

An Evening with Lily Tomlin

Arts Performance Event Celebrates 20 Years

On May 10, a large crowd celebrated the 20th annual Vogel Alcove Arts Performance Event, featuring award-winning actress and comedienne Lily Tomlin, in the Meyerson Symphony Center. In addition to the general public, the benefit drew a prestigious crowd of business, civic, and community leaders, along with high profile guests such as Dallas Mavericks' Jason Kidd, Food Network's Lisa Garza, real estate icon Ebby Halliday and former mayor Tom Leppert. Event co-chairs Cindy and Charles L. Gummer and Patti and Blaine L. Nelson led the successful fundraising effort. Mr. Gummer is chairman of Comerica Bank-Texas Division, and Mr. Nelson is Deloitte managing partner for North Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The co-chairs' companies were Presenting Sponsors of the event.



Event Co-chairs Patti and Blaine Nelson



Event Co-chairs Cindy and Chuck Gummer with Lily Tomlin.

The evening began with a reception for sponsors and their guests, who were serenaded by the amazingly talented Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra's Sinfonietta conducted by James Frank. The superb dinner that followed the reception was planned by event vice chairs Lynae Fearing and Tracy Rathbun. Centerpieces *(continued on page 5)*

On September 15, DonorBridge To Match Your Alcove Donation

We invite all friends of Vogel Alcove to participate in this year's DonorBridge "Get Up and Give!" North Texas Giving Day, Thursday, September 15. Mark your calendar!

Every donation to Vogel Alcove above \$25 will be partially matched if you donate to us through the website www.donorbridgetx.org.

Please visit the site any time between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., search for Vogel Alcove and click "Donate Now." Your donation will go a long way in helping us build hope in the hearts of homeless children. Plus, every dollar given that day will receive a portion of \$500,000+ in matching funds – making your dollar go further. To avoid the busiest times on the site, visit and donate during off hours, 10-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. on September 15.



Lily Tomlin graciously delayed her return flight the day after the event in order to visit the Alcove, where she devoted an hour and a half to the children, often sitting on the floor to read to them. The first artist in the event's 20-year history to make a generous monetary contribution to the Alcove, she said, "My visit to Vogel was so memorable and the kids so precious -- I hope someday there will be little need for such help and outreach in our country, in our world. I'm grateful to know that you are there in Dallas."

Your Support Helps Build Hope in the Hearts of Homeless Children

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Summer 2011 Issue

The *Vogel Alcove News* is published by Vogel Alcove Childcare Center for the Homeless, whose mission is to provide the youngest children of homeless families with the foundation for success. It is our vision that every child in our community has a home, a self-sufficient family, and a pathway to success in school.

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214-368-8686
www.vogelalcove.org

Message from the Chair



As I end my first year as board chair, I am very proud of Vogel Alcove's accomplishments in strengthening our programs and supporting the children and families we serve. Some highlights include:

- The hiring of our new President and CEO, Karen Hughes. Karen and her senior team have made tremendous progress in strengthening programs and systems throughout the organization in a very short time.

- The celebration of the 20th anniversary of our Arts Performance Event. I would like to thank event chairs Chuck and Cindy Gummer and Blaine and Patti Nelson for their support and dedication to our organization.

- The development of new management information systems to measure and track the impact our programs make in the lives of our children and families we serve.

- 100% enrollment with an average of 25 children on the waiting list. We are developing strategic initiatives to add space and programming to serve more children.

I am excited to embark on additional strategic initiatives to strengthen Vogel Alcove in the next year, including:

- Celebrating our 25th anniversary.
- Planning for the construction of a new building.
- Investing in our technology infrastructure to maximize our efficiency and effectiveness.
- Expanding our development department and adopting strategies to diversify and increase our revenue.

It has been a wonderful honor to lead such a committed board of directors this year. I would like to thank Erin McKool in particular for her tremendous leadership when health-related issues limited me in discharging some of my responsibilities. It is hard for me to express how deeply I admire her commitment to our children or how much I cherish her friendship, unselfishness, and generosity of spirit. She is a special leader and friend.

I would also like to thank former board members Gerald Barnes, Barbara Cambridge, Leanna Cruz, Michael Oster and Nick Linn for their commitment to our organization. We will miss you, but look forward to working with you in other capacities in the future. I would also like to welcome new board members Jon Yellen, Ben Fujihara and Howard Feldman.

