

fall
2011



News

www.ourlittlehaven.org

Caring for Children. Mind. Body. Soul.

Look What We've Done Together

People Magazine Features Haven Friends

It's truly amazing what we can do together, through early nurturing and the power of lasting friendship.

People knew they had seen an inspiring story when they saw a St. Louis Post-Dispatch column by Bill McClellan about four Our Little Haven friends in March of this year. The story is about Ricky, Portia, Dillon and Antoine, and how their friendship has endured since the time they met as infants at Our Little Haven.

Bill McClellan learned about the four friends when their caregiver from the Haven days, Mary Dorsey, wrote him a letter. She wrote:

"Dear Bill, I am writing to you about an amazing set of friends who met 18 years ago this spring. These friends met as babies at Our Little Haven, a St. Louis-based residence for children born to drug-addicted mothers.

Fortunately for these four, they have been adopted into loving homes or live with biological family members."

Mary went on to write to Mr. McClellan about the annual get-togethers she organized to give the opportunity for the friends to continue sharing and supporting each other. Her purpose was to "help them understand that there are kids in the same circumstances who are there to help fill in the pieces of the puzzle called Life."



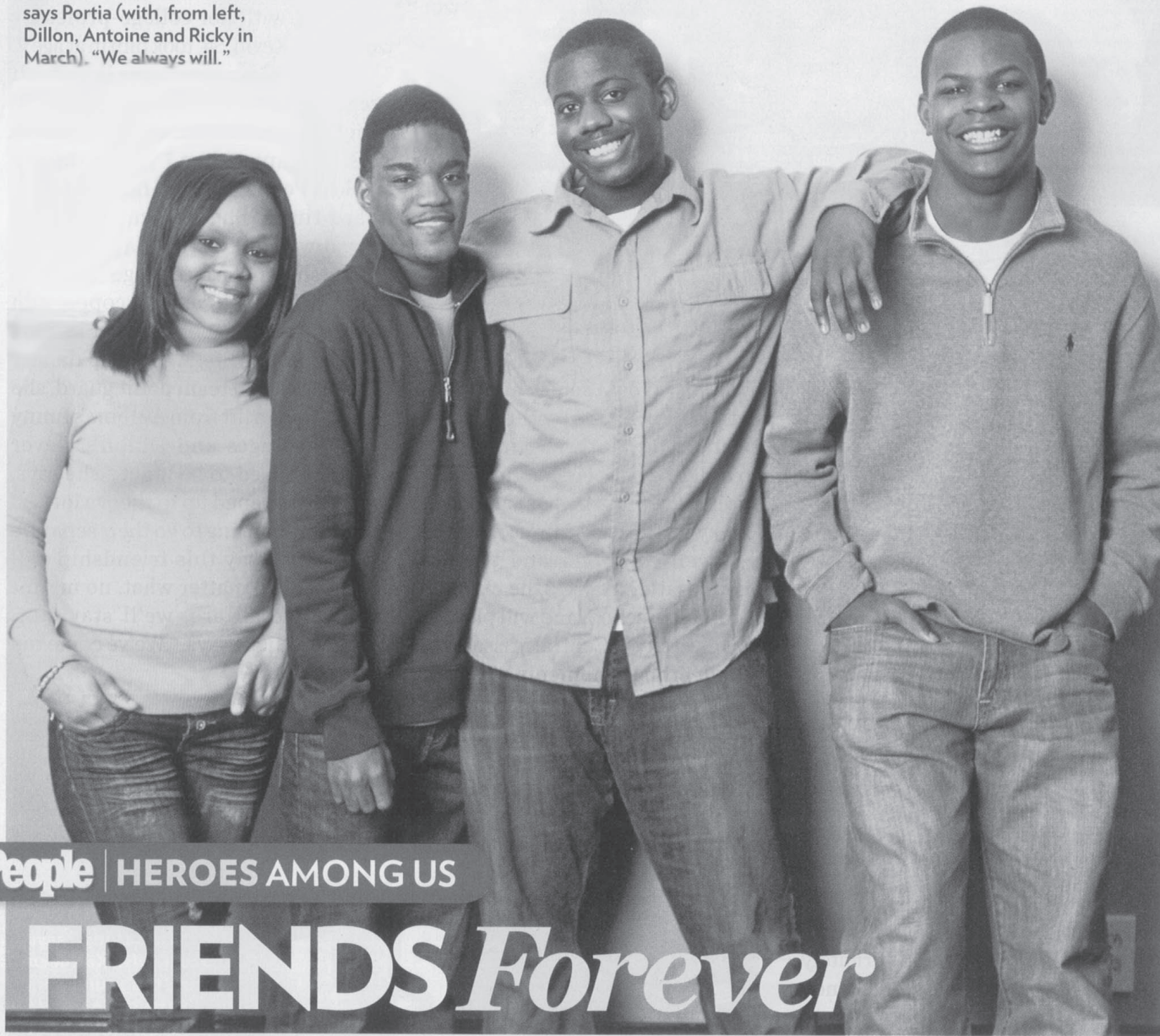
Mary Dorsey at OLH.

