



# AROUND THE CIRCLE

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

Volume 5 Issue 1 Debra R. Stephen, Coordinator (614-436-4799) August, 2011

R  
E  
S  
P  
E  
C  
T

Character  
Trait for  
September

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 1  
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Griswold Center  
Thompson Room

2011-2012 Kick-Off  
Ice-Breaker and  
Discussion

### No School

Sept. 15  
Sept. 23

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 6  
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.



The founding members of the PCC Circle of Grandparents were inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Vern Riffe Center. Pictured above: Front Row (l-r): Claudia Timko (widow of James Timko), Annette Petrozzi (widow of Anthony Petrozzi), Kathy Shaffer, Polly Tewart. Second Row (l-r): Suzanne Burke CEO (Council on Aging), Diane DeMuth, Elizabeth Hague, Bonnie Kantor-Burman Director (Ohio Dept. of Aging), and Braxton Tewart

## GRANDPARENT HOMEWORK!

**All Grandparents** - Please print, sign, and copy the first letter at the end of this newsletter (*the second, if you are working with a spouse*). Send a copy home with your students on your first visit. Thank you!



2010-2011 PCC Circle of Grandparents volunteers who attended the Journey of Character on May 5, 2011 at the Worthington Presbyterian Church.

## COG IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



2,300 Students  
92 Classrooms  
74 Grandparents  
11 Schools  
1 Compass of  
Character



## FROM DEBRA'S DESK



Dear Circle of Friends,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I hope you are as excited as I am to continue bringing for our 11<sup>th</sup> year character education into the classrooms of Worthington through "grandparent" role models!

Enjoy with me a few of my favorite memories from last year...

- After a year and a half of planning the 10th year celebration "A Journey of Character" was finally realized. Several hundred community and school leaders, Grandparent volunteers and guests enjoyed dinner, the Liberty elementary chorus, singer/songwriter Eric Gnezda, and Supreme Court of Ohio Justice Yvette McGee Brown. Four sixth graders were honored as Persons of exCeptional Character. [If you haven't already, you can view the Journey of Character pictures (thanks to Jim Mitchell, photographer extraordinaire) at <http://circleofgrandparents.shutterfly.com>. (Also, if I took pictures of you in your classroom last school year, they are also located at the above website.)]
- Founding members of the Circle of Grandparents were inducted in the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.
- Elizabeth Hague and Kathy Shaffer appeared on the television show "Finer With Age".
- Money received from the Charlotte Spohn Memorial Fund purchased educational materials and an engraved rocking chair for her teacher.
- One hundred "Why Am I Here" books were donated to the Circle by the Matthew Kelly Foundation in Charlotte Spohn's name.
- 44% of all elementary students had a "Grandparent" in their class as membership reached a record 68 volunteers.
- A laptop computer was purchased for the Circle of Grandparent program and its files.
- Mary McRury replaced BC Nair as PCC Board Representative.

Last year was definitely one for the record books.

Now it is time to refocus our energies on the future. I have no doubt that with a volunteer base of lively, fun-loving volunteers and thousands of students that we'll continue to write our history in the hearts of all we meet. Have a character filled year!  
Love, Debra



## STARS ARE BORN! ELIZABETH HAGUE AND KATHY SHAFFER APPEARING ON A TV NEAR YOU!

On June 10 charter members **Elizabeth Hague** and **Kathy Shaffer** traded the sunshine for the bright lights of the recording studio of *Finer With Age*. They were asked by the Ohio Department of Aging to talk about the PCC Circle of Grandparents on the program *Finer With Age*. They were wonderful! Bright, enthusiastic, and informative, they were the perfect ambassadors. After my daughter saw the show, she commented, "Mom, I hope your website is in good shape, you are going to have lots of hits!" In fact, new member **Vicki McConnell** came to us after seeing the show! Liz and Kathy reported that it was a lot of fun and that they loved every moment – and it showed.

*Finer With Age* is a half-hour television talk show produced by the State of Ohio. Each month the show focuses on services, benefits, and other topics of interest for older Ohioans and their families. They also interview outstanding Ohioans who exemplify the notion that we do, indeed, get *Finer With Age*.

The show is broadcast on select cable access and public broadcasting stations. Check your local listings for air times. (On Time Warner it is on the Ohio Channel.) Liz & Kathy's show will be on several times a week during August! It can also be found on the website:

<http://aging.ohio.gov/news/finerwithage/>. Click on the August 2011 show. The producers wisely saved the best for last, so you can fast forward through the first half of the show to see our lovely stars!