I look forward to working with our staff, board, volunteers and donors during the coming year to further the mission of Vogel Alcove: to provide the youngest children of homeless families with the foundation for success.

Sheila Chapman

Sheila Chapman

Message from the President and CEO



Each morning, 115 children enter the doors of Vogel Alcove to participate in our early childhood programs. The early childhood classrooms look similar to other quality early childhood programs. However, our children are different – they are homeless. Therefore, the aspects of our program that make us unique are the comprehensive social services we provide “behind the scenes” each day for these children.

Over the past six months, we have worked diligently to strengthen and expand our social service programs for all our children. The following outlines the services we now provide:

Case Management. Each of our families is assigned to a case manager who works with them weekly on an individual basis. Our staff of case managers is led by our Director of Social Services Kyle Martin and includes three master’s-degree-level clinical case managers and two bachelor’s-degree-level case managers. The case management team works with the parents regarding their child’s development, physical health and social/emotional health and provides assistance and support to connect families to resources within the community needed to move their family from homelessness to a stable home environment.

Developmental Services. Upon enrollment, each of our children are screened for developmental delays. Based on these assessments, children are referred for speech, occupational and/or physical therapy. As of May 1, Vogel Alcove began offering developmental therapy services through a new provider. Care Options 4 Kids has been serving the DFW metro area since 2000, providing individualized home/center-based services for children in need of developmental therapy. Their licensed staff of occupational, physical and speech therapists provide center-based or home-based services for our children.

Mental Health Services. We are pleased to announce a new partnership with Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas as our mental health service provider. JFS provides staff onsite at Vogel Alcove to: (1) identify and intervene for mental health concerns for individual children; (2) offer onsite mental health consultation with parents through a monthly parent group to be held at Vogel Alcove; (3) educate staff and parents on mental health issues; (4) directly intervene with children and families; and (5) make referrals to parents requiring additional mental health intervention for themselves or their children.

Health Services. Each child receives a morning health check by a nurse onsite. The Parkland HOMES vans is onsite twice a week to provide immunizations, well child check-ups, or routine health exams. The dental van is onsite once each week to provide dental check-ups for our children and families. All children receive a nutritious breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack each day. We are also pleased to announce a new partnership with

Kidokinetics. Beginning in September, they will be providing onsite physical fitness activities for our children to help keep them active, fit and avoid issues with childhood obesity.

Connections and Support Program. The newly designed program allows families to enroll in aftercare services for up to one year after discharge from Vogel Alcove childcare services. The Critical Time Intervention Model (CTI) on which it is based allows for a tiered case management system with prescribed visitation schedules. We currently have 10 families enrolled under the new program design. Of the 32 children recently discharged from child care services, 22 or 90% are currently enrolled in Connections and Support. This important program allows us to continue working with families after they have left the Vogel Alcove Center to provide support and resources to them as they stabilize their family in this very tenuous transitional phase.

Extensions Program. Through funding with HUD, we are able to offer 10 childcare spaces at facilities other than Vogel Alcove in cases where domestic violence or transportation do not allow families to use our facility. We have developed new agreements and policies and procedures for community-based childcare providers and have recently formalized agreements with five new childcare centers to participate in this program. Families enrolled in this program are also case managed by our staff, onsite at the community-based childcare facility. Each of these facilities are also monitored for quality by our staff.

Parenting Program. The Parent Education Program continues to evolve. We have recently piloted our Nurturing Skills for Families at Promise House, our affiliate partner serving teen parents. We will offer parent classes during the day onsite at Vogel Alcove and continue to work with our affiliate partners to offer parenting classes at their facilities in the evenings.

Community Resources. The transformation of the annex behind Vogel Alcove into the Volunteer Resource Center is complete. The space has been redesigned to include three office spaces and a meeting space. Also, the inventory of donations is now being tracked via a new database system. All our families have access to the resources in the Volunteer Resource Center including diapers, baby wipes, formula, baby food, socks, underwear, shoes, clothes, seasonal clothing items, toys, books, etc. We greatly appreciate the generous donations from the Dallas community to help keep the Resource Center stocked with items our families need.