People writer Alicia Dennis wrote:

"Four babies born to drug-addicted mothers found hope in a loving St. Louis group home---and forged a bond for life."

The four young people's early bond and continuing friendship was explained by one of the four housemates, Portia, who said, "We shared the same beginning." (drug-exposure at birth and early care at the Haven). "Now, where we came from is something we can be proud about together."

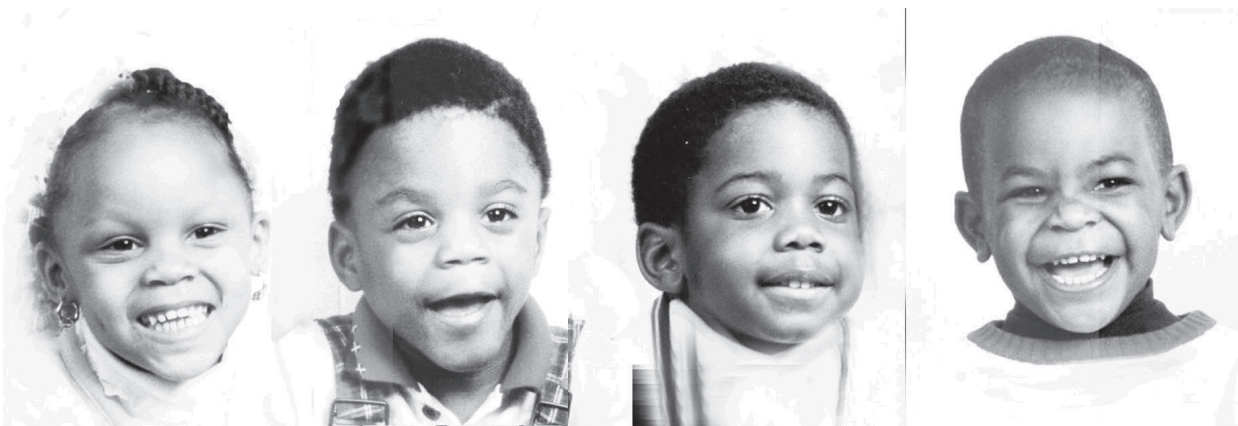
"We look out for each other," says Portia (with, from left, Dillon, Antoine and Ricky in March). "We always will."



People | HEROES AMONG US

FRIENDS Forever

L. to rt: Portia Parks, Dillon Ohlemeyer, Antoine Evans and Ricky Spratley. These young people were infants together at Our Little Haven, and have continued their friendship with annual get togethers organized by Mary Dorsey, a teacher who worked as a houseparent at Our Little Haven when they were here. The photo above from People magazine shows them at age 18, and the photo (BELOW) shows them when they were housemates at Our Little Haven. They came as infants, and these photos were taken at Our Little Haven when they were each about 3 years old. They are shown in the same order, left to right: Portia, Dillon, Antoine and Ricky.



To read the whole *People* article, please go our website at www.ourlittlehaven.org, and click on the *People* box. You can feel good about *your* role in helping make GOOD NEWS stories like this possible! These smiling faces (shown above) is why we do what we do. The hopeful futures these young adults now show demonstrate to us all why nurturing children when they are little is valuable, important and the right thing to do. We couldn't do it without your support: Look at what we have done together!

Annual Get-Together - MLK Day 2012

We invite all of our OLH "grads" who have been in residence as housemates at Our Little Haven to visit during our annual Martin Luther King Day Reunion get-together. Come enjoy a lunch of White Castles and have some time to catch up with other former housemates. Martin Luther King/MLK Day this year is Monday, January 16, 2012. Please email Mary at OLH to let us know you will be here, her email is mary@ourlittlehaven.org. Thank you to all who have come back to see us, you are growing up great!



our little haven News

Our Little Haven
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Keeping Kids First

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Our Little Hoedown Goes to the Big Top

This year's annual dinner auction "Our Little Hoedown Goes to the Big Top" was held at the **America's Center Atrium** on April 9th with 280 guests who enjoyed a wonderful evening of hors d'oeuvres, auctions, raffles and live music. The event was a big success raising over \$95,000 to benefit the Haven children.