As seen on the set of "Finer With Age" Liz Hague and Kathy Shaffer are perfect examples of growing finer with age while discussing the Circle that they created.



## **FOUNDERS OF CIRCLE OF GRANDPARENTS RECEIVE STATE'S HIGHEST HONOR!**



### **DIANE DEMUTH, ELIZABETH HAGUE, ANTHONY PETROZZI, KATHY SHAFFER, JAMES TIMKO, BRAXTON AND POLLY TEWART INDUCTED INTO THE OHIO SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME**

On the afternoon of Thursday, May 26, 2011 friends, family, and fellow Circle volunteers, along with special guests Dr. Jim McElligott and Maureen Pedrick, gathered at the Vern Riffe Center to witness the charter members Diane DeMuth, Elizabeth Hague, Kathy Shaffer, Polly and Braxton Tewart induction into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Deceased members Anthony Petrozzi and James Timko were represented by their widows Claudia and Annette.

Our charter members were joined by 12 other notable Ohioans who were also inducted into the Class of 2011. The honorees enjoyed meeting and being photographed with state legislators and state officials from the Department of Aging. The honorees were presented with many commendations and citations from their elected officials, including the Governor! Each member also received a beautiful framed picture of the state seal and their picture. Honorees also received a DVD of the event and a copy of their official portraits.

While the honorees were busy with photos at the meet and greet, everyone else was treated to a wonderful luncheon buffet. The guests were then seated in the auditorium and the honorees filed into their seats of honor at the front of the auditorium. (This is where a more refined Coordinator would continue on, without calling attention to Liz's entrance. But, that ship has sailed - suffice it to say you'll have to ask her about it.)

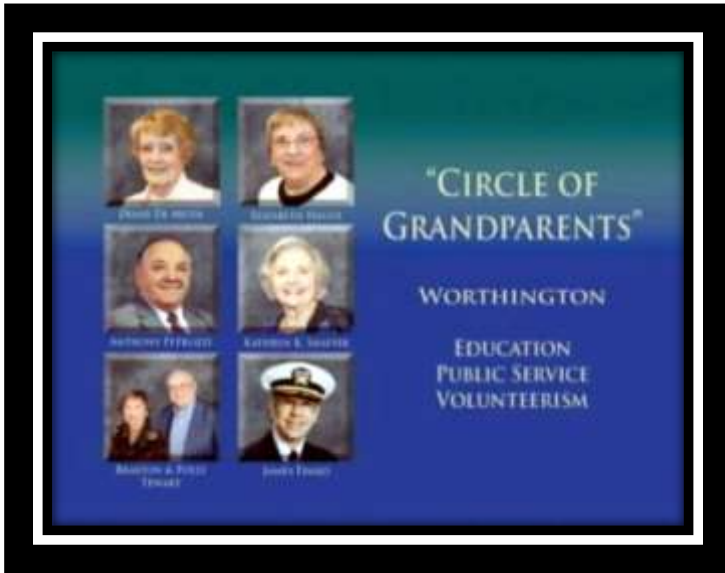
After honoring the winners of the Elder Caregiver awards, the Hall of Fame winners were introduced by an inspirational video which can be seen at the link below (click Inspirational Thoughts).

Following the video the inductees were called up one by one and given a chance to speak. They were each greeted with polite applause. The last inductee called was the Circle of Grandparents and the place went *wild!* It was obvious that the Circle had more supporters (and more excited) than the other honorees. I can personally testify that Dr. McElligott, Maureen and I were all whooping it up! (Although the always jovial Kathy Shaffer claims the louder applause was just because they were the last one and that the program was almost over.) Liz Hague spoke for the group (like at the Oscar's where one person speaks for everyone) and she did a fantastic job. I was very proud of each and every honoree.

If you would like to see their part of the ceremony, go to <http://www.aging.ohio.gov/news/halloffame>, click "Awards Ceremony," and fast forward to 1:02:20 to see Worthington's finest. On behalf of the Worthington Schools and Community we offer a **BIG CONGRATULATIONS!** - Debra



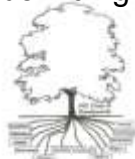
## PICTURES FROM THE SENIOR CITIZEN HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY



## GOT CHARACTER (TREE) ?

A year or so ago, grandparent volunteer **Beth Arnold** suggested hiding a character tree in the newsletter each month. It was a fun way to encourage our supporters to read the newsletter more thoroughly, but it also turned out to be a fun game with many of you proudly reporting back when you found it. And just like real character, the tree sometimes turns up in the most unexpected places.

