



# AROUND THE CIRCLE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CIRCLE OF GRANDPARENTS  
A PROGRAM OF PARTNERS FOR CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER

**A JOURNEY OF CHARACTER - 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Volume 4 Issue 1 Debra R. Stephen, Coordinator (614-436-4799) August, 2010

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Character  
Trait for  
September

## Mark Your Calendar

*IT'S BACK TO  
SCHOOL TIME!*

### Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 2  
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
Thompson Room  
Griswold Center

No School  
Monday, Sept. 6

Join us as we kick off the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Circle of Grandparents! After getting down to business we will play ice-breaker BINGO and *possibly* have a presentation from **Sandy Shearn** about her novel Character Cake idea.



Friends, food, fashion and fellowship were on the agenda at the Circle of Grandparents End of the Year Celebration on May 27, 2010. For more photos of this gala event see page 10 and view [all](http://2010circleofgrandparents.shutterfly.com) the pictures from the evening at <http://2010circleofgrandparents.shutterfly.com>

## Roster Delay

Due to a delay in placing "Grandparent" volunteers in a few schools, the 2010-2011 COG Roster will not be available until the October issue of "**Around the Circle**". Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## ALL 'GRANDS' PLEASE NOTE -

Attached to the end of this newsletter are your:

1. Introduction Letter to take to class on your first visit. (*There are two letters – one if you are teaching a class by yourself, another if you are teaching as a couple. Choose the right one for your circumstance, sign & make copies for each child to take home.*)
2. Monthly Meeting Schedule

## PCC CIRCLE OF GRANDPARENTS BY THE NUMBERS



1,950 Students  
78 Classrooms  
62 Grandparents  
11 Schools  
1 Amazing Impact



## FROM DEBRA'S DESK



Dear "Grandparents",

I want to thank everyone for all the love and support that you have shown me and my family over the last five crazy months!

For those new to the program, here's what you missed...me being in the hospital with a GI bleed, a long recovery; the birth of my first grandchild (a healthy beautiful boy named **Everett**), my daughter (**Everett's** mom) having minor complications from childbirth followed with a recovery followed with a ruptured appendix (*all in the first month of **Everett's** life*), **Everett** his family, and dog, moving in with us so that we could help take care of him and his mom for 3 weeks; the complete failure of the heating/cooling system during that first week (oh, yeah, it was 90+ degrees) and I can't forget the ant infestation that swarmed the kitchen and couldn't be treated adequately because of the infant in the house! While all that was going on at home, my son and oldest daughter were traveling around Europe and sometime I'll have to tell you about my son getting cited by the London police for terrorism! (No charges, no penalty, just a piece of paper citing him with terrorism for taking pictures.) Just a normal summer – *NOT!*

But it wasn't all bad; I got to spend a LOT more time with **Everett** than I ever dreamed. **Everett's** dad got a full-time dream job that he loves; *with benefits!* We have a new heating/cooling system (*although the new thermostat sometimes holds us hostage*) and are on a first name basis with the **Orkin** man. And I got to use practically everything that I received at the surprise grandmother baby shower that the **Circle** threw for me before everything went upside down! I can't imagine those first hectic weeks of being **Everett's** surrogate mom without all those gifts.

I really appreciated all of the cards, phone calls, and emails of encouragement and offers to help that came from this wonderful group of caring and compassionate angels. I want each and every one of you to know how extremely blessed I feel to be part of such a kind and supportive group of friends.

**Here's to a more relaxing fall!** - Debra

## IN MEMORIAM



**Charlotte Spohn**, a devoted Circle volunteer of 2 years, as well as other children's volunteer organizations, passed away on July 22, 2010. Charlotte was a gentle, sweet soul with a heart of gold as evidenced by her last request to ask that those who wished to donate memorials in her name to give to the children's charity of their choice. Her efforts and commitment to the Circle will not be forgotten thanks to donations totaling nearly \$300 to the Circle of Grandparents from her dear friends and family. I am thankful that our paths crossed through our common love for children. She will be missed, but her generous spirit will live on in our memories and through the gifts donated in her name.

-Debra



## HOLLY RICHARD, RAINMAKER

After years of absence, our new **PCC** executive director, **Holly Richard** has tracked down the Word of the Month sign that used to be displayed on the Village Green! Unfortunately, **Holly's** ace detective work found the sign to be in disrepair and the Words of the Month missing. The **PCC** Board voted to release funds to purchase a new one. **Holly** anticipates that the new one will be ready for display this fall. Watch for it! Thanks **Holly!**

## LUNCH BUNCH



Join us after the Thursday, Sept. 2 meeting for lunch. We will reconvene at the **Winking Lizard Tavern** at 100 Hutchinson Ave. It is tucked back behind Crosswoods Cinema at High and 270. Don't sweat directions, we can caravan or carpool! See you there!



