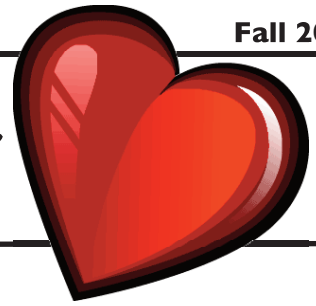


NEWS FROM THE HEART



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Director's Note

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

CHANGE. For the past several months, we have heard that word a lot these days. Everyone is speaking about "changing the future. The problem with change is that no one knows whether change is for the good or not until there is an opportunity to reflect on the effect the change has had.

Twenty years ago, a small group of thoughtful people from our own community set out to make a change. They came together to create an organization where neighbors could get help from neighbors with the challenges they were facing. Change in the way of "people helping people." That organization is still making a difference in the lives of people served. That organization is Community Resource Services.

Twenty years later, I cannot imagine that this small group of people could have seen what a positive change they were making for the community. CRS stands here today as a testament to all those that have lent a hand over the years. To see that CRS is providing some of the same services established years ago, as well as a host of additional programs to address today's issues. What an incredible achievement by all who have, even in the slightest of ways, have been instrumental in supporting CRS by volunteering or donating to help make change for the positive.

Twenty years from now, where will CRS be? What will change look like as we go forward? Change is inevitable in life. But it is how we plan for the change and how it affects others that will hopefully prepare CRS for a similar course of positive change that has been experienced over the first twenty years.

In honor of our twenty years of service, the 2009 Charity Ball will be a celebration of our past, present and our future. I am personally inviting all of you to join us in recognizing the history and accomplishments of Community Resource Services. Be sure to look inside for more details.

Twenty years ago that small group of thoughtful people may not have changed the world as Margaret Mead alluded to, but indeed, they changed the community we live in. CRS is the "HEART Of The Community". For this, we can all say that CHANGE was good!!

Thank you for helping make this CHANGE possible!

Dawn Meyer
Executive Director



Holiday Family Program



The holidays will be here before we know it! Although it may seem a little early to be thinking of Christmas shopping, we have already begun planning here in the Community Resource Services offices. We have started to receive Dear Santa letters and wish lists from the families we serve. Many of our holiday donors choose to adopt a family, but we also have clients with smaller needs, such as a new sweater for a senior or gas cards for a teenager. Please consider helping us to fill a child's Christmas wish list or provide a few personal items to make the holidays brighter for our families.

Scouting for Food

On October 25, Avon Lake Girl Scouts canvassed Avon Lake to collect over 6,500 pounds of food to re-stock the nearly empty shelves of our food pantry. Countless troops dropped off bags of non-perishable food while other volunteers sorted and shelved all of the food. Thank you to all of those who participated!!



CRS Murder Mystery Night

"Coloniel Mustard in the Kitchen with a Candlestick." So maybe that wasn't the "whodunit" for CRS' Murder Mystery night, but it was no mystery that all in attendance were having fun. Swingo's Grand Tavern provided a grand location for flappers, food and frolics. Over \$2,500 was raised to provide assistance for families in Avon and Avon Lake.

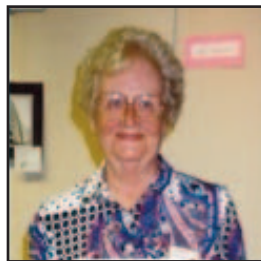
Event Chairperson Vanessa Furrer (right) and Ann Stonecipher dolled up for the evening!



CRS Pays Tribute to Two Longtime Volunteers

Both Ruth Meyer and Virginia Manning have one thing in common - they have put in over 2,200 hours each of volunteering as front desk receptionists at CRS. The staff and board of CRS thank you both for your countless hours of dedication. You are an inspiration to all of us.

Ruth Meyer



Ruth Meyer started volunteering in September 1991 on Wednesdays after retiring from being a

school teacher with the Avon Lake School District. She would frequently recognize clients that were in her classroom and they would recognize her too. Ruth always had a smile on her face and brought a happy tone to working the front desk area. Ruth quoted, "I loved every moment of volunteering at CRS." Ruth is an active member of the AL Garden Club and enjoys playing cards and dominoes with her friends.