A highlight of the evening was onstage recognition of four Our Little Haven graduates to congratulate them on their upcoming high school graduations – our first group of graduates to attain this milestone.

We are grateful to this year's sponsors that included **Acropolis, Emerson Tool Co., Packaging Concepts, Inc., Oaktree Products, Baron's Express, The Boeing Co., Centene Foundation, HealthLink, Bill & Chris Newbold, Levy Restaurants, Marcone, Paric Corporation, Sigma-Aldrich and Thermadyne Industries.** Also, special thanks to **Ameristar, Pulaski Bank, Southwest Airlines and Mr. Jack Muehlenkamp.**



Haven Club Happenings

The 2011 Annual Haven Club Trivia Night was another sold out success. The event was held on Sat. Jan. 29th at CBC and over 200 guests enjoyed an evening of trivia, beer and snacks. Thanks to Chairwoman Megan Brady and her committee for another memorable event. A special thanks to CBC for hosting the event, emcee Martin Kilcoyne and all of the Haven Club volunteers for putting together another fabulous Trivia Night!



Come join the fun for year 51!

Wednesdays in October-3 pm to close enjoy Filet Mignon or Chicken Pietros w/mash potato and veg medley @ \$4.95. Donations benefit Our Little Haven. 3801 Watson Rd, St. Louis, MO 63109



Left to right: Tom and Kate Gunn and Kevin and Amy Gunn

Thank you, auction committee Co-Chairs **Sue Bahlinger, Kelly Salviccio and Lucy Taylor** and to all of the committee members who worked many hours to make this event such a big success. A big thanks, also, to **McGraw Milhaven of KTRS**, our auctioneer, **Mary Allison of Parties, Props & More, Nancy Tinker & Michael McDevitt of America's Center's Levy Restaurants, Linda Versemann of AMS and Dave Gillette.** Thanks to **Midtown Printing** for printing the invitations and **St. Louis Print Group** for donating envelopes. We are also grateful to **Wendy Hartlieb and Meghan Carr** for producing the program and **Peace Institute Press** for printing them.

18th Annual Card Party Big Success!

The Haven Angels put on another super successful Card Party to benefit the Haven on June 1st at **Chaminade College Preparatory School.** It was another fabulous success, raising over \$10,000 to benefit the kids served by OLH. Over 220 guests enjoyed a day full of cards, lunch, raffles and more! Many thanks to Chaminade and their staff for donating the space and helping out. Also a big thanks to **Nancy Tinker and America's Center Catering** for donating the desserts, snacks and drinks.

We are forever grateful to the **Card Party Executive Committee** for donating the lunch and for putting this event together every year – **Dixie Hummel, Pat Kloster, Carol Layton, Grace Moran, Jeanne Redington, Gerry Steinhardt, Lee Steuby and Mary Kay Tonsi,** and to all of their helpers who serve lunch and provide drinks to the guests. Also, a special thanks to the senior boys from **St. Louis University High School** who provided valet parking for our guests again this year.

Leave A Legacy of Hope

You can leave a legacy of hope for generations of children to come. To learn more about Our Little Haven's legacy giving, including tax-wise options, call Mike Bahlinger at (314) 533-2229, X225.

Don't forget your End-of-the-Year gift!
Tax credits are available.
See Box on page 3 or call Mike Bahlinger at (314) 533-2229, x225.

Keep up with the weekly postings from Our Little Haven on our Facebook page!



Baby Change

Thank you to Baby Change donors **Gwen Bunnell, Laurie's Shoes, Pulaski Bank, Mary Smith, Barbara Stevens, SSM Depaul Medical Group.** Call Judy at (314) 533-2229, x285.

Thank you for this generous assistance:

- Alpha Chi Omega for their continuing donations.
- H & H Associates for their complimentary EAP services, flu shots, Hep B vaccines and massages for our staff.
- Ralcorp for their monthly donation of pasta plus cash donations.
- Cynthia Jotim, Nestor Jotim and Mom Jotim
- The Primrose Foundation for monthly children's clothing gift cards.
- Rubin Brown for hosting OLH Board meetings and continued support.
- Rockwell Collins for their donation of furniture.
- Diane and Bob Huber for a large furniture donation.
- Katey Charles for continuing email design and email technical assistance.
- Visiontracks for continuing website design, development, hosting and technical assistance.