## KUDOS TO HENK DEREE AND COLONIAL HILLS



Henk DeRee, principal of Colonial Hills, linked one of our recruiting letters for new **Grandparents** into the home page of their school website! What a *novel* recruiting tool! Thanks **Henk**!

## KEN PEASE WANTS YOU!



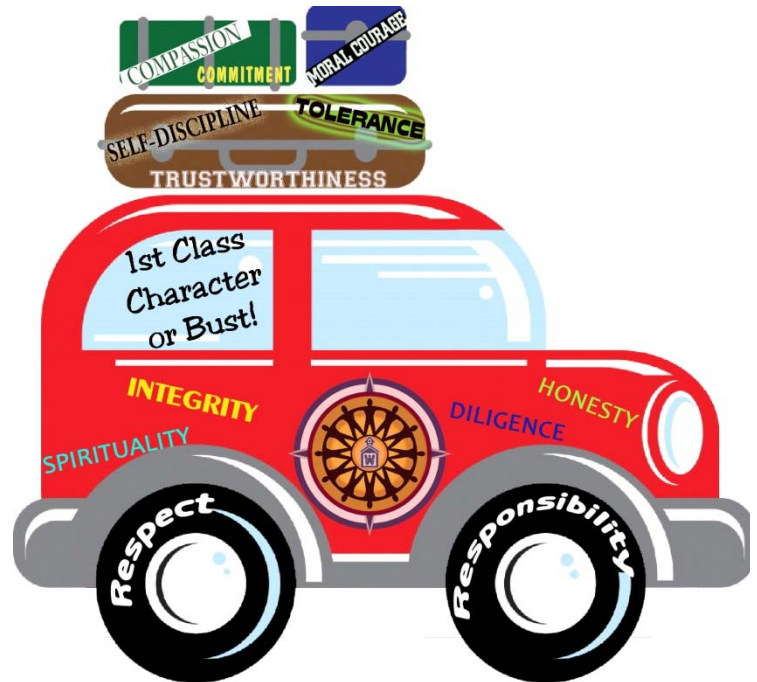
**Ken Pease**, the new Principal of **Slate Hill** is asking, (read as “begging”) for new **Grandparent** volunteers for his school. A majority of his students do not have grandparents available who could volunteer with our program for his school. As a result, his school of nearly 500 students only has 4 **Grandparents** who are working in 4 rooms. If you would be willing to add a class at his school, *in addition to the class that you are currently assigned*, you would be welcomed with open arms! Please call **Debra** (436-4799) if you can help.



## GREAT RESOURCE IDEA!

**Elizabeth Hague** suggests the book, “Why Am I Here?” by **Matthew Kelly** as a wonderful resource for **Grandparents**.

“Why Am I Here?” asked Max of his grandfather one day while they were fishing. This, of course, is the ultimate question we all ask. This book is a remarkable lesson for children of all ages about living with passion and purpose. Max's Grandpa suggests that Max is here to become the-best-version-of-himself and what follows is Max's awareness of the choices he can make.



### A JOURNEY OF CHARACTER

## 10th Year Anniversary End of the Year Celebration Planning Committee Meeting *(We HAVE to find a shorter name!)*

As we begin the new school year the above committee is already planning the end of the year. This is an exciting milestone year! We are celebrating the **Circle's** 10<sup>th</sup> year of service to the **Worthington** schools.

Our recurring theme for this milestone year is “A Journey of Character” (thanks, to **Carol Bogaards** for the theme)! As the **Circle** continues on the trail laid down before us by those six brave pioneers of Character Education (**Liz Hague, Kathy Shaffer, Diane DeMuth, Braxton Tewart, Jim Timko, and Tony Petrozzi**) we look forward to a long and rewarding journey ahead.

