



# 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 3 Debra R. Stephen, Coordinator (614-436-4799) October, 2010

SELF-DISCIPLINE

Character  
Trait for  
November

## Mark Your Calendar

### Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 4  
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  
Worthington Education  
Center

NOTE  
TIME &  
PLACE!

Daylight Savings Time  
Ends November 7

No School  
November 12  
November 24-26

**Amelia Shearer** will speak on using students' own culture and interests to engage them in lessons and will answer any "Ask the Teacher" questions you may have. **Kathy Moore** will also have a brief presentation about project M.O.R.E.



**Cheryl Leiss** and **Betty Menear** wove material and words together to make their respective classes meaningful. **Cheryl** explained how she made her quilt from her children's drawings and **Betty** gave tips on effective storytelling and demonstrated by telling members a few stories.

*"With self-discipline  
most anything is  
possible."*

[Theodore Roosevelt](#)



Question: What do **COG** members **Diane DeMuth, Elizabeth Hague, Anthony Petrozzi, Kathy Shaffer, Braxton Tewart, and Jim Timko** have in common with Paul Newman, Tom McNutt, Erma Bombeck, John Glenn, Katherine LeVeque, Jimmy Crum, Ruth Lyons, Norman Vincent Peale, James Rhodes, Bob Evans, Anthony Celebrezze, Phyllis Diller, Lillian Gish, Woody Hayes, Lowell Thomas, Milton Caniff, Bob Hope and Jesse Owens?

Answer: *They are all members of the Ohio Senior Citizen Hall of Fame!* See page 3 for more info!

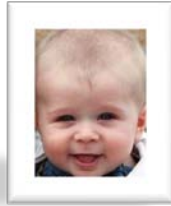
## COG IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



**2,225** Students  
**89** Classrooms  
**67** Grandparents  
**11** Schools  
**1** Character-  
Driven Community



## FROM DEBRA'S DESK



Dear "Grandparents",

There is an old folk proverb that says "If you want to make God laugh tell him your plans." Well he must have had a good chuckle this month, as I thought the **Circle** was up and running for the year and would settle into a nice rhythm for a while. But instead, all kinds of AMAZING news is coming across my desk...

I was beyond excited to learn from the Ohio Department of Aging that the application for Charter member's **Diane DeMuth, Elizabeth Hague, Tony Petrozzi, Kathy Shaffer, Braxton Tewart, and Jim Timko** induction into the **Ohio Senior Citizen Hall of Fame** was accepted! The program that these devoted pioneer **Grandparents** built is such a remarkable asset to our community and I am over the moon excited that the State of Ohio and agrees! Congratulations on this monumental accomplishment!

The heartwarming donation of one hundred "Why Am I Here" books by the Matthew Kelly Foundation continues to bless us. I enjoyed seeing so many of our faithful volunteers at the drive-thru. I count myself so lucky to be associated with such fine people.

Our contact at the Matthew Kelly Foundation has identified a grant that we may be eligible for and we will be applying for that by the end of the year. Keep your fingers crossed!

We are preparing for our first ever fund-raiser to help defray costs associated with our upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration. *Watch for details!*

And finally, I am having a blast helping Jo Johnson develop a Grandparent program for Highland Park Elementary in Grove City. She has most of the groundwork done and is now recruiting. I wish them the success that we have in Worthington.

I'm happy that everything is going so well for the **Circle!** That puts a laugh in my soul.  
Love, **Debra**

## DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our heart-felt sympathy and prayers go out to **Nonie Chick**, whose father passed away last month. **Nonie** is **Marilee Lowery Bush's** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teaching partner at **Liberty**.

## ROSTER UPDATE

Please note the change of email for **Gay Blossom** on your roster. Her new email address is: [ggblossom@buckeye-express.com](mailto:ggblossom@buckeye-express.com).

## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES



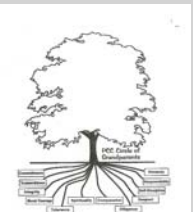
I am collecting stories that are cute, funny or heartwarming from your classrooms this year. Thanks to all who have contributed! I have the beginnings of a wonderful collection. *Keep them coming!* - **Debra**

## GOT CHARACTER (TREE)?

**Marilyn Wollett** was one of the few who found the character tree hidden in last month's "Around the Circle". It was on the paper that **Sandy Shearn** had in her hand on the front page!

Have fun finding it in this one! Remember it looks like this (*only much smaller!*)

-Debra





## CHARTER MEMBERS ACCEPTED INTO OHIO SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME

**Diane DeMuth, Elizabeth Hague, Anthony Petrozzi, Kathy Shaffer, Braxton Tewart, Jim Timko**

"The Ohio Department of Aging celebrates outstanding older Ohioans for their achievements and contributions to others; for the roles they play in their communities, state and nation; and for what they do to promote productive and enjoyable lives. Since 1977, more than 350 individuals have been inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for contributions toward the benefit of humankind after age 60, or for a continuation of efforts begun before that age."

How could you read the paragraph above and *NOT* think of the charter members of the PCC Circle of Grandparents? Diane DeMuth, Elizabeth Hague, Anthony Petrozzi, Kathy Shaffer, Braxton Tewart, and Jim Timko bravely stepped forward to answer the call for a new and unique program in the winter of 2000. Thanks to their tireless efforts Worthington now has an intergenerational character education program that not only benefits the children of our community, but also gives central Ohio senior citizens an outlet for their many talents.

This summer, an application was filed with the Department of Aging on their behalf. In part the nomination stated...*"these six dove in with their positive, can-do attitudes - shattering stereotypes that cause many their age to shy away from such challenges. They both taught and learned as they worked with classroom teachers of another generation to develop effective methods to teach the abstract concepts of character to children of yet another generation. They were blind to generational gaps, but understood that they might need to see things from different generational perspectives to develop better ways of communicating with children growing up in a digital world. Most importantly, they learned to creatively share and teach critical character traits to children with diverse backgrounds and uniquely 'modern family' stresses. Thanks to these Founding Grandparents, Worthington area children without adequate guidance elsewhere no longer default to the internet, television, or peers for their character education. Rather, these Founding Grandparents have built a perfect Circle around elementary children reinforcing it with their strength of character and embracing the values that they model to prove that character is the difference between a life just lived and a life well lived. They are also sources of inspiration and encouragement to the new Grandparents entering the program. They are an excellent example to students that life-long learning is the rule rather than the exception and that it can be fun."*

It further explained...*"Unfortunately, the deaths of Tony Petrozzi and Jim Timko prevented them from seeing the full fruits of their labor. Yet they, along with the other Founding Grandparents, have created a legacy that is the envy of other school districts... the fact that all four remaining Founding Grandparents are still actively involved working in classrooms and mentoring new members speaks volumes about the kind of people they are. They exemplify all of the character traits that they teach - and more."*

The nomination concluded *"These seniors did not cure cancer or shatter any records. Instead, these six Founding Grandparents are average people who came together and created the bedrock of a character education program that has benefited thousands of school children over the past 10 years, as well as enriched the lives of its senior citizen volunteers. Indeed, Diane, Elizabeth, Kathy, Braxton, Tony, and Jim are just ordinary Ohioans who together became extraordinary heroes, proving that you can make a difference in the lives of others at any age."*

Congratulations to all of you, and your families, on this well deserved award! It is an honor to join you in your journey.



## I KNOW WHY I'M HERE DRIVE-THRU

On Friday, October 22nd and Tuesday, October 26th a drive-thru was held in the Griswold Center parking lot to distribute the book, "Why Am I Here" by Matthew Kelly to **Grandparents**. As you recall, these books were donated by the Matthew Kelly Foundation in the memory of **Charlotte Spohn**. At the Friday drive-thru we were especially honored to have **Charlotte's** daughter, **Martha Spohn** stop by. She was able to personally hand books to **Dorothy Kraus** and **Elizabeth Collins** and tell them the story of her mother and how the gift of books came to the **Circle of Grandparents**. This was a particularly poignant moment in that it was also the third month anniversary of **Charlotte's** death. The impact that this one very special "**Grandparent**" has had on our program is phenomenal.