Thanks to employees at these companies who give year-round through payroll deductions and gift matching:

- Abbot Labs
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Dell
- MO State Employees
- Thermadyne Holdings
- Wellpoint

Thank you for these generous grants/gifts:

- Frank Adams Foundation - \$3,000
- Atkins Charitable Trust - \$3,000
- Boeing ECF - \$8,000
- Emerson - \$25,000
- ESCO Foundation- \$7,500
- Express Scripts Foundation - \$5,000
- Jordan Foundation - \$5,000
- Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis - \$144,000/2 years
- Missouri Foundation for Health - \$100,000/2 years
- Old Newsboys Day - \$2,000
- Pott Foundation - \$10,000
- Saigh Foundation - \$7,500
- St. Louis Mental Health Board - \$222,000
- Viragh Family Foundation - \$15,000
- White Castle Inc. - \$10,000

Holidays at the Haven



Adopt Our Little Haven for the Holidays!



If your company, group or family would like to purchase gift(s) for one or more children living at the Haven for the 2011 Christmas or the Winter holidays, please contact Mary Crook at (314) 533-2229 x226, mary@ourlittlehaven.org or check our website at www.ourlittlehaven.org.

Holiday Adopt-A-Family or A Foster Child

If you are interested in adopting one of our families or buying a wishlist gift for a foster child, please contact Sharon Whalen at (314) 531-3183 x229.



KIDS' ACTIVITIES REPORT: SUMMER FUN

- The Haven kids had a fun-filled summer despite the heat.
- The highlight of the summer is always the Six Flags trip. The kids and their chaperones had a great day this year enjoying all of the rides (especially the water rides) and shows.
- The kids spent a lot of time playing in swimming pools in the yard a perfect summer to enjoy the water. They also spent many hours riding bikes, playing games and doing lots of arts and crafts.
- Field trips to the Zoo, Botanical Garden, movies, Tower Grove Park, the Magic House, City Garden
- SLAM "Women Football Game"
- Catholic Charities invited the kids to attend a Cardinals game
- Geile/Leon Marketing Communications hosted a 4th of July party for the kids.
- CBRE Ellis for donating birthday cakes for all of the kids

THANK YOU to all of our donors. We are grateful to all of our donors for providing our kids with many opportunities of just being kids. Please call Mary if you/your group would like to donate to our kids: (314) 533-2229 x226 or mary@ourlittlehaven.org

Help Around The House

- Thanks to Bob Spradling & friends for many trips to the Haven in the extreme heat of this summer to service our air conditioners!
- Thank you, Carl Baumer for more wainscoting and much more!
- ...AND thank you to Charlie Combs for painting projects;
- Don Bockerstette for extermination services;
- KPMG interns who did yard work and donated Build-A-Bears and donations for the First Book program;
- Levy restaurants Great American Service team spent a day cleaning up the yard and planting flowers;
- UPS volunteers came twice to perform various clean-up projects around the Haven;
- SLU High Dads and Lads for various projects around the Haven;
- Our Lady of Providence Men's Club completed a days' worth of projects;
- SLUCAP volunteers and Colleen O'Connell for yard work;
- Rosemary Intagliata for cooking dinner every Monday for the kids in the residential program;
- Antoine Evans makes lunch for the Haven kids every Sunday;
- and, to the Helpmates for stuffing the Chic Boutiques invitations!

Tax Credits Available Don't Forget your end-of-the-year gift!

Any corporation, shareholder/partner in an S Corp, limited liability company or partnership, or a self-employed individual may be eligible for a 50% MO State Tax Credit for any contribution greater than \$1,000. And now, individual tax credits are also available through the Children In Crisis (CIC) tax credit programs. Call Mike Bahlinger at (314) 533-2229, x225.



Holiday Cards Order Form on Page 4

New Staff

Dominique Brown – Foster Care Case Manager



Ms. Brown has a BA in counseling/psychology, Greenville College and plans to attend Lindenwood University to pursue a master's degree in non-profit administration. Prior to OLH she was a res counselor at Kids Hope United in Centralia, IL and a substance abuse therapist at Chestnut Systems in Maryville, IL. Dominique sees herself as a team player and she is outgoing and focused. Welcome to Our Little Haven!