As you can see, a lot has been accomplished over the past months to strengthen our Social Services area. Thank you to our wonderful Social Services team that has made this vision a reality for our parents: Kyle Martin, Director of Social Services; Tiffany Tepper, Clinical Case Manager; Mari Lopez, Clinical Case Manager; Sara Easter, Clinical Case Manager; Marsha Hale, Case Manager; Bobbie Matlock, Case Manager; Karen Aaron, Enrollment Specialist; and Julius Evan Jenkins, Community Outreach Coordinator. — Karen Hughes

2011 Vogel Alcove Arts Performance Event

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Foundation

SAVE THE DATE:

The 21st annual Vogel Alcove Arts Performance Event will be held on Monday, May 14. Watch for details in the fall edition of the Vogel Alcove News. For questions, please call Anna Irving: (214) 368-8686.

Arts Performance Event Celebrates 20 Years *(continued from page 1)*

designed by Decorations Committee chair Shelley Galant brightened the dinner tables. Jeff Starr created the gorgeous floral arrangements for Central Market, who donated the colorful spring flowers and deep green wheat grass. Many centerpieces featured original wire sculptures created by the Greenhill Third Grade Students under the leadership of art teacher Mary Aidala.



(from left) Tom Leppert, Blaine Nelson

Prior to Ms. Tomlin's energetic performance showcasing the timeless characters she has created on television and on Broadway, 225 members of the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas, led by artistic director Cynthia Nott, sang "We Are the World" as they entered the performance hall from every doorway. Following a moving video about the Alcove, Board chair-elect Erin McKool saluted the past chairs who made the event a success for 20 years. Ms. McKool presented engraved Steuben hearts to the 2011 co-chairs as tokens of the Alcove's appreciation for their dedication and leadership.



Event Co-chairs Cindy and Chuck Gummer

The 2011 sponsors and advertisers were featured in the exceptional commemorative program created by the Fossil Design Studio as a pro bono project. Blaine Leist expertly managed

the production process for the tenth year in a row. Julie Cosby designed a book, truly professional in its layout and fitting for the 20th anniversary celebration. Don Clampitt and Clampitt Paper and David Besgrove and Ussery Printing helped reduce the cost of the program with their respective inkind donations toward the paper and printing.



Karen Hughes with Lily Tomlin.

The ads in the commemorative program added critical event revenue, thanks to the Ad Solicitation Committee chaired by Mary Lee Broder with special recognition to vice chair Gerald Barnes and his colleagues at Neiman Marcus, who again secured many important advertisers.

A big thank you to those who worked to make the 2011 benefit a success: the co-chairs; vice chairs; Event Executive Committee; Benefit Committee; Lacher Committee; and Vogel Alcove Board of Directors with the skilled professional assistance of Anna Irving, Alcove director of special events, who has managed the event for 14 years; and consultants Wolford McCue and Adele Demler. The 2011 event sponsors, advertisers, and general ticket patrons helped fund half of the Alcove's important services.

"We are extremely grateful to the members of the business, civic and philanthropic communities for their generous support of this year's event, which truly made it a success," said Karen Hughes, Vogel Alcove President and CEO. "The commitment, participation and financial support we received from our advocates help to define the mission and programs we offer at Vogel Alcove and allow us to provide the youngest children of homeless families with the foundation for success."

(See more event-related photos on pages 6-8.)



(from left) Jim Gold, Jason Kidd, Porschla Coleman

2011 Vogel Alcove Arts Performance Event



Erin and Mike McKool



Lael and Peter Brodsky



Bill and Alice Barnett with Lily Tomlin



Rita Sue and Alan Gold



(from left) Lisa Garza, Travis Selcer, Regina Bruce



Debbie and Gerald Barnes



(from left) Tracy Rathbun, Lynae Fearing



Lynn Friedlander, Jason Kidd, Gil Friedlander



(from left) Andy Rabin, Stan and Denise Reynolds



(from left) Gary and Carolyn Eden, Andre and Jo Staffelbach



Ebby Halliday and Aaron Pearlman



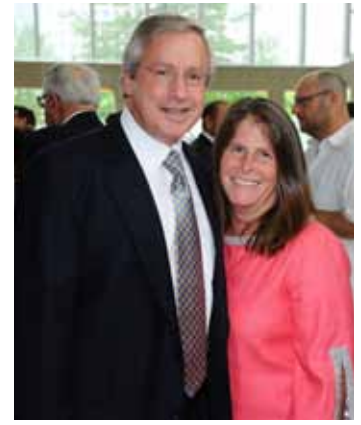
[from left] Elise Longpre, Michelle Thomas



