, her boss told her if the baby was a girl, he would give her \$25.00; if it was a boy, she would get nothing. Their daughter, Joyce, was born on Jan. 1, 1941 and still resides in CA. Her boss was almost true to his word, but only sent her \$5.00.

Chester joined Lodge #1728 in Sonora, CA, and Jennie joined Chapter #2183. Jennie was active in her Chapter. On Jan. 17, 1995, Jennie and her husband came to Moosehaven. She is very proud of being Senior Regent for one year after moving here. Her husband passed away in 1996.

Jennie helped to open all of the snack bars, especially the one on Main Street, and she worked in all of them for several years. She was also an avid crafter, making beautiful doll clothes by crocheting dresses, hats, etc. and selling these dolls. Unfortunately, she can't do that anymore because she broke her arm and her fingers just won't work right.

She spoke lovingly about her close friend, Cy Lawrence. She said if you saw one of them, you would see the other. They were "best" friends for over 10 years.

Jennie loves pancakes with all the "goodies" on them from IHOP and loves game shows on TV.

Jennie says Moosehaven has been very good to her all of these years. She has had several hospital stays, among them by-pass surgery, and says she received excellent care when she returned to Moosehaven from the hospital. She feels fine now and has no problems.

Jennie resides in Schmitz III. She would welcome company and she can show you pictures of her beautiful dolls. Jennie is a sweetie, and I know you'll enjoy visiting her.



Bea Harman

Bereavement Group
1st Monday of the Month
10:30am
Life Care Private Dining Room

Brandon Place

Now that the holidays are behind us, interest and activity at Brandon Place has definitely perked up! Four homes are now reserved with two pending. One of the homes reserved is on Cedar Key Court. Each day brings new calls and prospects from both the local area and beyond.

Besides articles in the Moose Magazine and the Moosehaven, Moose International, and Brandon Place websites, the Marketing Office is stepping up advertising to the local market. One Sunday a month, Brandon Place will host an Open House, which will be advertised. Other local publications will also promote Brandon Place.

Moving to Brandon Place is a retirement choice. Usually, an event will trigger one's desire for a maintenance free lifestyle, personal security, socialization, or the peace of mind about health care, or the combination of any of these. I have the opportunity to speak with prospects everyday and although I hear many of the same comments, each person has a need or desire for their future, which needs to be discovered. There is no doubt however, that the beautiful Moosehaven campus is a lure

SIMPLY HELEN

Well it seems Christmas and New Year's passed me by without me even noticing it. They say, "time flies when you're having fun, they never said, it passes you by without you even noticing it." That's what happened to me – it passed me by without notice. My surgery didn't go well on December 22nd, the surgery was expected to be about 8-10 hours, but ended up being more like 18 hours. I was expecting to be in the hospital 3-5 days, but ended up being there for 1 month. Several days after the surgery I begin having high fevers and it was the result of a very bad infection. The Doctor's at Mayo were great, did everything they possibly could for me and finally things turned around for me thanks to the many, many prayers sent up for me. I can't thank all of you enough for all the love and support shown to my husband and me. I look back today and it amazes me how God lifted me up when I couldn't see past the next hour and I thank Him for having His hand on me every minute of each day and for providing His healing power to me.

This roadblock slowed me down longer than I expected, but I know that soon I will be back as strong as ever. Each day I feel stronger and expect to be up and running within the next month. Things happen in our lives that we don't understand, but there is always a reason to bring out the good in our lives.

continued on next page...

Simply Helen Continued...

God's word tells us that our trials come to make us strong, so you see, I've got to come back stronger!

I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for holding me up and keeping me in your thoughts and prayers, as it made all the difference. I'm expecting to give you all a great report in my next writing.

May each of you remember in this New Year when things seem impossible to you, it's possible with God. May His love, mercy and grace be with you all.

Simply Helen

Moosehaven Gives Back

Moosehaven is a charitable organization, which is supported by the fraternal members of The Loyal Order Of Moose. As such, it is even more poignant when our residents, who are on the receiving end of giving, want to give back. One Moosehaven resident, Bob Gabbert, had the wonderful idea of donating our emergency bottled water that was nearing its expiration date to the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. A total of 65 cases of bottled water worth \$272.35 was donated to Harvest America, a relief organization that is collecting food and medical supplies to ship to Haiti.

Haiti occupies an area roughly the size of Maryland on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic. One of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, Haiti in recent years has struggled with problems ranging from near-constant political upheaval, health crises, severe environmental degradation and an annual barrage of hurricanes, which killed an estimated 800 people and caused vast damage in 2008.¹

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families affected by the earthquake and to the many volunteers who are on hand to help. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Mission Harvest America, Inc. at 69 S. Copeland Street Jacksonville, FL 32204. For more information, call (904) 356-9006 or (904) 356-4819.

Marina Mathews

¹Liz Robbins, "Haiti News," *New York Times*, Jan. 14, 2010 (<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/haiti/index.html>.)



Haiti staggers under the aftermath of the earthquake on Tuesday, January 12th.



Moosehaven resident, Bob Gabbert, and the 65 cases of water that will be donated to Harvest America for the Haiti relief efforts.



The staff of Harvest America gladly accepts the donation from Moosehaven in support of the relief efforts in Haiti.

The following individuals were spotted being "A Piece Of The Solution."
Thank you all for your outstanding contributions!

- **Ruth Wingard, Reta Trentt, Jean Delp and Elsie Frisk** were spotted being Pieces Of The Solution by generously volunteering to bag and place in storage all the artificial poinsettias used in the Chapel over the holidays.
- **Pauline Denton and Lila Williams** were spotted being Pieces Of The Solution for their hard work in taking down all of the Christmas decorations in the Chancellor II hall.
- **Nettie Radford** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution by going way above and way beyond her duties in assisting the Vivian Borem residents.
- **Dick Harman** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution by his dedication in lowering the United States flag at Florida Bermuda to half staff whenever there is a military funeral.
- **Cris Winsor** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution by her attentive care and generosity to a fellow resident who was indisposed.
- **Bea Harman** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution for her volunteer work with the Media Team to conduct the Up Close And Personal interviews for the Moosehaven monthly newsletter.
- **Bob Burlingham** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution for his willingness to volunteer countless hours as the Media Team videographer for WMHT, Channel 3.
- **Dan Bramblett** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution for his willingness to volunteer countless hours as the Media Team photographer/videographer for WMHT, Channel 3.
- **Joyce Sohol-Leonhardt** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution for her willingness to volunteer as the Media Team's Roving Reporter for WMHT, Channel 3.
- **Buddy Dunkle** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution for his generosity in helping others.
- **Bill Tippins** was spotted being A Piece Of The Solution for his willingness to help residents with "even the small stuff."

Remember to notify Doreen, Helen or Marina if you want to recognize someone for being
A Piece Of The Solution!

