



Grosse Pointe Crisis Club

Newsletter

Celebrating 54 Years of Helping Those in Need

Volume 44

May / June 2010

Number 3



From The President

Greetings, Members and friends of the Crisis Club,

I want to express my thanks to Co-Chairmen Steve Graus and Ted Eikhoff, and their dedicated committee, for coordinating another outstanding Spring Sports Night. A quirk of the calendar necessitated the event taking place on the day after Easter, a tough date for many families, but this team pulled off another successful event. While attendance was down 12%, which I believe was due to the timing of the Championship Basketball Game, the selection of raffle and silent auction items provided over \$17,000 of income to fund our crisis efforts. (FYI, the iPad raffle item, offered three days after its introduction, was an overwhelming raffle success.)

To those Sports Night attendees, thank you for your support. I hope if you attended as a non-member your experience will pique your interest in Crisis Club membership.

Continued on Page 8

The Roadshow Comes To The Crisis Club

The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club is proud to host Ernest DuMouchelle, a managing partner of DuMouchelle Art Galleries Co., at our May 20, 2010 general membership meeting. You have perhaps bid at a DuMouchelle auction, a Detroit business since 1927, and no doubt seen Mr. DuMouchelle on the PBS television series, "The Antiques Roadshow". This is a couple's event at Barrister Gardens and will, in addition to offering an opportunity to value and consign your treasures, include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner, all for only \$25 per person. You are requested to limit yourself to no more than two items per family.



Please contact Ted Eikhoff, (313) 407-9132 or email with subject "GPCC Roadshow" to teikhoff@comcast.net.

Additional information is contained in the flyer enclosed in this newsletter.

Infinity-Ovation Dinner Cruise

June 23, 2010

The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club is pleased to again present, on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, a sunset dinner cruise aboard the Infinity-Ovation Yacht Charters. The three hour cruise, in Lake St Clair and down into the Detroit River, will include a strolling dinner, premium beverage service and entertainment.

We hope you, your significant other and friends will join us for what has proven to be an outstanding dinner cruise.

For more details see the flyer enclosed in this issue. Please contact Gill Mannella at (586) 596-7373 for reservations .





Grosse Pointe Crisis Club
Giving People Care and Consideration

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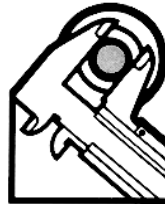
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Crisis Case Corner

By Robert H. Balcerzak – Assistant Crisis Case Director

Case 1375

Investigators: B. Balcerzak - D. Vormelker
A St. Clair Shores couple are parents of a 7-year old boy and a 2-year old daughter. The son has cancer and receives chemotherapy. Both parents work as waiters but must alter and shorten their hours in order to accommodate their son's appointments for various treatments. The mother also takes medication for seizures which limits her availability to work and assist her son. The family fell behind in their rent while trying to keep up with other living expenses. The Crisis Club made two rent payments to their landlord.

Case 1394

Investigators: D. Vormelker - B. Balcerzak
A Crisis Club member referred a 42-year old St. Clair Shores man for assistance. The self-employed remodeling contractor is also an unmarried father to a 9-year old son. He co-signed a loan for his father while times were good. The father got sick, the young contractor's business declined and the loan went unpaid. The bank repossessed the son's truck for defaulting on the loan. The Crisis Club helped the man purchase a used van needed to continue his livelihood in the remodeling business.

Case 1396

Investigators: J. Oreson - D. Vormelker
The divorced mother of two teenagers is being treated for breast cancer. She has filed for Social Security Disability and will receive benefits within 45 days. Child support does not always come on time or for the full amount. These circumstances have placed this family behind in their mortgage payments. The Crisis Club paid one month's mortgage and provided Meijer food certificates.

Case 1397

Investigators: J. Oreson - D. Vormelker
VanElsander Cancer Center referred a 69-year old Detroit resident for help. This cancer victim receives Social Security but her medical expenses have increased, placing her behind in her utilities and with very little food. She was

provided Meijer food certificates and the Club brought her DTE bill up to date.