(from left) Mike and Elizabeth Daane, Janie James, Rob Gilbreath



(from left) Katherine Albert, Lily Tomlin, Ginette Albert



Richard and Karen Pollock



(from left) Thomas Paxton, Craig and Dawn Budner, Michael Hoffman



[[from left] Bert and Nita Hughes, Karen Hughes and Tom Cypull, Judy and Bob Jones



Stephanie and Ryan Wilcox



Michael Ford, Diane Miles



[[from left] Jim and Candace Krause, Joanne and Charles Teichman



Stefanie Schneider, Jeffrey Robinson



(from left) Billy Chapman, Bob and Shirlee Rivin, Morgan Chapman



Tina and Richard Wasserman

2011 Vogel Alcove Arts Performance Event



Roxanne and Mike McCaleb



Gayle Johansen, Lester Baum



Alan Perkins table



Ed Rosenwasser, Deborah Hersch



Patty and Allan Thompson



Comerica Bank table



McKool Smith table

McKool Smith Continues Legacy of Support

Since 1994, the attorneys and professional staff of the Dallas law firm McKool Smith have supported Vogel Alcove with substantial contributions of time, talent and financial resources.

“Vogel Alcove is one of the most important organizations serving our community,” said Mike McKool, co-founder of McKool Smith. “The needs of children of homeless families have increased dramatically over the years. I’m proud that my law firm has been able to assist the Alcove in meeting their goals.”

This support is most visible in McKool Smith’s longtime and significant sponsorship of the Vogel Alcove Arts Performance Event, the organization’s biggest annual fundraiser. Mr. McKool and his wife Erin, a board member and current Vogel Alcove Chair Elect, served as co-chairs with AT&T Inc. Group President Forrest Miller and his wife Cynthia for the record-setting 2010 event featuring the renowned Las Vegas entertainer Terry Fator.

“Every year the event just seems to get better and better,” said Erin McKool. “It’s particularly gratifying that the entertainers themselves – Terry, Lily Tomlin, Kenny Loggins, and others – take time to visit the children and find themselves caught up in the magic and spirit of Vogel Alcove.”

McKool Smith served as the Pinnacle Sponsor of this year’s 20th Annual Arts Performance Event, and expects to continue in this philanthropic role for years to come. “The needs of this community are still with us, and the staff of Vogel Alcove does a tremendous job in meeting those needs every day,” said Mr. McKool. “We’ll be here to support the organization and we’re very proud to do so.”

McKool Smith is one of America’s leading trial firms, with more than 130 litigators working as an integrated team across offices in New York, Washington, D.C., and Texas. The firm has been recognized by The National Law Journal and Verdict Search for winning more Top 100 Verdicts than any other U.S. law firm during the past three years.

Thanks...

- **All State Insurance** employees hosted an Easter egg hunt with bunny pictures, face painting, games and Easter baskets for Alcove preschoolers.
- **Neuberger-Berman** employees spent an afternoon with preschoolers planting a “Pizza Garden” complete with tomatoes, peppers, oregano, sage and parsley.



Neuberger-Berman employees working at Vogel Alcove.

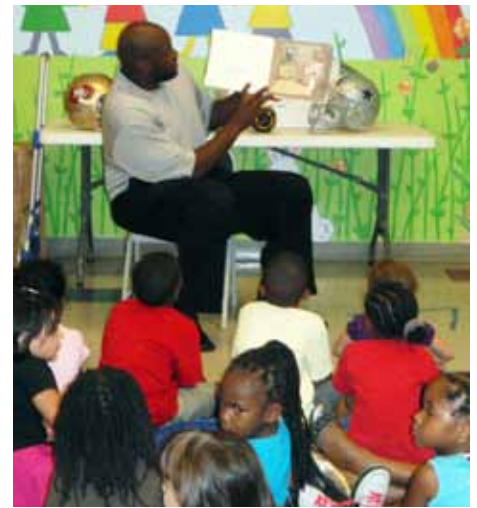
- **TDIndustries** employees spent a Saturday in April helping beautify the Alcove by painting offices, cleaning kitchen walls, rearranging social service offices, moving a playhouse to the playground, installing new handrails on outside ramps and landscaping front flower beds.
- **Bain & Company** hosted a Field Day for Alcove children, including many exciting games!



Volunteers from Bain & Co put together a field day for the preschoolers at Vogel Alcove.

- **Honda Project** employees spent a Saturday morning planting flowers, staining playhouse wood and planting grass around the playhouse.

