



Grosse Pointe Crisis Club Newsletter

Celebrating 55 Years of Helping Those in Need

Volume 45

March/April, 2011

Number 2



From The President

The 18th Annual Sports Night, on April 4th, 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.

Besides attending, I hope you will assist Co-Chairmen Steve Graus and Ted Eikhoff, 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 this page as well as the flyer inserted in this edition of your newsletter for additional details.

Shortly you will receive your 2011 roster and I'm sure you'll note that

Continued on Page 6

18th Annual Spring Sports Night Monday April 4, 2011 Our Annual March Madness

March is here and it's time for March Madness with the Crisis Club.

March Madness, which culminates with the NCAA Mens Basketball Tournament Final Game, has a huge following across America. We at the Crisis Club have

hosted the Annual Spring Sports Night for 18 years! That's right... it's is still the most popular event on the Eastside and is the Crisis Clubs' largest fundraiser of the year.

The event was, and continues to be, built upon friends getting together to celebrate the beginning of Spring and, while Tiger Opening Day is the same week, I can guarantee it will be warm inside Barrister Gardens and the food and beverages are a better value!

It's not too late to take advantage of the "Early Bird Special" for tickets which provides raffle ticket discounts. Contact Ted Eikhoff today to reserve your table at this year's event. Ted can be reached at 313-407-9132 or via email at teikhoff@comcast.net with the subject: GPCC Sports Night.

Come support this year's event and help make our charity and yourself a WINNER!

Steve Graus and Ted Eikhoff, Co-chairmen
GPCC Sports Night





Grosse Pointe Crisis Club
Giving People Care and Consideration

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Term Ending Dec. 31, 2014

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Robert F. Hellrung, Jr.
John H. Kotcher
Nicholas D. Shanku

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Assistant Crisis Case Director

Robert H. Balcerzak

Newsletter

Ted E. Eikhoff
James M. Flannery

Legal Counsel

F. Peter Blake

Nominations/Elections

F. Peter Blake
Walter Heck, Jr.

Membership Coordinator

Gerrit C. DeMeulenaere

Parliamentarian

Donald G. Dungan

Event Facilitator

Ted E. Eikhoff

Service Officer

John H. Kotcher

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good drinks! great food!



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Crisis Case Corner

By Robert H. Balcerzak – Assistant Crisis Case Director

Case 1420

Investigators: B. Balcerzak – D. Vormelker

A 36-year old mother of three children, 15 year old and younger, has not worked while being treated for breast cancer. The father abandoned the family years ago and contributes nothing in support. Her mother moved into the family's Harper Woods rental to care for the children. The mother, her children and their grandmother all sleep on the floor. The Crisis Club bought one queen, one double and three twin beds and arranged for free delivery and set-up by the retailer. Another agency provided all the bedding.

Case 1422

Investigators: J. Oreson – D. Vormelker

Social workers from St. John Hospital are assisting a single 49-year old woman with stage IV cancer to move into a more accommodating residence. The patient is on Social Security Disability and lacks the funds to apply for a Wayne County program to assist her with prior tax issues. The Crisis Club paid the \$229.00 fee to the county.

Case 1423

Investigators: B. Balcerzak – D. Vormelker

Christ the King Lutheran Church referred a Detroit couple with four girls ages 2, 4 and 8 (twins) in need of help. The mother recently quit a job at a nursing home because of her treatment for cancer and the father has just returned to work for a week following a long lay-off. The family receives Social Security Disability and a food bridge card but has been evicted for non-payment of rent. The Crisis Club enabled them to relocate by paying a security deposit and their first month's rent.

Case 1424

Investigators: J. Oreson – D. Vormelker

Van Elslander Cancer Center interceded for one of their patients. The 56-year old single woman is not working because of her treatment for cancer. She has managed financially by receiving Social Security Disability benefits, food stamps and modest rent for her Detroit residence. Unexpectedly, her daughter abandoned her 18-month old granddaughter and she has applied for legal guardianship. The Crisis Director made a trip with grandmother to Meijer to purchase food, clothing and a couple of Christmas presents for the toddler.

Case 1425

Investigators: B. Balcerzak - D. Vormelker

St. Paul Lutheran Church asked the Club's help for a struggling Roseville resident. The 34-year old single mother of a 5-month old daughter had her hours drastically reduced from her job as a cook. The Crisis Club addressed a shut-off notice with Consumers Energy, and shopped with the applicant at Meijer for food and other needs.