Since it has proven so popular, I will continue hiding it in each issue for you to find. Where will you find character today? - Debra



P.S. For all our new members, the character tree looks like the above, only smaller.



## **A Class, A Clown and A Quilt**



**Pictured above (L-R) at the Central Ohio Ronald McDonald house are Megan Koester, Grandparent Volunteer Cheryl Leiss, Ryan Wilkins and of course, Ronald McDonald**

Grandparent **Cheryl Leiss** used her love of quilting to incorporate her students' drawings and writings of all twelve character traits into a beautiful and unique quilt. The quilt was created in **Allison Recchiuti's** 2009-2010 second grade class at **Brookside**. Cheryl was recognized for her work on the quilt by the Worthington Board of Education last spring. Fulfilling a class wish, in July Cheryl met with representatives from the Central Ohio Ronald McDonald House to donate the quilt where it will bring comfort to a children in distress.



## **HOLLY TO THE RESCUE!**

How do you enjoy a visit with your brother's family from Seattle during the COG's busiest time of the year? You don't — *Unless you are lucky enough to know **Holly Richard**, Executive Director of PCC!*

*Holly flew in on her angel wings to lend a much needed and appreciated helping hand. She completely took over the arduous task of piecing together the giant puzzle of placing grandparents in the schools. As you can imagine, this is not a task for the faint of heart. Placing 75 grandparents into 11 schools while matching up grandparents with the teacher or the grandchild that they'd like to follow can be mind-numbing (interestingly, my first draft had a Freudian typo "mind-dumbing"). But Holly never flinched and has even offered to do the placements every year! She's either a saint or doesn't know any better. I'm voting for saint!*

*My family and I are extremely grateful to her. Holly's generosity allowed me to thoroughly enjoy every story, laugh, reminiscence, giggle, and meal with my family. Those moments were priceless. Thank you, Holly.*

*— Debra & family*



# HEARTFELT THANKS FROM YOUR PCC PERSON OF THE YEAR!



Last spring, I was surprised (actually shocked) and honored to be named the **Partners for Citizenship and Character's Person of the Year!** I was touched and humbled by the kind words of **Holly Richard, Braxton Tewart, Diane DeMuth, Liz Hague** and **Kathy Shaffer** at the annual PCC meeting which was held in the library of the **Griswold Center** on April 12th.

[A funny side note was that I had actually volunteered to make cookies for the meeting. Upon arriving with cookies in hand at the Worthington Education Center I found that the only meeting there was for Healthy Foods Worthington. Since I was pretty sure they wouldn't want my cookies, I almost went home figuring that I had the wrong date or time. But since I had promised to bring cookies I thought I'd better try to reach someone. The only cell number I had was Dr. McElligott's and I was relieved to find that I had the right time, just the wrong place. I should have suspected something when he said not to hurry that they won't start without me. It turned out that I'd been removed from the PCC email list with the particulars of the meeting so that I would be surprised. The surprise was almost on them!]

Being recognized for doing something that I absolutely love doing seems wrong; but that didn't keep me from enjoying every moment. I work with the most appreciative people in the world and I am incredibly blessed. *Thank you very much.* I still can't believe it.

Love, Debra Stephen, Coordinator





## MEET THE NEW GRANDPARENTS



**Sarrey Dylan**

I was born in Belgium, and went through the painful experience of WWII. I am so grateful for the American Troops who come to free us from total destruction.

I lived in Belgium for 40 years. I had 3 children then found myself alone to raise them until I remarried in Paris, France where I had another girl. In 1985 we moved to California's Silicon Valley. That trip was an ordeal! It took 35 hours: by train Paris to Luxembourg; by plane from Luxembourg to Reykjavik, Iceland; by plane Iceland to Detroit; another plane Detroit to Oakland and then into the dark night to drive to Palo Alto - Silicon Valley. Two of our children were in high school and the last only 3 years old.

I have volunteered in all my children's schools and taught French to 4<sup>th</sup> graders. In 1992 I was in a very bad car accident, resulting in the loss of one eye, amnesia, and being in a wheelchair for 1 year. That was not like me to accept being taken care of! I re-educated my legs and pushed myself until I became independent again.

On January 2, 2002 I was an Olympic Torch bearer in Columbus on High Street. My boss, I learned, had entered my name in the competition. His words "I always cheer people up in spite of my physical problems."