- Former Dallas Cowboys player, **Daleroy Stewart**, visited the Alcove to read books and talk to the preschoolers about the importance of hard work.
- **Sabre Holdings** employees donated toys and toiletries and spent a morning in classrooms with Alcove children.



Former Dallas Cowboy Daleroy Stewart reading to Alcove children.

- **Entrepreneur’s Foundation of North Texas** coordinated an in-kind needs drive.
- The following participants donated diapers, infant care items, formula and children’s books: **T. Howard & Associates, Standing Dog Interactive, Montgomery Coscia Greulich LLP, Bernstein Global Wealth Management, and EFNT/Marketwave.**
- **Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)** donated Easter baskets for all the Alcove children.
- **McKool Smith** donated tickets and parking passes to a Dallas Vigilantes Arena football game.
- **Planned Parenthood of North Texas** collected children’s clothing and infant care items for Alcove children.
- **Roshi Mun** and **Society Bakery** collected children’s clothing, toys and infant care items.
- **Capital for Kids** volunteers and **Morgan Stanley** employees spent the morning reading to Alcove preschoolers and toddlers in celebration of Children’s Mental Health month.
- **Keller-Williams Turtle Creek** office employees planned an afternoon of fun on the playground including T-shirt painting, sack races, face painting, games and snacks.
- **Kindermusik/Sound Steps** parents donated new children’s clothing and underwear as part of their annual Family Day event in May.
- **Jenny Watts Photography** studio collected pajamas for Alcove children.

We salute **Robyn Menter**, who left her native South Africa for the United States 30 years ago, founded her own design firm along the way, and then turned her 60th birthday into an opportunity to help children of homeless families. Robyn declined gifts at her celebration hosted by **Jerry Szor Contemporary Jewelry**. Instead Jerry contributed \$10 to the Vogel Alcove for each person who attended the party and Robyn matched the donation. Thank you.

Jason Kidd Foundation Charity Event Benefits Vogel Alcove

Shortly before he would help lead the Dallas Mavericks to their first NBA championship, Jason Kidd was already a champion of Vogel Alcove. Kidd selected the Alcove as one of three beneficiaries to receive proceeds from the 1st Annual Jason Kidd Foundation Celebrity Casino Night held on March 21. The Jason Kidd Foundation is dedicated to providing opportunities for young children through education.

“Having a good education makes all the difference in a child’s future,” said Kidd. “If I can play a role in helping to ensure that underprivileged preschool children served by the Vogel Alcove are given the necessary tools to help them succeed in school and help them lay the groundwork for success later in life, I am grateful to do so.” Kidd’s fiancé Porschla Coleman, executive director of the Jason Kidd Foundation, added, “Jason and I believe that the biggest impact you can have on a child is through education. Vogel Alcove was selected because its dedication and determination to help homeless children is unbelievable. Every child

deserves a quality education no matter what socio-economic background he or she comes from.”

It was a tour of Vogel Alcove in March that inspired Jason and Porschla to name the Alcove as a beneficiary of the event.



Jason Kidd with Alcove children during his tour of the Center.

New Murals Grace Alcove Walls

Thanks to visual artist Lisa Ficarra Chaulker, Vogel Alcove has new decorated walls in its playground, hallways and playroom. After sketching ideas for Karen Hughes, Lisa spent a week painting festive and playful scenes at the Alcove in April. Originally from Michigan where she earned an art degree at the University of Michigan, Lisa had businesses in Chicago and Detroit painting murals before moving to Dallas. Lisa’s work can be seen on her website www.ficarramurals.com.



Sprinkles Cupcakes To Donate Proceeds August 22-27

Help Sprinkles cupcakes shine a light on the needs of homeless children in Dallas. From August 22 to 27, Sprinkles will donate **100% of sales from its vanilla milk chocolate cupcakes adorned with a gold star** to Vogel Alcove. Visit Sprinkles at The Plaza at Preston Center, 4020 Villanova Drive during those dates and look for the cupcakes with the STAR!

The Alcove Children Need...