The committee is swinging into high gear as our May celebration destination draws nearer day by day. So, if you enjoy party planning and want to help, **Liz Hague** and her hard working committee of celebration planners would welcome your help. Please feel free to join us on **Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Griswold Conference Room.**



## MEET THE NEW GRANDPARENTS



**Herb & Connie  
Pierce**

Connie and Herb have been in Ohio for just the past decade. Both are native Californians. Herb was the Managing Director of the Los Angeles office of Prudential Insurance. Connie was an Assistant to the Bishop in Lutheran denominational headquarters in Los Angeles. They came to Ohio because their granddaughters were in Worthington. They enjoy travel, both take music lessons and family is their highest priority. Connie is a quilter. Herb enjoys waxing his motor home. They are "parents" to two darling kitties. *(Editor's note: I would like to commend the Pierce's on their patience! We have tried to get them into their granddaughter's class at Evening Street since she was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Finally, 2 long years later they are in!! Not only are they "Grandparenting her class but have agree to do a second class. I admire their good natured attitude, diligence, patience, and commitment.)*



**Angie Absten**

Angie is the oldest of 6 children, in fact, she found out about our program through her sister. She has been a registered nurse for over 40 years, with an interest in natural health. Angie has a son, a daughter, and a granddaughter. She enjoys hiking, biking and photography. She also enjoys needlepoint, when she has time. Angie will be working in her granddaughter's school, Liberty. *(Editor's note: You may recognize Angie from the End of the Year Celebration. I invited her to "come check us out", and was pleasantly surprised when she came early and worked hard to help set up and was one of the last to leave after helping put everything away. That speaks volumes about her.)*



**Judy Rammel**

Judy has been married for 50 years to Don and they reside in Fairborn, Ohio (near Dayton). Judy is a retired R.N. They have 6 children, 9 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Her two youngest grandchildren are at Brookside where she will be volunteering. She loves watching her grandchildren as the light bulb goes on as they are learning. *(She really loves it when a light bulb goes on for her as well!!)* She already knows that she will learn more from her new classroom "grandchildren" than they will learn from her. How great is that? She hopes to continue to grow and learn as her Mom continues to do at 89 years young. After hearing about us, Judy joined us through our website.



**Donna Biehn**

Donna and her husband Bob have been married for 49 years. She is mother to two sons, two daughter-in-laws and two grandchildren who attend Evening Street School where she will be working with the first grade class of her granddaughter. Donna lives in Upper Arlington and is a retired secondary teacher. She loves to travel, read, knit, walk and mentor young moms in a program at her church. She looks forward to being back in the classroom and meeting other Circle of Grandparents participants. Donna heard about us from her daughter.



**Bob Biehn**

Bob has been married to Donna (above) for 49 years. He owned an Allstate Insurance Agency for 38 years, sold the business and retired in 2000. He volunteers building new homes for Habitat for Humanity and also volunteers for S.O.N. Ministries at his church UALC. He enjoys playing golf, especially with his son and grandson! Bob will adopt his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade grandson's Evening Street class. *(Editor's note: Bob and Donna were kind enough to pose for pictures during orientation and the picture was actually published this summer in "This Week in Worthington".)* Bob, not one to miss out on a good time, couldn't resist joining after Donna told him about it.



**Dorothy Pridham**

Dorothy has always loved working with elementary age children in her career as an elementary school secretary in several Westerville schools, two of which she opened. She is looking forward to the opportunity to once again work with little ones. Dorothy enjoys volunteering in several organizations such as the food pantry and as a docent at the zoo. When she's not volunteering, you can find her on the golf course where all of our words of the month are put into practice. She has two sons and six grandchildren. Dorothy will be working with both Kindergarten classes at Worthington Park, one of which has her grandson. She is looking forward to this new experience.



**Beth Ault**

**Beth has lived in Columbus most of her life and in Worthington for over 30 years. All three of her daughters grew up here. She has 7 grandchildren, all of them in Bellevue, Washington. As you can imagine, she travels to Bellevue several times a year. She has been a stay-at-home wife and mother. She volunteered in all of her children's schools and worked with children at her church. She enjoys reading, gardening, walking, swimming, crochet, traveling, bowling, antiquing and Bible study. Debra met Beth at the Worthington Women's Club and she couldn't resist Debra's sales pitch!**



**Bill & Linda  
Mrukowski**

Linda grew up in Worthington and attended all twelve years here. She met her husband Bill at Ohio State. They are parents of two sons, both graduates of WHS. Linda taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Brookside for 2 years and Bill was a former high school teacher and coach in Elyria & Norwalk before going into the business world. They have 4 grandchildren: one eleven year old in Hilliard and 5 year old triplets starting Kindergarten in the Olentangy district. Linda & Bill are retired, have been married 45 years, and have resided in Worthington for over 32 years. They will be Grandparents in a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Brookside. Thanks to Elizabeth Hague for bringing them onboard! *(Editor's Note: They are not ones to boast, but I thought you would be interested in knowing that Bill played for Woody Hayes at OSU as quarterback on the 1961 National Championship team. And Linda also has a football connection. The field at Thomas Worthington High School was named after her late father, Dow Nelson, a long time coach, teacher, and athletic director prior to his death in 1965.)*



**Elizabeth  
Collins**

Elizabeth was born and raised in Boston, Ma. She has lived in New Jersey, Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina and finally back to Ohio. During that time she reared 5 children and considers them her greatest blessing. She graduated from OSU in 1998 with a BA in Journalism. She enjoys reading, singing, and acting. She also enjoys watching sports in addition to her volunteer work. She will be working with the second grade class of Kathy Gentner at Evening Street. Elizabeth comes to us through Dorothy Kraus and Elizabeth Hague.