I now have 6 grandchildren (3 live in Belgium and 3 in Hawaii). I try to communicate as much as possible my ideals of service to them.

I live alone, I had lost everything but thanks to people's compassion I didn't go to the homeless shelter. Because of all the help I have found in my life I have chosen to be a caregiver. My goal is to make a difference in people's lives. The second week of August I volunteered to help build a house for needy people in Columbus with Extreme Makeover - Home Edition.

I decided I will never retire as long as I see a single person needing help.



**Sue Richmond**

Sue was born and raised in Akron and eventually resided in Stow for thirty years before moving to Columbus two years ago. After graduating from Kent State University with a BFA degree, Sue began a 35 year career in teaching art, first in Lorain (elementary), then Cuyahoga Falls (middle school). She and her husband retired to Columbus to be near their two adult children and two grandchildren. After a three year hiatus from teaching, Sue is eager to return to the classroom as a volunteer for COG. Besides spending time with her family, she loves reading, walking at Antrim Park, crafts, and quilting. She also enjoys fishing with her husband on Lake Erie and getting to the ocean at least every year or two. She is thrilled now that her grandson is old enough to do crafts and keeps him busy with many projects!



**Terry and Glen Bare**

Glen and Terry live in Dublin, but previously Glen was a longtime Worthington resident, where he raised two daughters who graduated from the Worthington Schools. Together, Glen and Terry have 4 children including their daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters who live in Worthington. Glen is a retired attorney who spent most of his career with Nationwide Insurance. Terry, a librarian and marketing professional, recently retired from Nationwide after a long career. They have enjoyed traveling to many parts of the world, most recently visiting Italy and Greece. They especially like going to pro golf tournaments throughout the United States. Both enjoy studying genealogy and history which they often combine with travel. Currently they stay young by visiting the nearby Zoo and COSI plus numerous theaters, libraries, swimming pools and playgrounds with their grandchildren!



**Kathryn "Dolly"  
Kauffman**

Dolly Kauffman has been surrounded by children for most of her 72 years. She is one of 8 children, mother of 5, aunt to 16 and great aunt to 20. (Many of whom come to visit quite often.) She is also grandmother to 3 girls, one of which introduced her to this program. Dolly will be joining her granddaughter's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Worthington Park class where Dolly has previously helped out by addressing classes in cultural discussions. Dolly enjoyed a long career as a technologist where she taught and lectured to students, interns, nurses and community groups on issues of health, especially having to do with CT scanning. Dolly was quite active with her church and was invited to address events at the local high school, church, and was briefly a news writer and announcer for local Catholic radio. Now she is eager to meet children with such a beautiful intent and purpose.



**Penny Truitt**

Penny and her husband Steve of 40 years resides in Worthington Hills. They raised three children who attended parochial schools. One son and wife lives in San Francisco with two children. The other two live in Columbus. Penny had been active with St. Anthony's Women's Club in the past serving as secretary at one time and then vice president. She volunteered with St. Anthony's grade school and DeSales High School. She enjoys reading and belonging to "Not Your Mother's Book Club", walking and swimming. Also traveling to San Francisco to see grandchildren is high on their list.

[Editor's Note: Penny was the Captain of my bowling team back in the mid 80's! (We were the *Morning Glories* – which is a hoot since I am soo *not* a morning person - before we evolved the following year into the *A-Team*. *The 80's were a strange time!*) I'm happy to reconnect with her after all those years!]



**Mary Jane Kibby**

Mary Jane retired as a librarian at the public library in Buffalo New York two years ago and moved to Worthington with Bella and Alice her two cats to be near her two daughters and grandson. As a librarian one of the things she enjoyed most was working with children and children's literature. She was immediately interested when she heard about the Circle of Grandparents at a Worthington Women's Club meeting. Mary Jane looks forward to participating with children in the classroom this year. Some of her other interests include reading (adult and juvenile books), theatre, quilting, history, needle work and storytelling.

*What we do with our lives individually is not what determines whether we are a success or not. What determines whether we are a success is how we have **affected** the lives of others.*

Albert Schweitzer, (Ibid).

Volunteers are seldom paid;  
not because they are worthless,  
but because they are PRICELESS!