- Diapers, boys and girls sizes 4, 5, 6
- Infant wipes
- Potty training chairs
- Car seats
- Girls’ summer clothing sizes 2t - 4t
- Girls underwear sizes 2t - 4t
- Girls shoes sizes 2 - 6
- Boys’ and girls’ swimsuits and water shoes, toddler & preschool sizes
- Boys summer clothing sizes 2t - 4t
- Boys winter clothing sizes 3t - 4t
- Boys underwear sizes 2t - 3t
- Boys shoes sizes 2 - 6 & 8 - 11



“Bridges” Book Sales Benefit Alcove

Vogel Alcove Childcare Center for the Homeless was chosen to receive 100 percent of all proceeds from the sale of the new book, *Life’s Bridges: Building Your Bridge to Financial Wealth*, by financial experts Lloyd Lowe Sr. and Ethan Bonar of LD Lowe Sr. Wealth Advisory (Brown Books Publishing Group). *Life’s Bridges* provides a fresh approach to ensuring financial security for life. Lowe and Bonar provide readers with the tools to map out a course of action to build a personal bridge for the lifestyle they seek. Books are available online and bookstores everywhere.

Vogel Alcove Auxiliary: Have You Joined Yet?

The Auxiliary is a natural extension of Vogel Alcove, created to strengthen the Alcove and diversify its support base. The Auxiliary provides hands-on support, increased community awareness and additional fundraising opportunities for the Alcove. Auxiliary members also enjoy new and meaningful experiences and forge lasting friendships. Here is a sampling of recent activities of the Auxiliary, with many more on the horizon.



Auxiliary Chair Dawn Budner with Alcove children at the picnic.



Auxiliary member Lisa Price with Alcove children at the picnic.



Lisa Garza with an Alcove child who is enjoying one of Lisa's scrumptious cupcakes.

Auxiliary Hosts Picnic for Alcove Children

On June 30, the Auxiliary hosted its inaugural picnic at Heritage Village, formerly Old City Park in Dallas. The picnic provided a playful backdrop for the Alcove children and their families to participate in relay races and obstacle courses led by Kidokinetics. The Auxiliary provided bubbles and 4th of July crafts, followed by a tasty lunch with chips and beverages donated by PepsiCo. And for a surprise appearance and dessert, Lisa Garza (of "The Next Food Network Star" and Lisa Garza Taste Studio) designed a beautiful display of her cupcakes that she personally served to the lip-smacking kids.

Auxiliary Members Treated by Halcyon Days

Auxiliary members and those interested in learning about the Auxiliary were treated to a private event at Halcyon Days Salon and Spa at Neiman Marcus on April 15. Halcyon Days provided complimentary mini spa treatments and champagne, with a backdrop of beautiful harp music by Merry Miller and espresso drinks from an authentic Italian Coffee Bar courtesy of Chic Coffee Events. Many thanks

to Jared Newton, manager of Halcyon Days Salon & Spa, and to those who provided the following drawing prizes: an NBA official game ball autographed by Jason Kidd and two One Hope wine gift certificates donated by the Jason Kidd Foundation; an Abi Ferrin Designs dress; an Elliott Claire Designs Unique Handmade Jewelry necklace; a basket of spa products from Halcyon Days; two gift certificates for two nights at the Westin Riverwalk and at Hotel Contessa in San Antonio, donated by Hines Interests; a gift certificate from Kim Rozell Makeup Design; sports sunglasses donated by S Z I O L S America; and a Susan Saffron Fine Jewelry necklace.



An Alcove child having a great time at the Auxiliary picnic.



(from left) Jared Newton, General Manager of Halcyon Days Salon & Spa at Neiman Marcus Northpark, with Jason Kidd and Porschla Coleman, honorary Auxiliary members.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED in the AUXILIARY:

- Adopt a classroom and coordinate birthday parties for the Alcove children.
- Volunteer for Story Time Tuesdays (10-11:30 a.m.).
- Join the Auxiliary Book Club and help provide books and book bags for the children.
- Beginning in Fall 2011, the Auxiliary will introduce a new program to match members with an Alcove parent as the family transitions out of homelessness.
- Help organize collection drives for needed items at the Center.
- Participate in membership outreach events.
- Many more opportunities to come!

Every Alcove supporter is invited and encouraged to join the Auxiliary. Help us continue to build the community that will support the Alcove children today and tomorrow.

For more information, check out the Auxiliary's Facebook page at Vogel-Alcove-Auxiliary or contact Vogel Alcove Auxiliary Chair Dawn Budner at dawnbudner@aol.com. To download an Auxiliary membership form, visit the "Volunteer" button on the Vogel Alcove website, www.vogelalcove.org.