Wish List

Field Trip Gift Certificates

- Gift certificates for field trips
- McDonalds or other fast food
- Movie passes

Everyday Item Gift Cards

- Schnucks, Dierberg's
- Sams/Wal-Mart/Shop N Save
- Payless Shoes/Target
- Michael's/Hobby Lobby

Everyday Needs

- Paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex
- Clothing- boys/girls, 4-16 yrs
- Copy paper
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9 volt)

Special Wishes

- Craft items (model magic, stickers, felt, sequins, glitter, tie dye kits)

For more wish items, go to
www.ourlittlehaven.org



Holiday Cards \$10 for 10 cards w/envelopes

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____

HOLIDAY CARDS

Judy (314) 533-2229 x285

Custom imprints:
Ann (314) 533-2229 x227

of packages _____ x \$10 = \$ _____
Please add S & H: \$2.50 for 1 pkg/\$3.50 for 2-3 pkgs. \$ _____
\$6 for 4-7 pkgs \$10 for 10+ pkg Total \$ _____
MasterCard/VISA/Discover _____
Exp. date _____ Security code _____
Questions? Imprint orders? Phone Ann (314) 533-2229 x227
Mail to: Our Little Haven P.O. Box 23010, St. Louis, MO 63156-3010



LUNCH WITH SANTA

to benefit Our Little Haven
Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011

John F. Kennedy High School
500 Woods Mills Rd - Manchester, MO

Send to: SANTA
Our Little Haven
P.O. Box 23010
St. Louis, MO
63156-3010

tickets @ \$10 each = _____
children under 12: _____
(for goody bag) _____

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
E-mail _____

Please charge to my Mastercard/VISA/Discover (circle):

Name on Card _____
Account # _____
Exp. date _____ Security Code _____ Phone: _____
Would you like to be in our Birthday Club? You will
receive a birthday surprise by email. Y N (circle)
My birthdate: _____ My age: _____

Upcoming EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 am – 5 pm. “Glass Galore” Show and Sale at the Kirkwood Community Center presented by the **St. Louis Lampworker’s Society**. Artists created flame-worked glass beads, jewelry, marbles, platters, fused art. \$2.00 admission fee goes to Our Little Haven! 111 S. Geyer Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122 (314) 822-5855. www.stlouisbead.org.



Monday and Tuesday, September 26 & 27th – 20th Annual Our Little Haven Golf Tournament presented by Environmental Operations and co-sponsored by Marcone Supply, PARIC, Packaging Concepts, Inc. and Seiler Plastics at Sunset Country Club. For more information, contact Scott Hummel at (314) 533-2229 x224 or scotthummel@ourlittlehaven.org.

Every Wednesday in October, 3 pm to close - Pietro’s Nights for the Haven: Come Join the Fun for Year 51! 3801 Watson Road. Celebrate Pietro’s 51st anniversary with filet mignon or Chicken Pietro with sides for the rollback price of \$4.95. Proceeds benefit the Haven. Phone Scott for more info, (314) 533-2229, x224.



Saturday, October 29th – 8th Annual Chic Boutiques Fashion Event at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel, 10 am – 2 pm. Guests will enjoy a day of boutique shopping, auction, lunch and a fashion show. Participating boutiques include Athena’s, City Sprouts, Femme, Gisele’s, Meka, Mister Guy, Petunia’s, Pulse and Roberts Fine Apparel. Tickets are \$60 per person and include lunch, parking, auctions, and more! Contact Maggie Beal at (314) 533-2229 x243 or mbeal@ourlittlehaven.org.

Saturday, October 15th from 8 pm-midnight. 2nd Annual Humphrey’s Fund/Friendraiser Concert Night to benefit Our Little Haven. The popular band “Rule 3” will headline. Humphrey’s Bar & Grill, 3700 Laclede Ave, St. Louis, MO 63108. (314) 535-0700. <http://www.humphreysstl.com>.

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011 - California Pizza Kitchen West County 20% Night for OLH. 20% of proceeds goes to Our Little Haven this night, including dine-in, take-out, catering AND beverages! Get your flyer with more information by calling or emailing Scott (314) 533-2229, x224 or scotthummel@ourlittlehaven.org.

Saturday, November 19, 2011 - “Res Judicata” 5K Run for Our Little Haven. The St. Louis University Law School SBA (Student Bar Association) hosts this event, Saturday morning (details to come), starting at the clocktower on the St. Louis University campus. For more information about start time and registration, please contact Scott Hummel at (314) 533-2229, x224 or scotthummel@ourlittlehaven.org.

Saturday, December 17th – Lunch with Santa – 10:30 am. John F. Kennedy High School, 500 Woods Mill Road, Manchester, MO. Guests will enjoy a kid-friendly lunch and Santa will arrive with his elves and helpers and hold a sing-a-long. All kids will receive a goody bag and you can take photos of Santa at your table. Tickets are \$10 per person and reservations are required. Reserve with Judy at (314) 533-2229 x285 or mail the sign-up.

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