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The Brookfield Citizen

Community Identity Through Communication

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Christmas in Siberia 2008

By Michele and Wally Connor

A Decade Of Giving

Well, it is true what they say, "Time Flies!" It is difficult to imagine, but this holiday season marked the 10th Annual Socks For Siberia (SFS) Christmas Giving Campaign. The look and the logistics of the effort have evolved and grown over the years, but the spirit of grace and generosity of the Angels in Brookfield and beyond, have kept up the pace.

Ten years ago, in 1998, a group of Girl Scouts and their leaders, Sue Finney and Diane Nichols answered our call for help and sewed and filled small, red felt Christmas stockings for the 90 children then living in the Yoletchka children's home. Five boxes filled with love and prayers were shipped off to Abakan. This Christmas 2008, more than 30 boxes filled with clothing, gifts and school supplies were sent to the two hundred plus children in 3 orphanages supported by SFS with your help. Individual gift bags were filled for the older children, each containing school supplies, toothbrush and toothpaste, candies, winter gloves or mittens and a hat, a toy and a stuffed animal. Bags for the staff were prepared as well. A message of love and support "From your friends in America," written in Russian, was included in each bag.

A Decade of Gratitude

There are so many individual supporters of this worthy cause, that to name names is to risk committing a grave sin of omission. We are certain that none of you do this to have your name in the paper, so know that "You are GREAT and we are GRATEFUL" for your longstanding support.

There are, however some who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to assist SFS and this 10th annual effort and we would like to make mention of them.

The White Christmas in West Brookfield Committee made SFS the beneficiary of their Mitten Tree this year. Chairperson Pat Richard presented us with a very large bag of wonderfully warm gloves, hats and mittens.

The combined Confirmation class of St. Mary and Sacred Heart churches under the direction of teachers Michelle Booth, Rob Snyder and Tina Fitzgerald adopted SFS as their community service responsibility. After watching a presentation about the

work that we do, the students raised money by taking up a special collection, holding an outstanding bake sale, and selling hand crafted Russian gift items after church services and during the White Christmas in West Brookfield.

One student, Katie Chabot, felt called to do a bit more and organized a fundraiser at her school, St. Peter-Marian. After obtaining permission from the dean, Katie sponsored a "No Dress Code Day" during which students paid \$1 for the privilege of wearing the clothing of their choice for the day. This creative idea resulted in a \$516 donation to SFS!

Katie's grandparents, Bill and Sandy Pratt caught her infectious enthusiasm and with her permission, donated a collection of more than 200 Beanie Babies (did you know there is a BB Squid???) This was supposed to pay Katie's way through college, but the BB market has dropped out! We will be bringing these adorable creatures with us when we return to Siberia this summer to visit the children. Smiles galore are guaranteed!

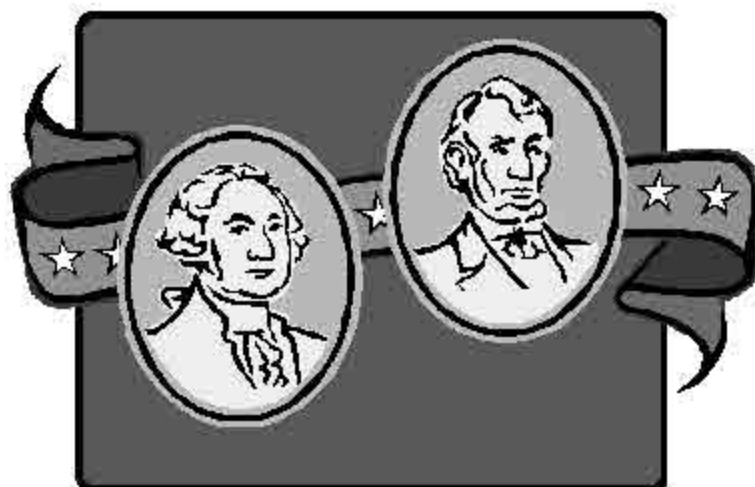
The faculty and staff of the Leicester Public Schools have supported us for years with their donations as well as their enthusiastic purchase of Russian gift items which we are able to obtain at cost and re-sell at a profit for the benefit of the children.

So, thanks again to all, from the bottom of our hearts. Check our website for photos of the children and our Spring Family Festivals and SAVE THE DATE - Saturday June 13th will be the Third Annual Spring Family Festival at Hyland Orchards once again! A great time for a great cause!

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- February 4-5 American Red Cross—4 to 7 — Library—Babysitters Training Page 4
- February 8 1st Congregational, W. Brookfield — 5:00 — Contemporary Worship See page 12
- February 9 Partnership for Children 6:30 p.m. Tantasqua Junior HS- "Nutrition, Obesity, Illness" Pg 2
- February 14 Brookfield Institute—9 to Noon— Mini-Retreat for Women Only See page 12
- February 16 Brookfield Citizen, March Issue deadline for articles February 16
- February 25 Congregational Church 7:00 p.m. — Begin Lent with Ash Wednesday See page 9
- February 25 Brookfield Citizen Folding Party — Banquet Room, Town Hall —6:30 p.m. start. All welcome.



