



SEEDS OF STRENGTH

Seeds of Strength Newsletter

Georgetown's Women's Giving Circle

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2010

Fantastic update on current membership numbers on page 2.

Find out on page 3 our committee structure and how you can help

Also look inside for updated information from our grant recipients.

Co-Chair Corner

A big thanks to all of the members of SOS who made our first year a huge success. Our luncheon on September 9th was the beginning of what will be an even bigger and better year, thanks to all of you. I welcome you to participate at whatever level you are comfortable. If you would like to serve on a committee, this newsletter includes a brief description of the committees that are currently in place. The committee chairs are eager to hear from you. Please remember, your input is encouraged and your prayers needed. Together we can make our Community a better place!



Eugenia Koog & Judy Novak
Our 2010-2011 SOS Co-Chairs

It's a Fact!

A study released by the Aspen Institute and other researchers has recently confirmed what Seeds of Strength members in Georgetown, TX already know:

Giving Circle members are highly engaged in their community

Giving Circles influence members to give more strategically

Giving Circles increase members' knowledge about their community, non-profits, and knowledge about philanthropy



SEEDS OF STRENGTH

SOS MEMBERS CARE

Send Kathy Krause news you would like others to know---have a new grandchild, family graduation, illnesses, personal support, or family special events--- SOS members care. Email your info to share!

A Warm Welcome to our New Members!

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lisa Anderson | Penny Draeger | Linda Morrison |
| Terri Anderson | Majorie Gallece | Anne Nelsen |
| Judy Apel | Barbara Hays | Tammy Novak |
| Linda Austin | Evelyn Wong-Hermann | Bonnie Pearson |
| Micki Avery | Pat Holland | Rebecca Pfeister |
| Duane Bolton | Dottie Hooker | Rebecca Powers |
| Mimi Boney | Diane Hunt | Kyra Quenan |
| Becky Booth | Leslie Janca | Barbara Ramsey |
| Linda Bosi | Kathy Keller | Marji Sikes |
| Suzanne Brooks | Nancy Krenek | Karin Truxillo |
| Becky Bryan | Martha Lawlor | Kirby Tyndall |
| Katie Burke | Darlene Mallory | Ann Weir |
| Carla Carver | Linda McCalla | Judith Ann Williams |
| Rosemary Crossfield | JoNell McMaster | |

Membership Matters



Seeds of Strength members look forward to another exciting year as we begin year two of making an impact for non-profits in the Georgetown area.

If you have not completed both the Commitment Card and 2011 Membership Form please copy them from the web site and return to the Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation--116 8th Street, Suite 201-- Georgetown, TX 78626

Thank you to our members that have renewed---we welcome you back!!! Please remember to submit your payment before December 31st.

We're pleased to announce that to date we have 41 paid members for a total together of 91 committed members. Please continue to help spread the word about our mission! How incredible to think we have \$91,000 to support non-profit programs in our community.

Several members said they would hold gatherings in their home and invite friends and neighbors to hear about SOS. I will be in contact with members soon that indicated interest.

Regards, Kathy Krause

Behind the Scenes of SOS Committees

Committee membership is not mandatory, but it is a great way to enhance your experience. Our committee chairs look forward to your involvement and will help you “learn the ropes.”

If you are interested in helping to establish strategies for recruitment, would enjoy working with the Communications Committee and Events Committee, and enjoy meeting new people, please email our Membership Committee chair, Kathy Krause: kathykrause@msn.com.

If you are interested in learning more about the various non profit agencies and programs in our community and can dedicate a few hours per week during the grant cycle, January through June, please contact Dora Aubin, Grant Committee chair: dora@jpaulaubin.com. Committee members should be able to make the time commitment to attend and actively participate in all scheduled meeting and site visits; review all grant materials provided, present the finalists for funding awards to the membership and help oversee the tabulation of votes.

Is event planning your thing? Do you like working on event logistics, securing speakers, planning and making table decorations, planning menus and greeting guests? Please contact Mary Rodriguez: mary_rodriguez.home@sierramicrowave.com.

Reaching out to our community and telling our story, conveying the importance of the Seeds of Strength mission and advancing the goals of Seeds of Strength is the job of the Communication Committee. If you like to write and/or if you're comfortable speaking to groups, please email Communication Committee chair, Kristi Stephens at: kristimstephens@suddenlink.net.

If you would like to take part in presenting a slate of officers and propose members for Guiding Circle membership for the year, please email Karen Cole at: karen11414@aol.com.

Are you an IT buff? Do you have experience with the design and updating of web sites? Let Ginny Senchack know. Ginny works with our webmaster, Duane Luedders, to keep our web site current and interesting. Right now, we are in the process of tweaking the web site to make it a bit more user friendly and would love your input. Ginny's email address is: g_senchack@yahoo.com.

We are eager to hear from you!

What Members are Saying....



"I get by with a little help from my friends...." The words of John Lennon and Paul McCartney ring true for me. I joined Seeds of Strength because, together, we support our community in a substantial way, we explore areas of need that exist, and we learn about what we can do to help. I have found SOS to be a powerful source of philanthropy and friendship, where just a few friends can effect many many lives."

