

Merry Christmas



Fall is finally here! You can feel the air changing, the taste of pumpkin spice coffee and the smell of holiday cookies baking in the oven. A welcome time of year in the South!

It is also the time of year we start preparing for our biggest event of the year for our families—our **Angels' Place Christmas Party at the Nims Center at Magnolia Com-**

Community Services.

Our families go through horrendous times dealing with the terrible diseases affecting their children. Many families go through tremendous financial hardships because one parent has to be in the hospital or home to care for their ailing child. Some are single parent families trying to survive on one income. Some travel miles to visit the doctors and have no money for gas, all are struggling in one way or another because of their ill child. Many families are on Social Security Income or Medicaid—others are financially drained. Most parents are physically and mentally exhausted and are frightened for the future.

As always, Angels' Place is here to give whatever help we can to ease their burdens of life as much as we are able, especially during this joyful time of year.

So we come to our friends, benefactors and donors to aid us in helping make Christmas a very happy event for our children and their families. **We can not do this without your help and support.**

We would love to have our children and/or our families adopted for Christmas this year. You may chose one child of a specific age if you prefer, chose several children, or a whole family—the choice is yours. We focus on our children in the hospital and their families making sure that their Christmas is extra special.

Please, please call our office or email us to let us know if we can count on your support. All Christmas gifts need to be at Angels' Place by **December 8, 2017.** You may call for a name, names, or a family that you want to adopt for Christmas. If you prefer to give a financial donation to us for Christmas we would certainly appreciate that as well.

You will make a difference in the lives of those who need a difference badly.

Contact information: (504)455-2620 or contact Mary at maryk@angelsplacenola.org or Ashley at aperrot@angelsplacenola.org. Visit our Facebook page Angels' Place Inc.



There are five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. I believe we go through these stages when we receive bad news, especially when we are told that our beloved child is severely ill. My child was severely ill. I was told the word that we all dread—death! My child was at risk of dying. I was told a lot of things, but God had other plans.

Isidore was born on a beautiful afternoon in May. A very healthy baby boy, he was the first born in a set of twins. Two months later, Isidore was clinging to life in Children's Hospital. What was assumed to be a healthy baby boy, was rushed to the Emergency Room in respiratory distress and later admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Isidore's blood hemoglobin level, which should have been at least a 12, had dropped to 1. Isidore's blood was leaving his body at a rapid pace. The doctors were baffled when they could not pinpoint exactly why this was happening. It was not internal bleeding, infections, or parasites. What was it? This was the question that would begin the emotional rollercoaster ride of two month old Isidore's journey. Isidore would spend many days in and out of the hospital receiving blood transfusions, medications, and treatments. Isidore took a turn for the worst and his body began to shut down. Isidore had suffered a pediatric stroke.

Baby Isidore was diagnosed with Autoimmune Deficiency Anemia, a rare, but serious life threatening blood disorder in which the body destroys red blood cells more rapidly than it produces them. Isidore was one of the youngest people in Louisiana to be diagnosed with this disorder. Isidore's body was refusing to hold blood. Because of this Isidore suffered lack of oxygen to his brain, damage to his liver, spleen, and kidneys. Isidore was not expected to be able to walk, talk, swallow, or meet his milestones. He would never be like his twin, Caspian. Gradually with transfusions and many treatments, Isidore's body began to correct itself. By the time Isidore was a 1 year old he had met all of his milestones. He was able to do everything his brother did. Everything Isidore was not supposed to be able to do, he did!

Presently, Isidore is 2 years old and can do EVERYTHING. It was a journey and a struggle, but remember "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I do not know where Isidore's story ends, I only know where it begins. For no one is promised tomorrow, and whether he stays healthy forever or relapses at 3 or 23, it's something I do not think of. For it is in God's hands, I enjoy the new life that my baby, Isidore, has now.



Submitted by Rya Wolf

Ordinary People doing Extraordinary Things



Billy with Kenner Central Lions Club (R) presenting Mark Firmin, Executive Director

A part of the Mission of the **Lions Club International** is to have an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community. It is a service organization that is very involved in their communities.

Every year the clubs are involved in our:

- School supply drive
- Mardi Gras beads
- Easter baskets and egg hunt

Thanksgiving dinners for our families
 Christmas Gift Cards for our families
The Kenner Central Lions Club and the **Pontchartrain Lions Club** are always there to assist us in any way they can. We have come to rely on their dedication to our children as part of our assistance programs. They are very dear to us.

Our thanks goes to our hosts **Magnolia Community Services, Magnolia Aktion Club** and the **Kiwanis Clubs** for making our 2017 Booville a grand ghoulish, success. Our Angels' Place families were treated to "snacks" of sandwiches, cookies, chips and drinks compliments of the **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans, Moisant Kiwanis Club, Kenner North Kiwanis** and the **Kiwanis Club of Third District**. **Cherie Gautier** and **Girl Scout Troop 41148** and **Cherie Ducote Firmin** with the **Mandeville High School Drama Club** did a great job with the arts and crafts. Thanks so much. The children showed off their creative costumes, did arts and crafts, played fun games and trick or treated for lots and lots of candy. The costumes were fab. We thank **J.P. Thomas with Light and Madness Photography** and **Marigny deMauriac**, volunteer photographer, for the fantastic photo shots of Booville. The kids had a really monstrous good time. It was a great time to be a kid again.