Case 1398

Investigators: B. Balcerzak – D. Vormelker
An Oxford, Michigan couple was referred by Good Sheppard Lutheran Church. The family includes five children, ages 9 thru 15. The father will be off work 7- 9 weeks following back and leg surgery. Their furnace broke down and they've been using firewood and space heaters to heat their home. Three heating contractors, contacted for repair estimates, have stated the furnace was too old to repair. All recommended to replace the furnace. The Crisis Club paid a contractor for the new installation.

Case 1399

Investigators: B. Balcerzak – D. Vormelker
A Harper Woods couple has fallen on hard times while their 13-year old daughter is being treated for cancer. The mother has cut her work hours in order to care for her daughter and medical bills have taken its toll on the father's take home earnings. They have no savings and their 5-year old mini-van needed repairs. The Crisis Club contracted and paid a Grosse Pointe Woods auto repair facility to do the repairs.

PLEASE NOTE!

We encourage our members to refer people or families in a possible crisis or emergency, but we ask our members to contact the Crisis Director or any Trustee in person. Please do not give anyone the hot-line number, or the telephone number of case investigators or any other Crisis Club Member.

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Thank You Notes Received

Case 1393

I would like to thank you for the blessing you have given me, you all will be in my prayers. Thank You so much.

Case 1395

Dear Don, Bob, and the Generous Members of the Crisis Club,
Grace and peace be yours in the Name of Jesus.

Thank you for your excellent work in the community, and especially for helping one of our congregation's families restore the electricity to their home. Your willingness to help in this recent crisis is humbling and your generosity is overwhelming. Thank you! May the Lord be praised.

The family has endured several large crosses in the past year and are presently enduring another cross (a recent cancer diagnosis with a loved one), but they nevertheless remain faithful to Christ, each one, and active in serving within the congregation. I personally know she is a very generous person, and know that she will extend your kindness to others in the future. Thank you so much for considering her request, and for helping us help one of our own.

Please, if there is anything I can do for you in the future, do not hesitate to ask.



Newsletter Availability

If you would like an additional copy of our Newsletter for family, friends or business associates, please stop by the following establishments:

Irish Coffee Bar & Grill
Grosse Pointe Farms

Oak Room Grille
Marine City

May the Savior bless you abundantly with his strength and mercy.

In Christ

Pastor David A. Rutter

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Case 1396

Dear Grosse Pointe Crisis Club

From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you so much for helping my family and me with our mortgage payment and also for the Meijer gift cards. It will always be very much appreciated. You are wonderful!

Case 1399

To the Board of Trustees and Members,

We would like to thank you for blessing us with such a loving gift. Our minivan was in need of quite a few major repairs. The repairs you approved saved and helped us greatly. Our daughter has brain cancer and is being treated at VanElslander Cancer Center. During this journey with her we are forever grateful to you all for your loving hearts and the wonderful service you provide those in need.

With Grateful hearts

Kotcher's Kapers Golf Outing Monday, August 2, 2010

The date is quickly approaching, so mark your calendar and put your foursome together for the Kotcher's Kapers Golf Outing at Sycamore Hills on Monday August 2.

The Club has maintained both the cost for your day of golf as well as sponsorship opportunities. Additional information will be included in your July – August newsletter and is also included in the flyer contained in this edition of your newsletter.

Contact Co-Chairmen Steve Graus (586) 764-2484 stevegraus@comcast.net or Ted Eikhoff (313) 407-9132 teikhoff@comcast.net for reservation of sponsorship information. You may register at golfdigest.com and receive a \$10 credit toward your day of golf.

VISIT US ONLINE!

We are pleased to announce The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club is going online at www.gpcrisisclub.org. Our new website is designed to be a one-stop for everything you need to know about the Club, our events and how to get others involved in our great work. The website is in final production and you will receive an email with a link to the live site when it is posted.