--author unknown



**Walt Kobalka**

Walt has lived in Worthington for 28 years with his wife Connie. Their three sons attended Colonial Hills Elementary School, Worthingway/Kilbourne Middle School, and Thomas Worthington High School. Jordan is now an electrical engineer, Peter is an M.D., and Andrew is a classical musician who is considering medical school. Walt has been an attorney for 35 years and retired from the staff of the Supreme Court of Ohio, where he was the Justices' recording secretary in their confidential conferences and the chief editor of their written opinions. He enjoys teaching English in Spain, ushering for CAPA, and volunteering for the Friends of the Worthington Public Library and the Griswold Center, where he is the President of both the Civil War Round Table and the Presidents Study Group. He looks forward to interacting with the elementary-school students and becoming a positive influence in their character development. Walt wants to thank Elizabeth Hague for recruiting him to the Circle of Grandparents.



**Tammy Baker**

Tammy is so excited to be part of the 'Circle of Grandparents'. She and her husband, Tom, have lived in Powell for over 22 years. They have seven children and six grandchildren and have both been active in their children's activities for decades. Tammy, a Registered Nurse, is a Health and Lifestyle Consultant and owner of "Wellness In and Out". She is active in the community and currently serves as VP of Philanthropy for Assistance League of Metro Columbus. While she enjoys health & fitness, travel, gardening, and reading, one of her favorite things is to spend time with her grandson. When Tammy heard about the opportunity to get involved with the 'Circle of Grandparents' she jumped at the chance. She is looking forward to being in her grandson's first grade classroom at Colonial Hills and learning many of life's lessons from these 'seasoned' students.



**Virginia Price**

After high school in Pittsburgh, Pa. I worked in Washington, D.C., for the navy dept. and I met my husband in D.C. After he graduated from college and 3 children, I went to Ohio State and graduated with a B.S. in education. I taught in Columbus schools for 10 years during which time I earned my M.S. in education. I started a new career in the insurance and financial planning business and retired after 16 years. During this time I also taught insurance certification classes and sales training. My hobbies are maintaining physical fitness, reading, I paint, play piano (poorly), sew, write, golf - none of these outstanding, but a lot of fun. I participate in a few of the Griswold programs - a play reading group, a drama group, and a history group where I sometimes contribute talks. I have 6 grandchildren and a few great-grandchildren and enjoy them. I'm looking forward to the Circle of Grandparents where I'm sure I'll learn a few things also.



**Vicki McConnell**

Vicki or "GV" as she is known by her grandchildren, Sean (a sixth grader) and Madelyn (a fifth grader), is a lifetime resident of Columbus except for the nearly 20 years she lived in Southern California. A graduate of Upper Arlington High School and The Ohio State University, she is a business communications/marketing expert with a special expertise in information technology. She co-wrote the business book "Computerizing the Corporation, the Intimate Link Between People and Machines." Vicki has served as the marketing and communications vice president for the Franklin County and the Orange County California OSU alumni clubs and on the Grant Hospital Women's Service Board. However, her greatest joy is time with her "grands" especially since her son is in Army Special Forces training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Currently working on a children's book, Vicki looks forward to her first time in the Bluffsview with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class.



**Therese McLean**

Therese and her husband live in northwest Columbus. Both of her children graduated from Worthington schools, where she was a teacher for 25 years. Since retiring two years ago, she has been spending time with her five grandchildren and volunteering with the Women's Board of Pilot Dogs. She belongs to the Worthington Women's Club and enjoys reading and playing bridge. Therese is looking forward to sharing her time and energy with the children of Worthington.



**Mary Haddix**

Evansville, Indiana is still called "home" to Mary even though she has lived in Worthington for many years. Her four children attended Worthington Estates School where her granddaughter Michaela is currently a sixth grader. Mary retired from United Parcel Service where she was Public Affairs Manager for Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky. Most of her life has been spent doing volunteer work including Junior Red Cross, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Radio Reading Service etc. Mary has been a Docent with the Columbus Museum of Art since 1998. She and her husband, "Rocky" and their two cats live a block from Worthington Estates School. She loves to read, needlepoint, travel, see movies and have lunch with her friends. She looks forward to interacting with her granddaughter's class.

Congratulations to the following members who earned "Seeking Success with Character" service pins by bringing wonderful new volunteers into our Circle!

- 🌟 **Kathy Shaffer**
- 🌟 **Phil Giessler**
- 🌟 **Cheryl Leiss**
- 🌟 **Elizabeth Hague (2 pins)**
- 🌟 **Barb Boucher**

Your pins will be available at our Sept. 1 meeting. Thank you for your enthusiastic support!