Mary Steger

"I love the idea of giving locally and that my contribution can be more meaningful in combination with the other members. I like the grassroots feel of the organization and knowing that I'm helping Georgetown area non-profits where I can see SOS's positive impact."

Kirby Tyndall

"Seeds of Strength has given me the opportunity to participate in a group of very special women in Georgetown. More importantly, Seeds of Strength is on the front line of awareness of the needs in our community. With our group effort we are able to address those needs and make an impact to so many. It is an honor and privilege to be a member of SOS."

Neva Stiller

Updates from our Grant Recipients



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".

~Margaret Mead

First THANK YOU to Seeds of Strength for the incredible grant given to **R.O.C.K, Ride On Center for Kids**. R.O.C.K. has started fall classes with over 180 clients ages 2- 85 participating in Hippotherapy, Therapeutic Riding, Equine Facilitated Learning and Horses for Heroes programs. Classes are busy and therapists, instructors, volunteers and horses are all working as a team helping treat those in need.

R.O.C.K. Hippotherapy clients are the ones impacted the most by the grant from Seeds of Strength. Hippotherapy clients are not only some of our youngest clients but also the most medically fragile of our riders. This school year R.O.C.K. will be involved in data collection and analysis of that data in over 9 case studies including two on autism. Interns from Southwestern University and Baylor University will be working on these projects. For the first time R.O.C.K. will be able to pay for a control group of clients on one of the studies with Baylor. Nancy Krenek, Founder and Physical Therapist is supervising the interns, and the Hippotherapy staff that includes: Shannon Middleton, Speech Pathologist and two part time Physical Therapy Assistants, Jen Howiz and Dawn Leonard.

The data gathered and analyzed is vital for R.O.C.K. to "prove" the positive progress that equine assisted therapies provide to all participants. This leverages additional financial support as well as helping scientific research for health care professionals - all to the benefit of individuals with disabilities.

Without the support of Seeds of Strength, individuals and other foundations R.O.C.K. could not conduct these case studies and provide professional supervision to student interns in physical therapy, kinesiology and psychology from Central Texas universities.

Additional excitement was the second annual Polo Match to benefit R.O.C.K., Mallets and Merlot, which took place on Sunday, October 24th at the Vineyard in Florence and a great success! Thank you for your support.

WC4C attended a luncheon hosted by Capital IDEA for 2 Teen parents in Williamson County. These parents are pursuing their education through Capital IDEA. One parent is on a Nursing career path and the other is majoring in Drafting Design. WC4C will be covering the cost of child care from August 2010 – August 2011 for 3 children so that these 2 parents can stay in school and follow through with their educational goals. During the luncheon they were introduced to Mary Rodriguez, WC4C Chair, Kathy Keller, WC4C - E.D. and Dora Aubin with Seeds of Strength. Mary shared with the mothers about her experience as a single parent and why she founded WC4C. She told them she was proud of them and encouraged them to continue their education so that they can in the future provide for their families and become self-sufficient. Dora explained to the parents about the Seeds of Strength Women's Giving Circle and the grant that was awarded to WC4C. Kathy distributed packets to each parent outlining the Parenting Training Sessions scheduled through Bridges to Growth. She explained that each parent receiving subsidy child care is required to attend a parenting class offered in the Fall and Spring semesters. She stressed the importance of positive parenting and the influence parents have in their child's development & life. Kathy also shared a Child Care Checklist for parents as a helpful resource when placing their children in a child care setting. The checklist outlines indicators of "quality care" for their children. In conclusion, the young parents expressed their sincere appreciation for the child care subsidy support given to them which allows them to continue their education.

WC4C announced a partnership with the Georgetown Health Foundation with the anticipated arrival of the WC4C Child Development Center. The fundraiser "BIRTH" DAY PARTY was held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at Mary and Troy Rodriguez's home. The child development center is scheduled to open in January 2011, and will provide quality care for infants and toddlers age 6 weeks to 3 years. Expanding access to quality care promotes the early development of young children and helps parents fulfill their educational and work goals, allowing them to become contributing and self-sufficient members of our community.

The fundraiser was a great success and the support received was greatly appreciated as it will help WC4C provide a level of care for children that will foster maximum development and help prepare them for kindergarten and for life.

Updates from our Grant Recipients con't...

I am happy to report that our **CASA** program is continuing to have a positive impact on the lives of abused and neglected children in Williamson County. Our latest data shows that we have 25 children who now have CASA volunteers who are advocating for their best interest in court cases. We currently have 19 trained volunteers, 11 of whom are assigned to cases. We now have 3 excellent and dedicated part-time office workers. There are 2 orientation classes scheduled for interested volunteers and plans for another training class to begin after the first of the year.

We really appreciate your organization's financial support in getting this important program started in Williamson County. Thank you!

