



news & notes

Spring 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 27 – Chops N Catch
MACC fundraiser 4:00PM-9:30PM –
15% of all proceeds will be donated
to MACC. 706 Hartford Road, Manchester.
To RSVP contact Geoff Luxenberg at
GLuxenberg@macc-ct.org or 860-288-4263



May 5 – Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
MACC Community Food Pantry,
460 Main Street, Manchester CT.
RSVP to Beth Stafford at
BStafford@macc-ct.org or 860-647-0440

**June 22 – Annual BSBI/MACC/HVCC
golf tournament** at the
Tradition Golf Course in Windsor.
10:30am Tee Time

Sunday October 16 – The MACC Charities
Manchester Crop Walk. For more details,
contact Geoff Luxenberg at
GLuxenberg@macc-ct.org or 860-288-4263

November 5 – Fashion for Good Event
Manchester Church of Christ,
595 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester.
RSVP to Beth Stafford at
BStafford@macc-ct.org or 860-647-0440



*BSBI/MACC/HVCC Golf Committee
Chairman Spin Zucker presents 2010
tournament proceeds to Beth Stafford
at MACC Charities*

Connect with MACC Charities on Facebook
by visiting www.facebook.com and searching
"Manchester Area Conference of Churches"
and please visit our website at
www.macc-ct.org

Message From The Executive Director

Beth Stafford

Stone Soup is an old folk story in which hungry strangers persuade local people of a town to give them food. It is usually told as a lesson in cooperation, especially amid scarcity. Most of the versions of this story include some sort of trickery to get people to the ultimate goal of combining their resources for the good of all concerned. I was surprised to find how many versions of this story are actually in print. I read to 4th Graders at Washington Elementary School every Friday morning as a Rotarian. The children were very interested in where I work. I decided to read this story to help them understand what kind of work I do at MACC Charities.



The children loved the story and understood the message of cooperation. In our discussion after the reading, I asked them how much more powerful the story would be if we took away the element of trickery, then it could be a story of what a strong community looks like when people care about each other and do the right thing. The boys and girls loved this idea and we talked about the Rotary theme of "Service Above Self" and the work of MACC and how everyone can help their community no matter what age they are.

Helping others comes naturally to children which was seen when Jodie Mosher-Towle and Jackie Madore, President, Manchester PTA Town Council organized a special town-wide school food drive for MACC in December. Armed with a great idea and the support and approval of School Superintendent, Dr. Kathleen Ouellette, the PTA invited every student in Manchester to take part in this project and take part they did! In two weeks time they filled a large conference room with food, paper goods, and personal care items and collected \$2,013.97 in change. If we are going to continue good work in our community, we have to get the attention of our youth and nurture that involvement throughout their lives. Teaching children to give back to those in need is community at its best and a treasured value passed down from generation to generation.

Kate Darcy Hohenthal, Founder of the Birthday Club, also knows the impact of unleashing the power of children's good hearts. In 2003, Kate and her husband, Carl created The Birthday Club™ (TBC) for their children, Matthew and Sara. TBC is a program where children ask loved ones and friends to donate items to needy families instead of asking for birthday gifts for themselves. The Birthday Club™ has expanded into 16 states and is used for a variety of other celebrations including anniversaries, promotions, SuperBowl parties, and graduations. As The Birthday Club continues to evolve, it has developed into a movement which the family thinks of as "Party for Food!" Interested in joining this movement to end hunger? Visit Kate's website at www.birthdayclub.net.

Are you motivated to do good in your community? All it takes is the desire to help others. Call a meeting of good friends or family and get going!

Dear Friends & Partners,

I hope that you will take a few minutes to read the stories in this newsletter. Not only do I want you to know about all that is happening these days, I also want you to smile and be grateful and to know that you are part of something significant when you partner with MACC.



The work we all do at MACC -- as staff, volunteers, donors and partners -- is hard and can sometimes even be discouraging in its magnitude. But it is also work filled with significance, gratitude and joy.

From the bottom of my heart, thanks for being part of the story! We couldn't do it without you.