Celebrating 54 YEARS OF HELPING THOSE IN NEED

ABOUT US : JOIN US : SUPPORT US : GPCC CALENDAR : NEWS & PUBLICATIONS



From The President

The calendar and weather cannot belie the fact Spring has arrived at the Crisis Club. The 17th Annual Sports Night, on April 5th, continues the tradition of bringing members and friends together, providing an outstanding evening of entertainment and raising funds to help those in our community who are in need. I can assure you and your guests of an even in the finest tradition of the Crisis Club.

Besides attending, I hope you will assist Co-Chairmen Steve Graus and Ted Fikhoff, along with their committee, by soliciting donations from your friends and business associates to be given away in our raffles and silent auction. Restaurant coupons, sporting event tickets, electronics, power tools, vacation properties or other unique items will not only enhance our prizes but will also contribute to the financial success of the event. Please see the Spring Sports Night article on the front page as well as the flyer inserted in this edition of your newsletter for further details.

New in 2010 is the opportunity for individuals and companies to be Title or Contributing Sponsors to our Crisis Club events.

[Read More](#)



About the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club

Since 1956, the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club has dedicated itself to providing care to individuals and families in "crisis." Supported by a strong membership of Detroit area leaders, businessmen and individuals, we help those for whom established aid channels are not available or have been exhausted. Our work is funded by our annual fundraisers, the dedication of our member-volunteers and the donations and contributions of our generous supporters.

Learn more [about us](#), [our work](#) and how you can [support](#) our efforts by reviewing our website. Thank you for your interest in the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club.

Upcoming Events

Sunset Dinner Cruise
Wednesday, June 23rd



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Service Officers Report

By Jay Kotcher

Ellen "Nell" Krueger, mother of member Mike Krueger, passed away on February 18, 2010. Besides Mike, she is also survived by her daughter, Kathleen Henry, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Please remember her and the Krueger family in your prayers.

Ann Blake, the mother and aunt of Trustee John Blake and Past President Pete Blake, passed away on April 10, 2010 at the grand age of 94. She was the mother of seven, grandmother of twenty-one and great-grandmother of twenty-two. Please remember her and the Blake family in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

2010

May 13	Trustee Meeting	Barrister Gardens
May 20	Membership Meeting	Barrister Gardens
June 23	Infinity - Ovation Cruise	Jefferson Beach Marina
July 22	Trustee Meeting	Barrister Gardens
July 10-12	Charity Poker	Sunnybrook Golf/Bowl
Aug. 2	Kotcher's Kapers Golf Outing	Sycamore Hills
Oct-Nov	Comedy Night	Barrister Gardens

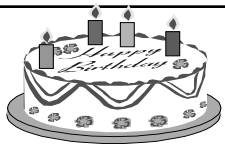
Spring Sports 17, Another Success

This year's Sports Night held many in suspense as Duke and Butler came down to the wire to decide the winner of the Championship Game. The real winner, on this night, was the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club and those in need who rely on the Club for support throughout the year.

Over 350 men were in attendance at Barrister Gardens and were treated to a great game put on flawlessly by the Sports Night Committee. If you attended the 17th Annual Sports Night we thank you for coming and supporting the Club and its mission. The event takes a tremendous amount of work from the committee and I want to thank each and every committee member for their continued support of this event and our efforts to provide a great value to the attendees.

The raffles and prize drawings exceeded projections and the iPad, secured by the committee, was a hit with the attendees as was the Silent Auction and 50/50 raffle. This trend bodes well for the Club and next year's Sports Night. With Easter moving later in April our attendance for 2011 should exceed this year's. Mark your calendars, and iPad touch screens, now for Monday, April 4, 2011.....also keep networking to increase the attendance at the event. We have a great event and, with your support, Sports Night can continue to flourish and inject needed funds into the Club.