Thank You Notes Received

Case 1413

Thank you is just not enough to say for helping me with my house payments. I so appreciate it. With your help I am able to catch up on some of my medical bills. What an awesome organization you have. Again all I can say is Thank You So Very Much.

Case 1414

Dear Grosse Pointe Crisis Club:

Thank you very much for helping me with my rent and DTE electric bill. I had breast cancer and was off work for 11 weeks. Then the cost of medicines hit me or should I say hit my purse. This will help me get back on my feet financially. One day soon I hope to pay it forward by donating to your organization. Meanwhile, I will tell my friends about your gracious help and tell them to donate.

Case 1415

Grosse Pointe Crisis Club:

Thank You so much for all of your assistance. It is those like you who truly make a difference. I appreciate your understanding this difficult time in my life.

Case 1421

We want to thank you for your generosity to us during this difficult time in our lives. May God bless you all and your families.

Case 1422

I am writing the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club to thank you so much for helping me out through my hard times through the holidays. You helped me save my house due to taxes due and I didn't have the money. The Van Elslander Cancer Center told me about your Crisis Club and I am so grateful for your help that you took the time out and listened to my crisis that was going on in my life as a cancer patient. God bless you all and thank you once again.

Charity Poker Update

By Walter Heck

The February poker tournament raised over \$2,000 that goes into our Crisis Case Fund.

Members/volunteers are needed for our Charity Poker venues in the remainder of 2011. The card games/tournament opportunities are as follows:

- **May 7 – 9***
- **August 2 – 5***
- **November 8 - 11****

* Sunnybrook Golf & Bowl **New Baltimore

Please contact me and sign-up with a fellow member or friend to help your Club take advantage of this fundraising opportunity. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered and supported this effort that provides funding for our crisis cases.

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



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KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS CONTINUES TO PAY DIVIDENDS

Have you enrolled? Please help us out!

Kroger's Community Rewards Program makes fundraising for The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club automatic every time you use your Kroger Plus Card. Our latest dividend payment, received in February, totaled \$263.43! With your participation, we will continue to reap the benefits of this great program. Please ask your family members and friends to put their Kroger Plus Card to work for the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club by following the instructions below.

PLEASE NOTE: As of April 1, 2011, everyone who had had previously registered 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 re-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. It's easy to do, but don't hesitate to contact Drew Dungan at drewdungan@hotmail.com if you need help doing this.

To enroll online, have your Kroger Plus card handy then follow the simple directions below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Step 1: Type http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com into browser | Step 11: Click link in email |
| Step 2: Select your state | Step 12: Sign in: click on Blue "Click here" button and then type in your email and password |
| Step 3: Scroll down and Click on "Enroll" | Step 13: Under Kroger Community Rewards Section at right; Click "Edit Kroger Community Rewards Information" |
| Step 4: Click on "Sign up Today!" under New Customer section on right | Step 14: Put in Kroger Plus Card Number |
| Step 5: Enter in your zip code and then click "Find" | Step 15: Click on "Save Changes" |
| Step 6: Select your store | Step 16: Input address information and click "Save Changes" |
| Step 7: Enter in your email & password | Step 17: Find your organization; Type in your organization: The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club |
| Step 8: Click on "Confirm" | Step 18: Click on organization name that you want. |
| Step 9: Check box for agreement and Click on "Confirm" | Step 19: Click on "Save Changes" |
| Step 10: Go to email | Step 20: You are now registered!!!! |

If you need registration assistance, Kroger is available at 800.837.4483.

Within 7-10 business days of successfully registering your Kroger Plus Card, you will see at the bottom of your Kroger receipt "At your request, Kroger is donating to The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club."

Participants will need to re-enroll on an annual basis.

Your participation in the Kroger Community Rewards program will not affect your Kroger Fuel Plus Program or Kroger Plus Savings.

Please feel free to share this email with your family, friends & colleagues. The more people that we register to participate, the more funds we will earn!

Through the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**, we can make great things happen together for The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club!

Thank you!

