



Volunteers Delivering the Gift of Human Kindness

Newsletter

Season 14 Fall 2006

... and on to Season 14!

It's Fall again – time for football, pumpkins patches, Thanksgiving – and, for Holiday Express, time to tackle the myriad of details that allow us to annually spread joy and goodwill in our unique way. The warehouse crew is collecting and packing, committees are strategizing and contacting, and the band is warming up.

Tenth Annual Dinner Dance

The Annual Holiday Express Dinner Dance celebrates its tenth year in 2006 with live and silent auctions and will be held, once again, at Ocean Place on Friday, November 17th. This is one of the few fund raising projects Holiday Express holds each year. The individual, business, and corporate contributions received for this event help us to bring the gift of human kindness to our friends in need during the holiday season.

New to 2006 are Dinner Dance Chairperson Rick Willgerodt and Auction Committee Co-Chairs Dottie Cooper and Sharon Kitley. In preparation for this event, Dottie and Sharon are asking for your assistance in making the auction a success by choosing a theme and creating a basket for the auction. Please contact the office with questions and donations. Deadline is November 3.

This year's event also features a 50/50 raffle, which is available even to those who are unable to attend. Tickets are \$50 each and winners will receive 50% of the proceeds. Please call the Holiday Express office for more details or visit our website.

NJPAC Ultimate Holiday Show

On Thursday, December 7, Holiday Express performs for the second time on the stage of the beautiful New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark. Curtain time is 7 pm and tickets can be purchased through the box office at www.njpac.org and 1-888-GO-NJPAC (1-888-466-5722).

Sponsored by Wachovia, this year's show includes the amazing Choir from the Methany Medical and Teaching Center – plus other special guests – and is a night not to be missed!



2006 Events Managers gather at the Warehouse conference table to plan another 50 events.

Share the Spirit of the Red Bank Tree Lighting

Holiday Express will once again perform at the annual Red Bank tree lighting, to be held this year on Friday, November 24 at 7 pm. And be sure to catch the Santa Train, sponsored by Red Bank RiverCenter, from Little Silver to Red Bank with a chaperoned walk to downtown featuring our own Mrs. Santa, Diane Kilzen!

Big Joe Rocks Jenkinson's

On Saturday, December 9, please join the Holiday Express Band for an afternoon at Jenkinson's in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, as one of our biggest supporters, Big Joe Henry of NJ101.5, presents his annual live broadcast to benefit several children's charities. This year's recipients are St. Claire's Homes for Children; the award-winning Amanda's Easel Art Therapy Program, a service of 180 Turning Lives Around, Inc.; and Brodie Bunch Foundation, which provides care and nurturing to children with cancer and their families.

Count Basie Benefit Adds Second Concert

Our Count Basie concerts have been such a sold-out success in past seasons that we have added a second date this year. Tickets for the Tuesday, December 19 concert, sponsored by K. Hovnanian, and the Thursday, December 21 concert, sponsored by Verizon, are still on sale, but are selling fast. Please contact the Count Basie Box Office at 732-842-9000.

2006 Schedule



**Update/Don Pignataro
Holiday Express Executive Director**

Because generous friends support Holiday Express in many different ways, we are able to embark on our 14th season of bringing the gift of human kindness to those in need. Residents at developmental centers, physically and mentally challenged individuals, addicted and abused children and adults and homeless seeking a meal, are the people we will sing, dance, feed and hope to bring a smile to, this year. Our volunteers spend countless hours behind the scenes organizing our warehouse where the "Gift Bag" items are stored and packed for each event. Our musical and event volunteers juggle their daily lives to attend as many events on the schedule as possible. Holiday Express exists because people support what we do and believe our special brand of cheer provides a value.

To accomplish the administration and coordination of this schedule, we add a few fundraising events into the mix. Our 10th Annual Dinner Dance, NJPAC Benefit Concert and Count Basie performances are a few "in season" ways we receive financial support and entertain. Join us, help us, support us, we have enough variety of needs to nurture the personal feel good one gets from helping others. We are sincerely grateful for the resources our friends share. For up-to-date information, check our website, www.holidayexpress.org. Thanks again for being part of our Holiday Express community.

It is the mission of Holiday Express to deliver music, food, gifts, financial support and friendship to those with the greatest need for the gift of human kindness during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Newsletter By

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Holiday Express is a volunteer, non-profit, non-sectarian, registered 501(c)(3) organization.