In Loving Memory

Rey Bienvenu in memory of Sandra Bienvenu
Cathy and Mike Haeffeler in memory of Eugenie Legnon
Stephen Champlin in memory of Jim Marchal
International Union of Elevator Constructors Local #16
in memory of James Marchal
Victoria Rhom in memory of James Marchal

What's up at Angels' Place

Generous Donors are our Angels



Our new friends from KPC came by with loads of school supplies for our children. Thank you so much for your kindness.

The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. is the largest historically African-American Catholic lay organization in the United States.

KPC, St. Francis de Sales Unit 325 has 4 divisions:
Knights of Peter Claver
Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary
Jr. Knights
Jr. Daughters

"Their purpose is to render service to God and His Holy Church, render aid and assistance to the sick and disabled, and promote social and intellectual association among their members."

We also want to thank everyone who donated school supplies to our children. The donations, big or small, contributed to a very successful school supply drive that provided for the needs of our children and their siblings for this year. The school supply drive is another way, Angels' Place eases the burdens of our families. We can't say it enough, we couldn't do this without your help. Thanks you again for your generosity and love for the children of Angels' Place!

AP Families Mark Your Calendars—2017
Christmas Party - Magnolia Community Services, Nims Center
Saturday, December 16, 2017 from , 2 PM—4 PM

In Loving Memory of an Angel



Rashad "'Shady'" Armad Harris
1/25/2007—8/18/17

Rashad departed this life on Friday August 18, 2017 at the age of 9. He is now free from pain and suffering of this life and is happy, healed and enjoying his new life with our Heavenly Father.

He will be missed by his team members of Willie Hall Panthers Baseball Team along with a host of other relatives and friends.

We send our sincere condolences to his parents, Brionne Harris and Narkee Hunter and stepson of Romero Lewis; brother of Reginald Batiste, Casimere Wiltz, and Lori Lewis.

May God give you perfect peace and may you rest in the palm of his hand during this time of tremendous grief.—Angels' Place Staff

In Loving Memory of an Angel



Hayden Swazey
08/04/09—10/18/17

Hayden left for his heavenly home where he joined his brother, Leon, on October 16, 2017 after losing his long, on going battle with illness. Hayden was born August 4, 2009 in Natchez, MS. He loved to play zombie games, Pokemon and fishing. He was a free-spirited little guy and will be greatly missed.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his mom, "Meme" Pat Temple, "Paw Paw" Terry Gremillion, and "Mimi" Mary Gates; great-grandmother, LaShanda Temple and fiancé Gerald Wolfe; his father, Cecil Swazey; his siblings, Camry, Tre, Lane and Dallas. May the Lord comfort you and hold you in the palm of his mighty hand.—Angels' Place Staff

In Loving Memory of a Great Volunteer



Marie "Weezie" Gaudet
8/9/1934—6/28/2017

Angels' Place is saddened by the loss of our lovely volunteer and friend, Marie Louise Exterstein Gaudet or "Weezie", as she was affectionately called. Weezie passed away on June 28, 2017. She was very active in local charity work and poured out her love to those in need. We will miss her sparkling and mischievous bright, blue eyes and her easy laughter. We will miss her dedication to Angels' Place and our children.

Weezie was the "honcho" in charge of our newsletter "posse". When it was time for the newsletter to be mailed, she was the go to girl to gather our volunteers for the mail out. Without fail, and even when she was ailing, she gathered the posse for the job. Weezie was eager to volunteer for registration at our various children's programs and events. In other words, she was an invaluable asset to Angels' Place. We love her so.

Weezie was larger than life and lived it that way. We will miss her so much!—Angels' Place Staff



We have many ways you can be a child's angel. We have an "adopt a family program" which allows you or your company to adopt a child, several children or an entire family and we can send their Christmas gift wish lists to you. We also accept monetary donations to cover the costs of any family not adopted or for larger items that are not donated. Corporate sponsors are needed to also cover additional expenses.

Lastly, we need gift cards to give as Christmas gifts and to help out our families throughout the year.

Please call **Angels' Place, (504)455-2620** or email **Ashley at aperrot@angelsplacenola.org**.

You will make a difference in the lives of those who need a Christmas miracle.

Be an Angel for an Angel

I want to help the angels of Angels' Place at Christmas.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

I would like to: Adopt a child/family__.

Gift card donation _____

Monetary donation _____

Please make the check out to Angels' Place or send this information to:

Angels' Place
4323 Division, Ste. 206
Metairie, LA 70002

Thank you so much for making Christmas very special for our children.

Nonprofit Org.
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Permit Number 784

Angels' Place
4323 Division Street, Suite 206
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: (504) 455-2620
Fax: (504) 455-2622
www.angelsplacenola.org
Email: office@angelsplacenola.org