Martha Spohn, left, tells Elizabeth Collins and Dorothy Kraus, hidden, about her mother, Charlotte Spohn

**Grandparents** who used the book in their classrooms have reported some of the following suggestions...

- have the class repeat the phrase "being the best version of yourself" in unison every time it appears. (This helps hold the children's attention and helps the children focus and retain the theme.)
- tell the story, instead of reading it
- shorten it by skipping some of the pages

Matthew Kelly, the donor of the books, has an apt quote, "*The good we do is never lost, it never dies. In other people, in other places, in other times – the good we do lives on forever...*"

## OH, SAY DID YOU SEE. . .

On page 3 of the Fall Edition of the Worthington Schools Official Newsletter was a picture of some of the **Circle of Grandparents** at last spring's Board of Education meeting where **Circle** members were honored for their time and dedication to the students of the District. *Isn't it nice to be appreciated?*

### SCENES FROM THE DISTRICT



Circle of Grandparents



### A JOURNEY OF CHARACTER

## 10th Year Anniversary End of the Year Celebration Planning Committee News

The next meeting of the committee is **Thursday, November 18th at 10:00**. All are welcome.

***PLEASE NOTE: The date of the Celebration has been moved from Thursday, May 19 to Thursday, May 5! Time and place to be determined soon!***

**Georgia Reinbold** is currently organizing a fundraiser with **Bruegger's Bagels** to help defray the costs of the event. Watch for details, which will be available **soon**.

**MEETING REPORT**

October 7, 2010

Thompson Room of the Griswold Center

10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

In attendance: **Beth Arnold, Carol Bogaards, Marilee Lowery Bush, Elizabeth Collins, Bill Crowley, Elizabeth Hague, Dorothy Kraus, Cheryl Leiss, Mary McRury, Betty Menear, Bill Mrukowski, Linda Mrukowski, B. C. Nair, Sandra Overstreet, Connie Pierce, Herb Pierce, Heinz Putz, Wallie Putz, Georgia Reinbold, Debra Stephen, Carolyn Taneja, Joan Van De Weghe, Paula Wilt, Mary Winter, Marilyn Winters, Marilyn Wollett**

The meeting began at 10 a.m. with **Debra Stephen** reminding everyone of the Word of the Month – **Responsibility**. The group reported that they had all been in their classes and had taught **Respect** without any problems.

Cards were passed around for **Helen Davis** (member with lung cancer), **Audrey Clumm** (sister-in-law passed away), Krista Athey (Matthew Kelly Foundation), and for the speakers. The snack signup sheet was passed around and **Joan Van De Weghe** was thanked for providing the snacks for the current meeting. A signup sheet was also passed to have **Debra** observe and take pictures of Grandparents in their classes for inclusion in the end of the year slide show.

School calendars and posters were available for members. **Debra** checked to see if non-email members received their meeting reminder calls from the automated call service. **Elizabeth Collins** reported that she did not receive hers and **Debra** was going to follow up.

In reconstructing the history of the last 10 years, **Debra** discovered that **Steve Rowe**, an active community leader, was at an early planning meeting at Jan Elliott's (the first coordinator of the **Circle**) house and was quoted as saying, *"I have a vision of grandparent-aged adults from this community holding hands, circling our community, working through our children to build great character."* He will be invited to attend the end of the year celebration.