Ben Dubow
President, Board of Directors
MACC Charities, Inc.

Advocacy in Action – Your Investment at Work

Out of work for a year due to a serious electrical shock that left Sarah with a disfigured hand, would be tragic enough, but it would prove to be the tip of the iceberg for this young woman. She learned she had aggressive cancer. MACC could not solve all of Sarah's problems or give her back her health, but because of your support, we were there to help her heat her home and fill her empty cupboards with food.

After a series of unimaginable events, things are looking better for Sarah and she hopes to return to work soon. When things were at their worst, MACC stepped in with what it does best, providing emergency services to families and individuals in crisis like Sarah.

Do you believe in miracles? We see them everyday...

Nancy's boss requires shoes at work that have a gripping tread for safety. Nancy had worn out her shoes and couldn't afford to purchase new ones. Without enough money to solve the safety issue, and terrified of losing her job as a result, she avoided her boss, hoping he would not notice the worn-down tread of her shoes. She was careful to work hard and show up on time. After a few weeks, her boss noticed the condition of her shoes and Nancy was embarrassed to admit that she couldn't afford to purchase new ones. Knowing she was a proud person, her boss gently offered to loan her \$50 to go and buy the shoes because safety on the job was critical.

Nancy was grateful and told her boss she would consider his generous offer. She decided to check out the MACC Charities Church Mouse Thrift Shoppe to see what they had. To her delight, she found exactly what she needed. The shoes she discovered had never been worn, had great treads, were the right shoe size and were only \$2.50! She was able to take care of her own needs and not borrow money from her boss. Maintaining her dignity, even during a difficult time was very important to Nancy. Her boss noticed the new shoes right away and was pleased she was able to find the right shoes for work and be safe on the job. A proud woman was able to provide for herself with a little help from the Church Mouse Thrift Shoppe and a miracle was made possible by a MACC clothing donor.



(Top left) Anja and Gene Rosenberg, friends of the Hollander family, the owners of Hartford Distributors Inc., take part in candlelight vigil at Center Memorial Park in Manchester for the victims of the HDI shootings. (Jim Michaud / Journal Inquirer)

(Left) MACC wins the 2010 Northeast Marketplace Ministry Award for coordinating the HDI candlelight vigil.

What's New? The Food Pantry Basement Thanks to You.



Jacki Campion, Director of Volunteer and Community Services in the MACC Food Pantry. "We need volunteers!" Contact Jacki to volunteer at JCampion@macc-ct.org or 860-288-4256.

In 2010, MACC Charities took steps to ensure that we have sufficient space for food donations and to make it easier for our volunteers to store the food and stock the pantry shelves. A new basement storage area and motorized lift for the Food Pantry was made possible by many generous grants and donations, including those from the H. Louise Ruddell Fund, the Fund for Greater Hartford, the SBM Charitable Foundation, the NewAlliance Foundation, Don and Marlene Camper and a plethora of community partners, MACC staff and our volunteers. Our basement is now full of sturdy shelving and cases of food. The lift saves us from backbreaking work and has made it so much easier to get food onto the pantry shelves quickly and more efficiently.

These improvements were completed just in time for us to receive our largest holiday food donation ever as our member churches and several community partners challenged similar groups in Vernon to see who could collect the most turkeys and food items. Through the efforts of Manchester Stop and Shop, the Manchester Police Department, Ambulance Service of Manchester, LLC and the Rotary Club of Manchester along with the Eastern Connecticut Health Network, a total of 32,574 food items and 1735 turkeys were collected.

Corporation Gives Back!

BlumShapiro blessed many charitable organizations in lieu of having a 2010 holiday party! MACC Charities received \$2500!

Angels Do Walk the Earth

Investing in our Vision: An Interview with MACC supporter Dan Siracusa

It was on the streets of Toronto, Canada where Daniel Siracusa, President and Founder of Siracusa Moving & Storage Co. Inc. first encountered the face of homelessness and hunger. It was overwhelming to see people lining the streets begging for help. "I cannot imagine what it must be like to be cold or hungry" said Mr. Siracusa.