**Heinz & Wallie  
Putz**

Wallie and Heinz came to the US (Chicago) from Germany in the 1950s. They then moved to Worthington in 1977 in a job related move. They have 3 children, all of them graduated from Worthington schools and OSU. They have 3 Grandchildren close by in Dublin and 2 Grandchildren in Burlington, VT. They also have a daughter living in Sitka, Alaska, she is married and both her and her husband work for the Nat'l Forest Service in Alaska. They recently celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary and they are looking forward to working with the children and the Circle of Grandparents. They are both active in senior sports. They play table tennis and have competed in the Ohio Senior championships. Heinz also plays softball with 2 senior teams. Elizabeth Hague is responsible for scoring the Putz', with an assist from Dorothy Kraus. (*Editor's note: you many recognize them as two of the kind table tennis players who stay after table tennis to help set up tables for our banquets.*)



**Audrey Clum**

After over 25 years of teaching Pre-K, Audrey decided to "retire". Not wanting to be completely away from working with children, she decided to find ways to volunteer so as to keep a flexible but rewarding life. She will be spending her new life with Circle of Grandparents, mentoring a woman who has a home daycare/preschool, working with Hispanic children on their reading skills and being a leader in a character building program for girls. Singing in the church choir, Bible study, organizing schedules for the First Impressions Team and other as needed tasks for her church keep her busy as well. Audrey also plans to work travel into her already jam packed retired schedule! She is looking forward to working with PCC COG. Thanks to her long time friend Carol Bogaards for introducing Audrey to the Circle!



**Marilyn Wollett**

Marilyn moved to Columbus from Campbell, Ohio (a suburb of Youngstown) to attend The Ohio State University and remains a huge fan of the Buckeyes. Marilyn received a BS in Pharmacy, and decided to remain in Columbus. Presently, she is retired and enjoying her extra time by spending it with her children and grandchildren. Marilyn had three children, one passed away and the two living reside in Worthington and Powell. Three of her grandchildren attend the Worthington Schools; in fact, she will be working with one of them as a Grandparent at Evening Street. The remaining two grandchildren attend Olentangy schools. Additionally, her daughter-in-law, who told her about our program, works for the Worthington School System.

***And we have even more New Grandparents in the process of being born who will be ready for introduction to the world in next month's newsletter!***



I had the pleasure of attending the Open House at **Brookside** with second year member, **Cheryl Leiss**. She was asked to participate in the Open House along with a quilt that she made with her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class and asked if I would like to go with her. **Cheryl** has agreed to share her quilt with us at our October meeting. The quilt will be donated to the Ronald McDonald house. -**Debra**



## THANKS TO DR. JIM MCELLIGOT AND THE SPRINT FOUNDATION!!

This newsletter was produced on a brand new Dell laptop computer purchased with funds from the **Sprint Foundation** grant. Thanks to **Dr. McElligott's** persuasive arguments on our behalf (the Foundation which normally does not allow funds to be used to purchase equipment) saw the value of having a computer to be used expressively for the **Circle of Grandparents** program. The computer will be used exclusively for **Circle of Grandparent** documents, files, and pictures. Having this information in one mobile place allows the Coordinator the ability to always have information with her as she travels the area promoting, educating, and serving the **Circle**.



## Minutes

May 6,, 2010

Thompson Room , Griswold Center

10:00 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

In attendance were: Carol Bogaards, Kay Basiler, Elizabeth Collins, Bill Crowley, Nancy English, Elizabeth Hague, Virginia McDougale, B. C. Nair, Georgia Reinbold, Kathy Shaffer, Brax Tewart, Joan Van De Weghe, Helga Waldrop, Mary Winter, Marilyn Winters

The May meeting chaired by Elizabeth Hague began with a positive report on the progress of Debra Stephen's health. Liz announced that Debra has confirmed that plans for the end of the year Circle of Grandparents party will be on May 27th. Debra is working on getting a donor to provide for the food. Should this not work out, the alternative will be a potluck.

Liz distributed copies of the COG letter to parents to be sent home with each student at the last class meeting. The letter thanks parents for sharing their child with us and encourages the participation of new members in COG.