New Playhouse Made Possible by Many

Vogel Alcove Childcare Center has a new addition to our wonderful playground, graciously donated by Robin Smith. On May 7, three volunteer groups from TDI were involved in the installation of the playhouse located on the toddler playground. We appreciate the time spent by the TDI volunteers including Doug Bishop, Leon and Carrie Friedrich, Kevin Shields, Alan “Hammer” Simpson, and Jerry Williamson. Special thanks to Marty Marks, Vice President of Residential Sales for Virginia Cook Realtors, who initially contacted us about the donation.

After the successful installation, the Honda Finance group generously donated their time by painting the playhouse with a beautiful wood finish. The children at Vogel Alcove will enjoy making memories in the new playhouse for years to come. Thank you to all who contributed!



Kids Helping Kids

- **Young Men’s Service League**, Carrollton chapter, spent a Saturday spreading fresh material on the playground fall zones.
- **Visual Arts students from Booker T. Washington High School** created decorations for the Volunteer Resource Center and did crafts with the children.
- **Greenhill Upper School students, Lutheran High School students and Prestonwood Christian Academy students** spent a morning in the classrooms with Alcove children, decorated classroom windows and helped sort donations.
- **Maya Angelou School students** read to preschoolers and toddlers and donated books to each classroom.
- **Young Men’s Service League** donated goody bags in recognition of Alcove staff during Staff Appreciation Week.
- **Stewpot Summer Youth Groups** brought in visiting youth groups to facilitate Splash Days for the Alcove children.



- **Students from the Irma Rangel Upper School** spent time for one morning with the children of the Alcove and learned more about careers in non-profits.

Irma Rangel Upper School students with an Alcove child.

Alcove Children Enjoy Field Trips



Alcove children enjoyed field trips to Build-A-Bear (above) and Chuck E. Cheese’s (below).



Charline Feris Retires



Charline Feris, Alcove volunteer director, retired at the end of May. Staff, board and volunteers offered Charline their best wishes at a farewell reception. (Pictured at the reception, from left: Chuck Stein, Charline Feris, Alice Barnett)

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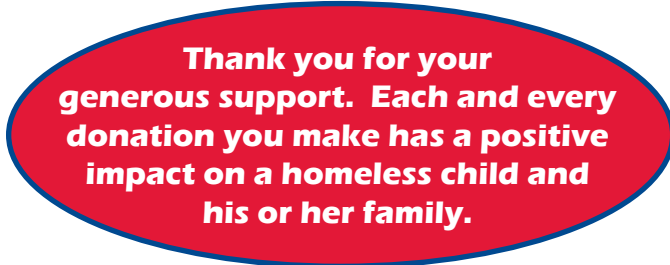
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One Parent's Story

Shantia, a single mother whose child attends Vogel Alcove, now has a new reason to smile thanks to a recent Vogel Alcove video. In May, You + Media put together a touching video about Shantia's life story, and the piece was shown at Vogel Alcove's Annual Arts Performance Event on May 10. Little did we know, that simple five-minute video began a whole new chapter in Shantia's story.

After her mother passed away almost 10 years ago, Shantia's life plunged into drug addiction, prostitution and prison time. She lost touch with her three sisters and says that she began to feel "very, very lonely." After becoming pregnant and giving birth to her son, Angel, she decided she needed help and fought to give him the bright future he deserved. Angel was enrolled in Vogel Alcove and Shantia had the opportunity to turn her life around.

After the Arts Performance Event, Shantia's video was posted on You + Media's website. Within a few weeks, a lady named Susan left a comment on the video explaining that she was Shantia's niece and that her mother, Shantia's sister, has been trying to find her for years. Reid Slaughter, the You + Media video producer, immediately contacted Shantia's case manager and after a couple of e-mails back and forth, Shantia was reconnected with her sisters.



Shantia with son, Angel.

Shantia recently spoke with one of her sisters on the phone for the first time in years, and said that hearing her sister say, "I'm proud of you," made her finally feel good about herself. She says she doesn't feel alone anymore and claims her "self-confidence is boosted." The two are meeting up and Shantia says that she's "a little nervous, but excited to reminisce and tell stories about our mother."

Shantia is currently a part of Dallas' Hopeful Solutions program, an affiliate partner of Vogel Alcove dedicated to helping homeless single mothers rebuild their lives. Additionally, after a representative saw the video at the Arts Performance Event, Salvation Army has contacted her wanting to film her story as a part of their Domestic Violence Program.

"Things are looking up!" she says. And indeed they are... thanks to a simple video and help from Vogel Alcove.

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