Sincerely, Angie Harris, Interim Executive Director



We are in the third week of kitting for our **Backpack Buddies** and all is going well. Since the CAFB had greatly reduced food inventories we are not able to expand our Backpack Buddies to 600+ students this current school year. Food inventories are still limited supporting up to 96 students, but with volunteer help with runs to Costco and Sam's, we are staying ahead. This obviously will drain our budget a little more rapidly considering food purchased at the CAFB is about 1/4 of the cost of food purchased through retail stores. Luckily, we have just received a very nice donation of \$2,500 from the good folks at The Worship Place in Sun City. This was a very pleasant surprise and will go a long way at preventing hunger over the weekends!

Another change this year will be we have asked the counselors to select the most needy of the students in the Free Lunch program from all grades rather than selecting students just from one or two grades.

At the current time we are feeding about 275 students at Carver, McCoy, Mitchell, Purl and Williams Elementary. I expect this number to climb as completed forms are returned to the schools by parents.

The Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown is already seeing an increase in after school attendance after only a few weeks of the current school year. Around 100 children attend the program from 3pm to 7pm, an increase of around 20 children per day from the end of the 2009/10 school year. 50 children are walked from Carver Elementary each day and 40 take advantage of shuttle bus runs to Annie Purl, Williams, Mitchell, Tippit, and Ninth Grade Campuses. Summer numbers increased from 110 per day in 2009 to around 130-150 in 2010. The new Teen and Family Wing is being utilized by 20 Middle School aged children and up which is also encouraging.

Club staff hosted a Family Fun Night recently with the help of Georgetown Church of Nazarene. 13 parents attended a presentation on Home Discipline, and club youth sat in on a session on respect. Afterwards, all were able to participate in a small carnival put on by Church Volunteers. Staff is planning on hosting one family event at the club each month. The backpack food distribution program has also seen an increase in clients with the club receiving some referrals from GISD and a few more Stonehaven Residents taking part in the service.

**Actions are the seed
of fate deeds grow
into destiny.**
~Harry S. Truman

Annual Luncheon



Always seek out the seed of triumph in every adversity.

~Og Mandino

A special thanks to our Events Committee for coordinating such a successful event in September at Cimarron Hills! With almost 100 members and guests in attendance, the sentiment was easily recognized that by pooling and leveraging our enthusiasm and our intellectual and financial resources, we bring about positive change through the power of grant giving.



Tammy Novak & Joy McVean



Eura Mae Gantt and Betty Lord



Bonnie Pearson, Nancy McCormick, Flo Byam, Mimi Boney, & Teresa Anderson



Janet Hewlett & Kay McConaughy



Deb Chaney & Tempa Herman

Grant Process Update

The Grants Committee is mid-way through a series of end-of-year meetings in preparation for the 2011 grant year. We have looked back through our first year and found only a few minor points along the way that could use some tweaking. Subcommittees were formed to review three areas: the grant application itself, site visit process, and voting procedure. Once each subcommittee makes its recommendations and receives approval, we will make appropriate adjustments to those areas and submit to the Guiding Circle and our Seeds of Strength membership. We are fortunate to, once again, have members on this committee with extensive insight and experience. Each brings her own unique and thoughtful perspective to this particular system within our Giving Circle.

Our **current** projected timeline to note (specific dates will be submitted by November 30, 2010):

- 2010-2011 Grant Applications will be available via www.SeedsofStrength.org for Grant seekers to download beginning the first week of January, 2011
- “Guidelines for Grant seekers,” a helpful hints / grant writing primer presentation intended for any interested organization, will be available through our website the first week of January.
- All applications will be due the first week of February
- Finalists will be determined mid-March, 2011
- Site-visits will take place from mid-March to early May, 2011
- Members cast ballots in late May
- Grant Recipients to be notified and awarded in June

Coffee Talk

Our monthly gatherings to educate others on the benefits of SOS are off to a great start! Ginny Senchack opened up her home, along with support from Christine Davis, hosting three new interested women, all who joined our mission of building the power of collective philanthropy in the Georgetown area. Linda Scarbrough graciously gathered a group of women at her home adding new members on the spot as well. Between these two simple parties, SOS has an additional \$5,000 to donate and 5 more fantastic women joining our cause.

Please consider joining us at the next event and bring a friend. Share your story on why you joined SOS! Exact dates to be shared soon, but be thinking of who you'd like to invite before our December 31st deadline.

November: Mary Steger
December: Kristi Stephens
Nancy Knight

Please continue to tell your friends about SOS—sharing your experience is influential and inspiring!



SEEDS OF STRENGTH

116 8th Street Suite 201
Georgetown, Texas 78626

www.seedsofstrength.org



Sydney Mitchell, Dora Aubin, Jodilinn Robinson & Becky Bryan

Enjoy having lovely note cards on hand? Consider purchasing the Seeds of Strength cards where all funds raised directly benefit our operating budget. A packet of 8 for \$10 may be picked up at CTCF office. Please phone before hand at 863-4186 to make certain someone is in the office.

**"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."
~Winston Churchill**



Katie Burke & Leslie Janca



Kristi Stephens & Mary Rodriguez