Happy Birthday!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Gary W. Hughes
- 3 Donald Kenneth Reid
- 6 David B. Ferriss
- 19 Vincent E. Butterly, Jr.
- 19 Timothy R. Flanagan
- 20 Robert F. Hellrung, Jr.
- 20 Richard E. Molitor
- 20 William C. Schaefer
- 21 David Kurty
- 30 James E. Duhaime
- 30 Joseph F. Hallman
- 30 Jason M. Hill

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 F. Peter Blake
- 3 Gerry Finazzo
- 4 Camillo Ditrapani
- 5 Bert T. Ross
- 8 Hank C. Kinzey
- 9 David A. Lucas
- 10 Richard Albrecht
- 10 Rick Arnold
- 10 Ronald J. Fecteau
- 10 Michael C. Krueger
- 12 F. Phil Saverino
- 13 John (Jack) Blum
- 15 Roger A. Renaud
- 19 Maurice W. Bureau
- 20 Jeffery J. Vaughn
- 21 John H. Kotcher, Jr.
- 24 David G. Duhaime
- 26 John T. Wolff, Sr.

Crisis Club Contact Information

E-mail: grossepointecrisisclub@comcast.net

Mail: *Grosse Pointe Crisis Club*

P.O. Box 36243 • Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

Charity Poker Update

By Walter Heck

Members/volunteers are needed for our Charity Poker venue on July 10-12. The card games/tournaments are held at Sunnybrook Golf & Bowl Motel in Sterling Heights.

Contact me and sign-up with a fellow member or friend to help the Club take advantage of this outstanding fund raising opportunity. You should know that the revenue from our four-day April event was over \$3,000. It takes just a few hours of your time to contribute to this effort that provides much needed funding for our crisis cases. Please do your part as a supporting member of the Crisis Club.

Contact me at (313) 582-1100 or (313) 505-1215.

Advertising Opportunities

In the near future, your newsletter may be evolving with some format changes. Included in these changes will be an additional assortment of advertising options. You may retain the traditional ads, of content and size, but we will also offer larger display ads. Look for more information to come soon.

Thank You,
Jim Maniere, Advertising Chairman
(586) 232-3994
Email: djmaniere@comcast.net



Important Kroger Community Rewards Program Changes

Kroger's Community Rewards Program makes fundraising for The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club automatic every time you use your Kroger Plus Card.

Starting April 1, 2010, everyone who uses their Kroger Card to donate to The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club must go online and re-assign The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club (#82394) as their preferred charity. This can only be done through the Kroger Community Rewards website. You will need to enroll online to continue contributions to The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club, so we encourage all our members to do so as soon as possible.

In order to do this, go to: <https://customer.kroger.com/login.aspx>. If you already have a sign-in, enter your login info; if you don't have a username and password, please go to the following website, <https://customer.kroger.com/Registration/Register.aspx>. Once you get to "My Kroger" page, scroll down to the "Community Rewards Information" and click the Edit link. You'll need to enter our program number: 82394 - to search for and approve The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club as the recipient of your purchase credit. It's easy to do, but don't hesitate to contact Drew Dungan at drewdungan@hotmail.com if you need help doing this.

From the President (continued from page 1)

Unlike some organizations, the summer months will be active for the Crisis Club. Our May general membership meeting will feature a couple's event, including antique appraisals, with Ernest DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Art Galleries. We're calling this evening "The Roadshow Comes to the Crisis Club".

On June 23rd we will again host a dinner cruise aboard the Infinity-Ovation Yacht Charter. This is another opportunity to host your significant other and friends and show them the camaraderie and efforts of the Crisis Club. Please see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter.

The Kotcher's Kapers Golf Outing will be held on Monday, August 2nd and is another opportunity for a great day of fun and to introduce prospective members to our philanthropy. Besides golfer participation, Title Sponsor and Tee/Green sponsorships are again being solicited. A flyer for this event is also included with this newsletter.

Speaking of membership, our membership has declined significantly over the past year. The lifeblood of any organization is new and committed membership. We need each member of the Club to solicit family members and friends to our membership rolls. A membership application has also been included in your newsletter packet.

The Finance sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees will make recommendations for prudent spending for the remainder of 2010 at the May Trustee Meeting. I want you to know that the Trustees and I are sensitive to the trust you have placed in us to not only help those in need but, importantly, to assure the continuing viability of the Club.

Regards,

Jim Flanagan

MOTTO

The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club is pledged to act fast in an emergency or "CRISIS" not covered by the policies of other charitable organizations. Cases requiring continuing aid are best handled by others.

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