Liz reminded everyone that that the word of the month is Trustworthy. Posters and coloring books were made available.

Collen Light, director of the Griswold Center, extended a special invitation to attend three special events which will be taking place this month--an intergenerational program next Saturday, a service project sponsored by Thomas Worthington High School, and the vintage style show on May 19th.

The Lunch Bunch planned to eat at the Chatelaine after today's meeting.

The next order of business was Planning 2010-2011 COG programs. The members formed four groups. The following suggestions were made:

- Meet with the school principal at beginning of the year
- Arrange a pre class meeting with the teacher for information about the class, best time for COG participation, other activities related to character study, teacher suggestions, etc.
- Interact with the PTA regarding COG mission, involvement, etc.
- Develop a COG notebook for each grade including sample lessons plans, sample materials, etc.
- The focus and concentration of each meeting should be on the word of the month
- Worthington School curricula should be available by grade level to COG members
- "Shadowing" experienced COG class participants important to new members
- COG members (some are not Worthington residents) found presentations by Community leaders (not school personnel) less appropriate for programs and



- encouraged fewer meetings of this type
- Keep a list of books that Cog members have used in the classroom
- Identify games appropriate for character study by grade level
- In general, meetings should be kept same: conducted by Debra, group discussions should be held at the beginning of the meeting , grouping by grade level for sharing ideas, followed by featured speakers and other business
- Agenda for each meeting made available before each meeting
- Continue featuring COG members as speakers

Liz announced that Betty McNear will be a COG speaker next year. Her topic will be storytelling. She asked for other volunteers.

Liz introduced Kathy Shaffer , the featured speaker for today's meeting. Kathy shared her personal approach to her classes. She talked about her home baked cookies which she brings to each class meeting and how much the students look forward to them. For each lesson, she handwrites cards for each of the students which include the word of the month and its definition. She often reads stories by Patricia Pallaco , one of her favorite writers. She also reads from her own original Belinda (the ghost) stories . She likes to have open discussion with the students. She talks about her own experiences, the environment, voting, and saying no to drugs and alcohol. She concluded with, "You get a lot back for what you put in."

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectively submitted.  
Mary Winter

*Editor's Note: A very special thank you to everyone who pitched in to cover for me while I recuperated and especially to **Mary Winter** for providing such wonderful minutes of the May meeting!*



View these and more at : <http://2010circleofgrandparents.shutterfly.com>



# PCC CIRCLE OF GRANDPARENTS MEETING SCHEDULE 2010-2011

**Note that times and meeting places may change.**  
**Watch newsletter for details.**

DATE	TIME	PLACE	AGENDA
Sept. 2	10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Griswold Center	Open Forum-Sandy Shearn & Ice Breakers
Oct. 7	10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Griswold Center	Betty Menear/Cheryl Leiss
Nov. 4	1:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Worthington Education Center	Open Forum/Amelia Shearer
Dec. 2	10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Griswold Center	Mary Winter
Jan. 6	12:30-2 p.m.	Griswold Center – Town Hall	Holiday Potluck Luncheon- Characters in Action
Feb. 3	1:00 -2:15 p.m.	Worthington Education Center	Open Forum/Mary McRury
Mar. 3	10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Griswold Center	BC Nair
April 7	10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Griswold Center	Open Forum
May 5	10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Griswold Center	Elizabeth Hague
May 19	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	TBA	End of the Year Celebration - <u>A Journey of Character</u>

Griswold Center, 777 High Street, Worthington, OH - Phone 614-842-6320  
Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington, OH - Phone 614-883-3000

8/20/2010

HONESTY

MORAL COURAGE

RESPECT



# CIRCLE OF GRANDPARENTS

A PROGRAM OF PARTNERS FOR CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER<sup>®</sup>

Dear Parent,

We have the pleasure of working with your child's class this year as adopted "Grandparents". We volunteer through the Partners for Citizenship and Character's (PCC) Circle of Grandparents program. This program has been placing "Grandparents" in Worthington classrooms for ten years to discuss the character trait of the month.

Over the next nine months, we hope that our visits will help your child understand how important good character is to leading a rich and rewarding life. Please ask your child what we discussed after our visits, so that the foundation of quality character traits will be further reinforced at home.

If you would like more information about our program please check out our website at [www.circleofgrandparents.com](http://www.circleofgrandparents.com). Thank you for your support of our amazing program that uses an intergenerational approach to positively impact young people.

Sincerely,

SELF-DISCIPLINE

RESPONSIBILITY

SPIRITUALITY

COMPASSION

TOLERANCE

TRUSTWORTHINESS

COMMITMENT

DILIGENCE

INTEGRITY

HONESTY

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