Service Officers Report - By Jay Kotcher - Service Officer

Richard [Rich] Brennan, a member since 1989, died on Feb. 13, 2011. Rich was predeceased by his wife Brenda and was the loving father of Kendra Brennan, Kelly (Greg) Swix and Amy (Adrian) Keogh. He is also survived by grandchildren Savannah and Brennan Swix, and Ava, Natalie and Haylee Keogh. Also surviving are brothers John and Edward Brennan. Please remember Rich and his family in your prayers.

John "Torch" Kennedy continues to have health issues. Surgery is on the schedule but we know the "The Little Leprechaun" will continue to display his Irish spirit. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.



Happy Birthday!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Drew J. Dungan
- 4 Martin E. Cohan
- 6 Robert J. Godard
- 9 N. William O'Keefe
- 10 Robert E. McGaugh
- 11 Gilbert Mannella
- 12 Paul Ellis
- 14 Brad Stieber
- 15 Robert T. Kitchen
- 15 David W. Treder
- 17 Charles M. Clute
- 18 Richard J. Deisler
- 23 Paul F. Beaupre
- 26 Fredrick A. Hawreluk
- 31 Dennis M. Cyr

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dennis P. Lynch
- 4 Richard W. Allor
- 4 Nicholas D. Shanku
- 5 James L. Sarkis
- 5 Stephen Wasinger
- 9 Charles D. Lafond, Jr.
- 11 Larry Allen Jacob
- 13 Nino Garofalo
- 15 Martin D. McMullan
- 16 Jack T. Huston
- 20 Robert M. Koueiter
- 20 Charles E. Stumb, Jr. (CLU)
- 20 Gregory J. VanLerberghe
- 28 Robert James Ellison
- 28 Salvatore J. Testa
- 30 Robert E. Fleming

Newsletter Availability

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

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Crisis Club Contact Information

Web: www.gpcrisisclub.org

E-mail: grossepointecrisisclub@comcast.net

Mail: **Grosse Pointe Crisis Club**

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



The Crisis Club Loses Richard Brennan, Founder Of Sports Night

The Crisis Club is sorry to report the passing of Richard Brennan, the first Chairman of the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club Spring Sports Night. Rich developed the idea to host an event which coincided with the NCAA Mens Basketball Final game. Eighteen years later, Sports Night remains the Clubs' largest single fundraiser each year and is a continuing tribute to Rich and his dedication to the Crisis Club.



Members In The News

A.H. Peters Wins National Honors

The National Funeral Directors Association honored our member, David Peters, of the A.H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods, with its Pursuit of Excellence Award. To earn the award, A.H. Peters demonstrated commitment to providing exceptional service to grieving families and giving back to their community through special outreach programs, while maintaining ethical and professional standards.

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.

From the President (continued from page 1)

some familiar names are missing. Members who did not remit their dues by February 1st were not included in the roster. We hope that those members who missed the deadline for inclusion in the roster will remit their dues and continue to support the Club. Membership, commitment and involvement is the lifeblood of organizations such as ours so please share your Crisis Club experiences with your friends, family and business associates and bring a new member into the Club. Charity Poker and Kroger Community Rewards continue to provide an easy source of supplemental income to the Club. Opportunities to assist with Charity Poker are outlined on page 3 and Drew Dungan is available to assist in the annual re-enrollment in Kroger Community Rewards.

Stay tuned for our 2011 Infinity-Ovation Cruise. Gill Mannella is again chairing this event and more information about the cruise will be included in our next newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday April 4th and, as always, I welcome your comments or suggestions about the Club or its events.

Regards

Jim Flannery

Upcoming Events

2011

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mar. 15 | Trustee Meeting | Barrister Garden |
| April 4 | Spring Sports Night | Barrister Gardens |
| May 7-9 | Charity Poker | Sunnybrook Golf/Bowl |
| May 24 | Trustee Meeting | Barrister Gardens |
| June TBD | Infinity Ovation Cruise | Jefferson Beach Marina |
| July 19 | Trustee Meeting | Barrister Garden |
| Aug. 1 | Kotcher's Kapers Golf Outing | Sycamore Hills |
| Aug. 2-5 | Charity Poker | Sunnybrook Golf/Bowl |
| Sept 20 | Trustee Meeting | Barrister Gardens |
| Oct.-Nov. | Comedy Night | Barrister Gardens |
| Nov. 3 | Election and Membership Meeting | Barrister Gardens |
| Nov. 8-11 | Charity Poker | New Baltimore |




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