Virginia Manning



In June of 1994, Ginny started volunteering as our Miss Tuesday after she had retired from being a secre-

tary for the Superintendent of Avon Lake for 30 years. As she offered her time to CRS, the Avon Lake Library Gift shop recruited her also. She volunteered there for 10 years and has retired from CRS in September of 2007. Ginny's pleasant voice was welcomed as the clients called or walked into the door. You could just tell she enjoyed every day volunteering at the front desk. Ginny keeps busy these days visiting her family weekly including her 95 year old Aunt.



20th Annual CRS Charity Ball

Saturday, January 31, 2009

La Centre, Westlake

6:30 PM

Dinner • Dancing • Raffles • Silent Auction

Featuring the band, "Ovation"

Ticket price is \$110/person

Call the CRS office at 933-5639 to make sure you receive an invitation to buy your tickets.

For the past twenty years, CRS has been the place that people turn to when they need to get back on their feet. This year's Charity Ball will celebrate 20 years of service to our community, and will enable us to continue to provide essential services to our community in the future.

Opportunities are available for sponsorship or advertising in our Ball program, or donations to our live and silent auctions. New to the 20th Anniversary Ball is the "Battle of the Baskets." Any community organization or group wanting more information about joining the "Battle" may do so by using the contact information listed below.

Consider this your personal invitation to join us for a fun-filled night. For ticket or jewelry raffle information, contact the CRS office at 933-5639 or specialevents@aalcrs.org, or check the CRS website at www.aalcrs.org.



CRS BLING!

This beautiful piece of pure fine jewelry from Peter & Co. Jewelers can be yours, if your raffle ticket has the right numbers! This Hearts On Fire® Repertoire Teardrop Pendant with 0.60tw of the world's most perfectly cut diamonds is suspended on an 18 karat white gold cable chain, secured with a lobster clasp. Retail value is \$5,900.

This can be YOURS!! Buy your raffle tickets now! Tickets are \$20 each, or 3 for \$50. Tickets are available at the CRS office or at Peter & Co. Jewelers.

2009 Charity Ball Ticket Order

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending @ \$110: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

(Make checks payable to Community Resource Services)

Clip this order form and mail it to CRS, 33501-L Lake Rd., Avon Lake, OH 44012

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

CRS represents the Salvation Army in Avon & Avon Lake. As a Salvation Army Service Unit, CRS receives some funding for direct aid for the families we serve. It is our responsibility to coordinate and staff the Red Kettle Campaign during the holiday season. All funding received in the Red Kettle at Giant Eagle in Avon Lake will stay in the community to provide assistance.

Volunteers are needed to help ring the ball at the collection sites. Sign up with a friend, relative, or with your children. Youth groups, scouting groups, churches, or service groups looking for a way to make a holiday contribution are needed to help ring the bell. Please call 933-5639 with any questions, and for help to schedule a time for you or your group.



Sports Physicals

A huge thank you to the Cleveland Clinic

Avon Lake for providing physicians and facilities to support our low-cost sport physicals in July. This year 135 students were served by this program. Due to construction at the high school, relocating this program was essential. By partnering with the Clinic, we were able to utilize the privacy and comfort of their new offices. We thank the Cleveland Clinic for their commitment to this essential service to the community.



33501-L Lake Rd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012

PRSR STD
AUTO
US POSTAGE PAID
AVON LAKE, OH
PERMIT NO. 46

Phone: 440-933-5639 ● Fax: 440-933-8123 ● Web: www.aalcrs.org

CRS is Goin' Green!

As a community service organization, CRS is committed to conserving as much as possible. We are interested in making a difference in the lives of the families we serve and our environment. Previously, we have been printing and mailing a newsletter on a semi-annual basis to keep you all informed about how we are putting your generous contributions to work in our community.

As a way to more effectively control the cost of producing and mailing newsletters, beginning January, 2009, future newsletters will only be sent to those individuals who wish to receive this valuable information. The newsletter will be sent to those who have been actively involved in supporting CRS since 2006. If you feel you may not be eligible to receive future newsletters, please feel free to contact our office at 933-5639.

For your convenience, the newsletter will also be posted on our website at www.aalcrs.org.

By controlling all of our costs, we are able to meet the growing needs of the community. Thank you for helping CRS to be People Helping People.