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Friday, November 17	10th Annual Dinner Dance
Monday, November 20	Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital
Tuesday, November 21	Ancora Psychiatric Hospital
Friday, November 24	Red Bank Tree Lighting
Saturday, November 25	Epiphany House
Sunday, November 26	HolEx I
Monday, November 27	Passaic County Elks CP Treatment Center High School
Tuesday, November 28	Medallion Care CPC Residential, Park Place, TASP, Community Connection
Wednesday, November 29	Green Brook Developmental Center Bonnie Brae
Thursday, November 30	Hunterdon Developmental Center
Friday, December 1	Millburn Regional Day School
Saturday, December 2	Emmanuel Cancer New Lisbon Developmental Center
Sunday, December 3	Make-A-Wish Vineland Developmental Center
Monday, December 4	A. Harry Moore School
Tuesday, December 5	Trenton Area Soup Kitchen Trenton Psychiatric Hospital
Wednesday, December 6	CVR St. Paul's Homeless Shelter
Thursday, December 7	Easter Seals
Thursday, December 7	NJPAC, Newark, NJ
Friday, December 8	Lakeview School
Saturday, December 9	Woodbine Developmental Center
Saturday, December 9	Big Joe & NJ101.5, Pt. Pleasant, NJ
Sunday, December 10	Matheny Crystal Lake Healthcare
Monday, December 11	University Behavioral Health
Tuesday, December 12	Woodbridge Developmental Center Children's Center of Monmouth County
Wednesday, December 13	CPC Behavioral Health Staten Island Special Olympics
Thursday, December 14	Catholic Charities North Jersey Developmental Center
Friday, December 15	CP League of Cranford
Saturday, December 16	Eastern Christian Retreat
Sunday, December 17	A.S.P.E.N.
Monday, December 18	School for Children Eva's Village
Tuesday, December 19	Harbor School
Tuesday, December 19	Count Basie Theatre Christmas Show
Wednesday, December 20	Ladacin Network Friends House
Thursday, December 21	WPLJ at Blythdale Children's Hospital
Thursday, December 21	Count Basie Theatre Christmas Show
Friday, December 22	Community Care Behavioral Health
Sunday, December 24	St. John's Soup Kitchen Trinity Church Soup Kitchen



Red Bank Rotary Food and Wine Tasting

The Red Bank Rotary held a food and wine tasting April 3, 2006 and the proceeds were generously donated to Holiday Express. Over 200 guests attended the evening held at Old Orchard Country Club in West Long Branch. Hungry diners were treated to samplings of delicious pastas, meats and seafood. In addition to a culinary feast, the evening was a financial success and the Rotary presented Tim McLoone with a donation of \$17,500. We are grateful to Chapter President Tom Zapcic and the Rotary Board for considering Holiday Express and thank them for attending our volunteer appreciating night and making the ceremonial "big check" presentation.

Sgt. Pat's 5K Race

The Sgt. Pat's 5K Race, sponsored by the Long Branch PBA Local 10, held April 10, 2006 attracted over 1000 runners. Through the efforts of Maureen King, wife of slain officer Pat King, the event generously donated \$5000 to Holiday Express. We are honored to be supported by this event, and extend a sincere thanks to our tireless volunteer and friend Maureen King and to Detective Scott Beaver of the Long Branch Police Department.

Spring Lake Five

The Spring Lake Five Mile Run, Memorial Day, recognized by Runners World Magazine as one of the top 100 races in America, added a Charity Application Opportunity to runners after the registration was closed. By making a donation to one of five charities, the runner would be entered in the race. Holiday Express received almost \$1000 from the applications. Thanks to Phil Hinck and the SBLI Jersey Shore Golden Grand Prix.

4th Annual Holiday Express Golf Classic

This year's event was an enormous success! With the sun shining on July 24, twenty-nine foursomes competed at the finely manicured and very challenging Manasquan River Golf Club in Brielle, NJ. The day's event included light jazz during lunch; a golf clinic presented by Brent Studer, Pro at MRGC; a round of golf; cocktails and dinner with live music, a silent auction, a 50/50 and awards. Event Chair, Joe Petillo and the entire Golf Committee worked hard to design a day filled with extras. In addition to the Holiday Express golf shirt tee gift, players were treated to crab cakes from Brandl's at the half-way house, a personal bag from Callaway filled with golf balls and other useful items – a perfect size for holding a wallet, keys, or phone while on the course, and a tote bag from the presenting sponsor, NetJets.