March 09 Issue Articles Due: February 16

March 09 Issue Folding Party: February 25

Elders Information Presentation

The Brookfield Council on Aging will present information of special interest to elders in our community, **Tuesday, February 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the Banquet Hall of the Brookfield Town Hall. Peter Viles, a member of the AARP will be available to recommend where to go for your tax questions. Outreach coordinator, Barbara Harrington will, also attend. Free entertainment by the Kitchen Musicians: Mary Krause and Josh Douglas and refreshments will be served. For more information, please call John Wild at 508 867 4123.

The Union 61 Community Partnership for Children Presents a Free Seminar

with

Community Health Training Solutions

Date: February 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Tantasqua Junior High School Library
320 B Brookfield Road Sturbridge, MA

Nutrition, Obesity, Illness

Trends in America towards Chronic Disease

Workshop: Obesity - A rising epidemic in children and our society

John J. Muglia (founder of New England Children's Behavioral Solutions and co-founder of CHTS with his wife Nancy) has devoted the past 10+ years of his life educating and coaching teachers and parents on a wide range of topics. John is a Certified Parent/Teacher educator and faculty member with The International Network for Children and Families, The Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America and The American Heart Association.

A Good Time for an Energy Audit

Due to falling fuel prices, the demand for audits has dropped off. This has created a good "window" to get an energy audit, as there is currently no waiting list. Also, incentives to help homeowners implement recommended energy efficiency measures have recently been expanded across western Massachusetts. If you have been meaning to get a MassSAVE home energy assessment, now is a great time to call 1-866-527-7283 to speak to a MassSAVE representative to schedule your audit.

Please let your friends, co-workers and neighbors know. Please share this widely with homeowners to help them take advantage of timely audits and expanded incentives.

75% off insulation and air sealing!

Edwardian Tea postponed

From Wed. Jan. 7 to Wednesday, March 11, 12:30 p.m. the Tea with Mrs. Gordon (thrice postponed, hope for no weather issues!).

Join us for an Edwardian Tea Time. Let historical reenactor and actress, Rita Parisi take you back in time to 1908. The setting is an afternoon or evening tea. And your hostess is Mrs. Gordon, who has just come back from a trip to Boston. She will amuse and entertain the audience with her stories about her latest adventure and give a sense of what it was like for people in 1908. After that, Mrs. Gordon will pull out the latest issue of her Ladies Home Journal and an open discussion about the latest topics will take place. This free program is funded with a grant from the Jeppson Memorial Fund for Brookfield, Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

1% of sales to local non-profits

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From now to April 15, 2009 during
the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

The Presidential State

Illinois has one of the world's busiest airports (O'Hare) and the tallest building in the U.S. (Sears Tower) and both are in Chicago. The world's first skyscraper was built in Chicago in 1885. Abraham Lincoln lived and worked here and is buried in Illinois. Our new President is also from Illinois.

Springfield is the capital but not the largest. Chicago is. The population of Illinois is just over 12 million with an area of 58,000 sq. mi., 25th in the country. On Dec. 3, 1818 Illinois became the 21st state in the Union. Products from the state include industrial machinery, metals, electronics, corn, soybeans and hogs! Places to visit would be the home of President Lincoln, Lincoln Park Zoo, or any of the museums in Chicago. Have a great trip!

The largest animal in the world is the Blue-whale. It can reach over 100 ft. and 175 tons. That's 6 x longer and 25 x heavier than an elephant!

SPORTS TRIVIA.....

Your Basketball team has a record of 10 wins and 6 losses. There are 20 games in the season. What is the best possible record and the worst possible record your team could finish with?

Word Games

Can you guess the relationship?

1. George Richard Henry Dwyer
2. octopus, worm, jellyfish, beetle
3. lion, shark, wolf, owl

Parent Trivia..... What woman has the most appearances on the cover of Time magazine?

So You Think You're Smart! Try This.....

1. Which planet is the 3rd from the sun? 5th?
2. Rearrange the letters in "brush" to find a woody plant.
3. If a truck weighs 3.5 tons how many pounds does it weigh?
4. What country lies directly west of Asia?
5. Charles Drew started the first blood bank. Was he a physicist or physician?

Name That Bug.....

I am commonly mistaken for a spider, but I am a relative known as the harvestman. My legs are long and thin, and I have only one body section. People often think I'm poisonous and get scared, but I'm totally harmless. In fact I have a parental nature about me..... What am I?

Squireling About.....

Squirrels have been very active this winter looking for nuts and seeds, trying to keep their supplies up. This past fall naturalists claimed that there was a shortage of acorns along the east coast. Acorns are a major food source for the squirrels, and for the turkeys, deer and bears. Squirrels spend most of their time in the trees eating. It's like a restaurant for them. This winter you'll find them digging in the snow looking for food and climbing the bird feeders for the seed. Try coating a pine cone, corn cob or branch with crunchy peanut butter and roll in bird seed and hang. Watch the fun begin!

Answers on Page 14