When Dan asked his long time friend, Gloria McAdam, President and CEO of FoodShare where he could find a nonprofit human service agency that helped people in crisis with their most basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, Gloria recommended he contact MACC Charities. Mr. Siracusa came to visit MACC and after a tour of the campus and conversation with staff, volunteers and the people served, Dan was hooked.

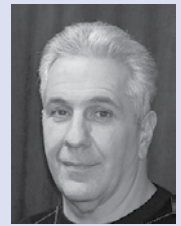
A short time after Dan's visit, he dropped off sheet sets and supplies for the

Homeless Outreach Program. A few days later, he called and asked to serve dinner with his colleague in the soup kitchen. Dan visited with the guests of the emergency shelter and talked with them about their barriers to housing and employment. He was engaging and confident. It was wonderful to see hope return in the eyes of discouraged men and women. Dan also gave a generous donation to the organization that night.

It was the following week that he ordered 40 brand new mattresses for the shelter, a new mattress for each shelter guest. When asked why he did it, Dan said, "When I came to visit MACC I saw the work you were doing and how the resources were going directly to the people who need them the most. I just love what you are doing here."

"I believe you have an obligation if you're in business to help the community" said Mr. Siracusa and he doesn't just say it, he does it. Dan plans to help improve the seating and

common area in the shelter next. It was no surprise to learn that Dan Siracusa's company runs one of the largest coat drives in the Nation, and that his company has provided scores of children with cleft pallet surgeries through an organization called Smile Train.



President,
Siracusa Moving &
Storage Co., Inc.

Dan started Siracusa Moving & Storage 31 years ago in a tough job market with one pick-up truck and a vision. His company is now the largest moving company in Connecticut and the largest Allied Van Line's Agent in the United States. He is a proud husband and father of three of children and his success story is remarkable, but it is clear to us at MACC that the only thing bigger than his entrepreneurial success is his heart for people in need.

Thank You to Our Strong Community Partners who made the Emergency of Hunger 2010 Food Drive a Great Success!



Welcome to the Conference – New Member Churches added in 2010-11

- Buckingham Congregational Church UCC, Glastonbury
- Colonial Point Christian Church, South Windsor
- Faith Tabernacle, Manchester
- First Church of Christ UCC, Glastonbury
- First Congregational Church UCC, South Windsor
- Korean Presbyterian Church of Greater Hartford, Manchester
- Riverfront Family Church, Hartford
- Unity Church of Greater Hartford, South Windsor

Correction

We wish to recognize and thank Concordia Lutheran Church and Emanuel Lutheran Church for their generosity to MACC this past year and throughout our history. Our Annual Report neglected to include them in our member church list of donors. This was an editing error on our part and we thank both churches, their clergy and membership for their generosity and faithfulness to MACC!





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Address Correction Requested

Friends of MACC

Two Friends of MACC Lost, but Never Forgotten

*Our spring newsletter is
dedicated to the memory of
two wonderful Friends of
MACC, John Padbury and
Larry Pietrantonio.*



John Padbury (July 24, 1916- January 19, 2011) served as a MACC Board Member for several years. In addition to hundreds of hours of volunteering for us, John also established the Milk Fund in 2005. This fund has raised over \$50,000 to make sure our families with children do not go without fresh milk. John's gentle presence will be forever missed, but his legacy will continue.



Larry Pietrantonio (September 7, 1953 – November 23, 2010) was the owner and operator of Prestige Printing Corporation in Manchester. Larry was a long time friend to MACC Charities and we enjoyed a great working relationship with him at Prestige Printing for many years. As a businessman he knew that profits were important, but people and the relationships you cultivate with them are more important. Larry was a philanthropist in the truest sense of the term, "one who loved and cared for others."

On behalf of the MACC staff, Board and all of our volunteers,
we dedicate this newsletter to John and Larry in honor of the lives they lived
and the remarkable work they did on behalf of others.

MACC Charities *Does Our Community Good*