



April — June 2009

FAMILY MATTERS...



...TO FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY!

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

A Quarterly Publication for Private Circulation

Dear Friends,

The last 3 months have been busy, challenging and rewarding.

We now  have 16 members on the Board of Directors. We are privileged to have 7 new Board members thanks to **Rhonda Hughey** and her Development Committee. A warm welcome to **Mike Kelly, Jenny Lanford, Latrice Cooper, Jonathan Roquemore, Mary Elliot, Sandra Maree and Shannon Viera** - all have unique areas of expertise and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Family Shelter.

Here are some of the recent happenings at the shelter: in April, we had a unique visitor, **Trish Karter**, from Boston and a generous donation thanks to 16-year old golfer **Lauren Dunbar**. And in May, we held a cricket match as our first fundraiser for the year.

To celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we have several more fundraisers planned – please join us in making them fun and successful.

It is almost a year since **Jonathan Artz** joined the Family Shelter as Executive Director. It has been a roller-coaster ride for him and through it all, he has shown great strength, skill and commitment. We are truly blessed to have him.

Sincerely,

Viji Sashikant
Editor & Board Member



Here's an EASY way to donate to the Family Shelter! JustGive.org connects wonderful people like you to organizations like us.

Please visit our website and click on the DONATE NOW icon to make a contribution!

Thank you for giving to the Family Shelter, and helping us serve homeless children and their families!

CRICKET MATCH FUND RAISER

The 1st Annual Cricket Match to benefit the Family Shelter was held on May 16th at Earlewood Park in downtown Columbia. We are indebted to **Ali Khan** (Richland Team Captain) for procuring this gorgeous venue.

Cricket lovers and those merely curious about the game watched from the bleachers, from chairs and blankets spread on the grass.

“I feel like I am on the village green of an English village,” said one lady wearing a hat and sipping soda.

It was a friendly match between Richland and Lexington Teams, with **Ali Khan** and **Venu Velenelapalli** as the respective captains. Lexington was declared the winner of the match and received the trophy from Board Member and UPS representative, **Stan Kania**. Trophies were also presented to Best Batsman **Imraan** and Best Bowler **Sajid**.



Stan presents the trophy to Venu as Ali applauds

After the game, players and spectators made their way to the picnic area for lunch prepared by 20 lady volunteers. It was an informal and relaxed ending to a wonderful match.

Our grateful thanks to **Ali** and **Venu** for organizing the teams; UPS for sponsoring the match; to the other generous donors: Northwestern Mutual, Burkett, Burkett & Burkett CPA and Pepsi; to WIS-TV, Magic 98.5 and Free Times for promoting the event; to the fabulous lady chefs; and to numerous friends and volunteers who pitched in to make this event a great success.

FROM ATLANTA TO BOSTON – ON A BIKE!

Trish Karter, CEO of Dancing Deer Baking Co. in Boston, stopped at the Family Shelter on April 24th to say ‘Hello!’ Trish rode her bicycle 1,500 miles over 15 days from Atlanta to Boston stopping at homeless shelters along the way. This personal journey just before Mother’s Day was a



L-R: Jon, Jessica Artz, Trish Karter, Jim Manning, Janet Karter & Stamarian

symbolic gesture to the single mothers who struggle to keep their homeless families together. “As an entrepreneur and single mother, I stand in awe and admiration of the hundreds of mothers across this country that wake up each morning not knowing if they’ll be able to provide a bed for their children that night,” said **Karter**. “This ride is my chance to hear these families’ stories.”

She was welcomed by **Jim Manning**, Richland County Councilman, **Stamarian Watts**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Family Shelter and **Jonathan Artz**, Executive Director of the Family Shelter.

Members of local biking clubs including BikeColumbia joined her at the city limits and rode into town with her.



OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO...

...16-year old **Lauren Dunbar**, an AC Flora student, who put together a charity golf tournament to benefit the Family Shelter as part of a school project. Lauren had planned for a small group of golfers but the groups grew and she raised more than \$2,000.

...volunteers from **Shandon United Methodist Church** who did a major landscaping project on April 25th.

...**Hugh Tyler**, owner of The Butcher Shop for his generous donations of food to the shelter.

...volunteers from **Shandon United Methodist Church** for helping us at the shelter over several weekends.

...**Town Theatre** for graciously allowing us to use the Preview of *Beauty and the Beast* as a fundraiser.

UPS' COMMUNITY GRANT

In May, UPS donated \$2,000 as a community grant. UPS District Manager, **Rich McArdle** and the folks at UPS believe in the Family Shelter's work and appreciate our focus on taking care of homeless families with children.

UPS employees also volunteered their time and skills in painting, repairs and yard cleaning.



Volunteers from **Shandon United Methodist Church** work on the landscaping project

CONTACT INFORMATION

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As advocates for keeping families together, the Family Shelter provides emergency shelter to homeless families with children, while coordinating services to alleviate the conditions that contributed to their individual circumstances.

*Beauty and
the Beast*

A Preview
to benefit

The Family Shelter

On Thursday, July 9, 2009
8:00 pm

at

Town Theatre
1012 Sumter Street
Columbia 29201

Tickets: \$15
Please call 771-7040

The Family Shelter
P.O. Box 7781
Columbia, SC 29202

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