**Debra** told the group about how several seemingly unrelated events led to the gift of 100 books of "Why Am I Here" from the Matthew Kelly Foundation. Monies were donated to the **Circle of Grandparents** in memory of **Charlotte Spohn**. **Debra** asked for ideas of how to best honor **Charlotte**. **Beth Arnold** suggested that we purchase a book about character for all the elementary school libraries. In the meantime, a friend of **Elizabeth Hague** gave her a new book that just came out called "Why Am I Here" which she really liked for its message. It was about the relationship between a grandfather and his grandson. The grandfather told his grandson that he was here to be the best version of himself. The boy then told his teacher about it and the whole class worked to be the best version of themselves. **Debra** thought that the book was a perfect tribute to **Charlotte** and set out to find the best price. After finding the best price on Amazon.com she thought she'd make one last attempt to better the price and called the author hoping for a discount. Krista Athey of the Matthew Kelly Foundation was so touched by our program and what was being done for **Charlotte** that they donated 100 books, a soon to be developed 8 part lesson plan for use with the book that we can add to our handbook, autographed copies of the book for the three children of **Charlotte** and **Charlotte's** teacher, **Ann Smith**. The books will be available to **Grandparents** after the bookplate, which has a picture from the book has been approved by the author and illustrator as well as **Charlotte's** daughter, Martha Spohn. **Grandparents** in grades K through 3 can



receive the book, as well as any other **grandparents** who will use the book in their classrooms. The books will be distributed by a drive-thru when they are ready.

**Elizabeth Hague** pointed out that the author, Matthew Kelly, has an adult version of “Why Am I Here” called “The Rhythm of Life” and he also holds seminars on being the best version of yourself.

**Debra** asked for submissions from **Grandparents** of cute, touching or funny stories that come from the classrooms. They will be available at the End of the Year Celebration.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> **Debra** will be recruiting at the Old Worthington Library’s Read to Baby Festival from 1 – 5. All members were encouraged to tell relatives with small children about it. Flyers will be available at the next meeting.

**Debra** introduced **Cheryl Leiss** a second year member who works in the second grade class of **Allison Recchiuti** at **Brookside**.



Allison Recchiuti and Grandparent Cheryl Leiss' 2nd Grade Class with their Character Quilt (May 2010)

**Cheryl** shared the following:

- Last year she wanted to tie everything that they talked about in class together to show them how all the character traits work together to make something good. She is a quilter and decided to let the children help her make a quilt. In the last 5 minutes of each class the children were given a 3 x 5 card on which they drew a picture or wrote words that showed what that character trait meant to them. The cards were then copied onto fabric sheets. She taught all 12 character traits.
- The transfers were accomplished by using fabric sheets for ink-jet printers. She laid the students cards on her printer’s glass as though she was making a copy and ran the fabric sheets through the printer like paper. (Kinkos and Staples will not print on fabric anymore because their printers are too hot and actually burn the fabric.) After the fabric comes through the printer you peel off the back and the copy is permanent. The fabric is then washed which sets the ink. Ironing the washed fabric further sets the ink.



- Cheryl is not going to do make a quilt this year because it was very time consuming, expensive, and because the quilt could not even be started until she had her last class in May, making for a very short turnaround time. She will use the Character Cake idea this year.
- Ties were put in by the kids who knotted them after it was sewn.
- The quilt will be given to the Ronald McDonald house in May after it is displayed at the End of the Year Celebration. **Debra** will be displaying the quilt at the Read to Baby Festival and will see if it can be displayed at the Worthington Education Center as well.

**Betty Menear** was then introduced. **Betty** is starting her ninth year with the **COG** and works in the fourth grade class of **Nancy Wharton** at **Bluffview**. She is a self-proclaimed “history nut” and earned the Presidential Volunteer Award for her work over the past 35 years as a volunteer at the Ohio Historical Society.