New this year was the *Charity Shoot-Out*. In addition to annually supporting the Scholarship Program, the golf committee strongly felt a portion of the proceeds from the day should be directed to the places Holiday Express visits during the holiday season. Since we visit over 50 locations and see over 15,000 people, it was difficult to choose one over another. The committee had long discussions about how we should choose; in the end it was agreed to let the winning golfers determine the winning charity, so the Charity Shoot Out was born. Each location Holiday Express visits during the holiday season was randomly assigned to a foursome, so each team was "playing for a charity." The winning team of Nick Ford, Greg Ford, Bob Honecker and Mike McAvoy were playing for Ancora Psychiatric Hospital, Hammonton, NJ. Their golf skills turned into Ancora's good fortune. A donation of \$1000 was made to the Ancora Patient Welfare Fund which purchases items for programs that enhance treatment and boost self esteem.

A special thanks to Event Sponsor, NetJets for their generosity, and to all our sponsors. Through everyone's bigheartedness over \$33,000 was raised to help fund the Holiday Express Scholarship Program.

Our Friends at Sickles Market

Harvest time proved rich for Holiday Express, which received \$86,000 after expenses from fundraising events held by Sickles Market. Sickles Market, a gourmet food market and garden center, located on property owned by the family since the 1660s, held its third annual Wine and Cheese Tasting Fundraiser to benefit Holiday Express on October 20. The casual event served up serious food and wine attracting 300-plus guests dressed in denim casual. Those attending proved that whether wearing silk or denim, they are a philanthropic, fun-loving group dedicated to community support. Digging deep into their jean pockets, they raised funds that doubled last year's figure. The premiere food and wine event was held under the twinkling lights of the greenhouse decorated in a fall harvest theme with bales of hay, corn stalks and mums.

Live and silent auction items included a bountiful harvest of premiere wines, gourmet foods and related items. According to Bob Sickles, "We hold the annual Sickles Market Wine & Cheese Tasting Fundraiser because we believe in supporting a healthy community and that means helping those folks who are sick, poor and isolated. Holiday Express does a phenomenal job of bringing joy and hope to those folks who need it most.

Additionally, Sickles Market sixth annual Pie Baking Contest, held on October 21 to benefit Holiday Express, raised approximately \$1000.

Technology Upgrade

Thanks to a grant from The Hyde and Watson Foundation, secured by Holiday Express Development Director, Christine Mosher, we were able to equip the Holiday Express office and warehouse with a new computer system. PCs, a laptop and printer are networked together with an uninterrupted power supply and tape backup. As a result new email addresses have been added:

holexpress@comcast.net – remains the primary contact
 arobinson@holidayexpress.org – Amy Robinson, Director of Operations
 dpignataro@holidayexpress.org – Don Pignataro, Executive Director
 cmosher@holidayexpress.org – Chris Mosher, Development
 dedington@holidayexpress.org – Donna Edington, Dinner Dance Ad Journal
 lh@holidayexpress.org – Layonne Holmes, Website, Yearbook

We deeply appreciate your generosity – without it, Holiday Express could not deliver.



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Party With A Purpose!

Volunteer Appreciation Night

On June 7, we held our first Volunteer Appreciation and Committee Sign-up Night at the Holiday Express Warehouse. Adult refreshments and snacks were served and each committee set up a table with information to attract new members. More than 60 people attended and it was a nice way of saying "thank you" to the volunteers who donate so much of their time and resources. The evening also provided an opportunity for new volunteers to meet experienced volunteers and our Board of Trustees.

News from the Warehouse Lives

2006 Wish List Items

Holiday Express gift bags generally contain personal care items, warm clothing, a snack and something fun. Thanks to the generosity of our many corporate sponsors, a good portion of the gift bag items have been received already. However, a few critical things are still needed for this season: **men's gloves (large and warm, please), blankets, throws, candy.**

If you'd like to make a donation of any kind to help support our 2006 season, please phone or email the Holiday Express office. And thank you!

Giving Partners

One of the hallmarks of Holiday Express is its ever-expanding Giving Partner Program. Through the generous support from the donors who participate in the Giving Partner Program, Holiday Express fills specific needs of various charitable organizations. Each organization provides us with a "wish list," and Holiday Express seeks companies or individuals interested in purchasing desired items, such as microwave ovens, blankets and coats. This match-up of donors with charities forges a warm and personal relationship that transforms the donors and charities into true partners in caring. Half of the donations made through the Giving Partner Program come from individuals, families and neighborhood groups, though corporations also play a significant role in the program's success. Holiday Express cordially invites businesses, individuals, families and groups to join the Giving Partner Program and help fulfill the needs of the many worthy organizations that serve our communities. Visit our website for information on how to become a Giving Partner donor and view this year's wish list.