**Betty** shared the following:

- She does not paint, quilt, sing, or anything else. She uses her mouth. She is a storyteller and uses story telling in her program at **Bluffview**.
- She uses some of the books from the suggested booklist in the Handbook. She also takes stories from books she has at home. She emphasized that *everyone* was a storyteller. When you meet someone and you start to tell them something that just happened, you tell them a story. For instance, everyone could tell the story of the three bears if asked.
- There is quite a difference between when you read a story and when you tell a story. **Elizabeth Hague** commented that when **Betty** was telling stories no one was moving and it was very quiet.
- She usually starts the class by talking about the Word of the Month with the class and will end by telling them a story that illustrates the word. You can adjust the length of the story by telling more or less details.
- Her classroom is ideal for a storyteller. There is a rocker in the corner for her to sit in and the children are all sitting on the floor in front of her.
- Don’t make your story longer than the children are old in years. For instance, she would not go longer than 10 minutes for her fourth graders.
- She tells the children that every one of them is special and each one has a special talent such as music, sports, etc. She tells them it would be terrible if they all looked the same and all had the same talent.
- To teach **diligence** she uses the fable of The Crow and the Pitcher. She then demonstrates with a pitcher, water and glass marbles so that they further understand that “little by little does the trick”.
- To teach **trustworthiness** or **commitment** she uses Freedom River. It is a true story about John Parker, an ex-slave who made a commitment to bring as many slaves as he could across the Ohio River to freedom.

Both Speakers were thanked.

**Debra** shared that she was helping Highland Park Elementary in Grove City start a grandparent program modeled after the **COG**. Their program will be called “Grandparent Link”. It is exciting to see the program coming together.

**B.C. Nair** shared his report from the **PCC** Board. He told the group that they are looking for more board members and anyone interested should contact him or **Debra**. **Holly Richard**, the Executive Director is



writing a column about the Word of the Month in the Worthington News. **Holly** will be soliciting area business leaders for input into the column. If you have any thoughts on what questions you would like to see posed, please pass that information on to **B.C.** or **Debra**. **Elizabeth Hague** suggested that she use the column to ask people to look at the sign and to think and discuss just what that word means to them. **Sandra Overstreet**, owner of the Dairy Queen, offered her interview sheet and said that she would be happy to help.

**Elizabeth Hague** reported that the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary planning committee was still without funds or a place to hold the event. She also encouraged **Grandparents** to keep things that the children would make for them at the end of the year so that they could be displayed at the event.

**Carol Bogaards** talked about The 7 Habits of Healthy Kids program by Stephen Covey that was implemented at **Worthington Estates**. **Carol** emphasized that it goes very well with our words and invited everyone to check it out.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Debra R. Stephen*



*“What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies.”*

~Rudolph Giuliani

*“A child needs a grandparent, anybody's grandparent, to grow a little more securely into an unfamiliar world.”*

~Charles and Ann Morse

**Joan Van De Weghe** provided oatmeal scones for our October meeting . They were delicious and I thought you might enjoy her recipe. Thanks **Joan** for the yummy treats!

## RECIPE FOR OATMEAL SCONES

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 ½ cup plain flour                            | 1 egg                             |
| 1 ½ cup uncooked oatmeal<br>(quick or regular) | 2/3 cup milk                      |
| ¼ cup sugar                                    | 1 ¼ cup cooking oil               |
| 1 Tblsp. Baking powder                         | ½ cup raisins (or other toss-ins) |
|  | ¼ tsp. cream of tartar            |

Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Add the egg, milk, and oil and mix enough to moisten the mixture. Add the raisins and mix.

The dough should be the consistency of wet clay. If too dry, add water or milk; if too wet, add more oatmeal. Experience with this recipe will help to know what is correct.

Turn out the dough onto a smooth surface and form it into a half sphere with your hands.

Cut the sphere in quarters and each quarter into thirds to make 12 pieces. Place the pieces on an ungreased baking sheet and bake in a pre-heated 425 degree oven for 12 – 15 minutes until golden brown. Drizzle with icing, if desired.

This recipe is easily doubled and the scones keep well for days at room temperature, if covered...and hidden from sight. Otherwise, they are gone in a flash.