



TOUCH-A-TRUCK - THREE YEARS AND GOING STRONG

More than 900 children and parents came out to the Martinsville Speedway to get up close and personal with 30 vehicles on August 6, 2016. This has become a favorite event for members and provisionals to work.

Some of the favorites for children were the helicopter, fire truck, police car and the school bus. We found many younger children on the school bus playing "school" and daydreaming about the time when they get to ride the bus every day.

This is becoming an annual tradition for many families and the smiles on the kid's faces were priceless.

Thank you to Rachael Wingfield, the committee, and all the actives that volunteered to make this event a success.





President's Corner - Leighann Harris

I'm happy to announce that Bargain Fair was a huge success this year! Some changes were made, members worked extra hard, and lots of great donations were given. My personal goal was to make \$12,000 and we exceeded that with a total of \$14,700. Thanks to each and every member and sustainer that helped, organized, volunteered, and made donations.

Touch-A-Truck was held August 6th at the Martinsville Speedway. The speedway continues to support Charity League and we are fortunate to partner with them. A total of 905 children and adults attended and were able to interact with vehicles--including fire trucks, tractors, police cars, and even a helicopter. We hope the Monster Truck will join us next year.

This year we made a change and had our Silent Auction separate from Bargain Fair. The 50's themed Gala was held at Chatmoss Country Club in November. It was great seeing so many of you at the event. Our next newsletter will include photos and more information on the success of this event.

Make sure you check out the video that was created for our 50s Style Gala/Auction by Sharon Dalton. It truly is a great snapshot of Charity League's mission. Several children of mothers in the League got together to create a one-of-a-kind heartfelt video. Each child had a different part that pulled it all together, from dirty hands to dancing, it was fun!

I hope you each have a blessed holiday season with your family.

MAKING CHRISTMAS MERRY AND BRIGHT FOR TEENS

Charity League's Brighter Christmas project was created in 2013, after Charity League members learned that teens ages 11 to 17 are not eligible to receive Christmas gifts through local programs such as Christmas Cheer or the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Our specific concern was ensuring that the older siblings of children who receive gifts through other programs did not feel excluded from the excitement of Christmas morning. With most women in Charity League being mothers, imagining our older children as they watched their younger sibling's open gifts was heart wrenching.

In 2013, Charity League had information from only one high school, and gave gifts to eleven children. In 2014, with more information and time to organize and seek donations, Charity League gave gifts to 94 older children and teenagers in our area, with a total value of \$4,548 and individual values of \$48. In 2015, Charity League was able to provide gifts to 358 children and teenagers in our area, thanks in large part to the Monogram Loves Kids Foundation Grant of \$5,000. Gifts of bicycles, clothing, bedding, hygiene items, games, books, puzzles, Chick-Fil-A Certificates and much more were given to the children and teenagers.

In 2016 we received the grant again, but we still need to subsidize with additional donations. How can you help?

Donations can be sent to the Charity League PO Box or made via www.charityleague.org. When paying via the website, click donate and reference Brighter Christmas. You can also donate size 4 soccer balls. They can be dropped off at Piedmont Arts, or at the ACS office at 1079C Spruce St in Martinsville.

BARGAIN FAIR - A BIG SUCCESS FOR 2016

The morning light on October 1st revealed throngs of shoppers patiently waiting in line for the opening of the 48th annual Bargain Fair. It was a new location at the Community Fellowship Church in Collinsville. Charity League members in their cheerful pink shirts braced themselves for the opening of the doors and the frenzied hordes of Bargain Fair shoppers.

As the doors opened, community members rushed in. They were prepared to shop.

Semone and her daughter were looking for some queen sheets. As they searched the tables and boxes, Semone would pull a set out and ask "what about these." Determination and good shopping skills resulted in a successful find. The mother and daughter duo were pleased to have conquered Bargain Fair.

As the day progressed, shoppers continued to find bargains. Some of the men also scored with bargains. A shopper named Kevin was pleased with the set of golf clubs he found. "I can't believe the price on these. I am going to have to hit the course."

Mary and Ronnie Haynes not only liked the shopping but they enjoyed seeing people they had not seen recently. One shopper in women's wear, Mildred, kept volunteering "what good quality" the clothing was. She kept telling other shoppers "it was one of the best Bargain Fairs ever." Another shopper named Dora looked through shoes and pocket books. After purchasing several items she returned to Bargain Fair with a larger vehicle so she could buy furniture. Edna Turner, who was 101 years old, strolled through the properties department with her daughter as the two women searched for bookshelves. They examined the furniture carefully and then purchased a shelf. Edna reported the location was a good one.

A popular item among the children was a scary Halloween mask that had a red tongue. A little boy enjoyed putting the mask on and making scary noises. One little girl was rummaging through the toy department, she found accessories to go with the "Keep Alive Doll." The little girl sported a stethoscope around her neck as she carried around the doll accessories. "I want to be a doctor when I grow up," she said. She was thrilled with her Bargain Fair find.

As the noon hour approached the departments were selling at half-price. More items went out the door. The Esparanza family bought four televisions. Beds, tables, chairs, bookcases and rugs were quickly marked sold. At 1:00, all shoppers had to briefly leave so the league members could get organized for the popular bag sale. Community members returned to hit the bag sale and bags of clothes, houseware and boxes of books soon left the building. The volume of merchandise was severely depleted as the bag sale wound down at 2 p.m.

We would like to thank the Bargain Fair committee, our members, significant others and family for all their hard work. Thank you to Chick-Fil-A for catering the preview party and providing lunch. Finally, thank you to those sustainers that filled in for missing members: Mrs. Linda Isley, Mrs. Suzy Williams (past CL president) and Dr. Susan Morris were a huge help during the event.



THE KIDS OF CHARITY LEAGUE MAKE A COMMERCIAL

In October kids (and moms) gathered at Kim Banerjee's house to tell the story of Charity League. The board wanted a video to share the vision of the league so people in the community would understand more about what we do in Martinsville and Henry County.

Non-profits traditionally use adult members in videos, which doesn't have the same impact as a child telling a story. "I wanted to create a fun, lighthearted video starring the children we love and cherish. I had the time of my life working with these kids. I didn't know what to expect because I didn't know some of the children. They kids exceeded my expectations," said Sharon Dalton who created the storyboard, worked with the children and edited the video.

"Watching the video reminded me of reasons why I joined Charity League. It's all about the children," said Becky Forestier.

Jordan and Kinsleigh Harris participated in the video. "I was amazed at how my children were so willing to participate. I was so proud of them. All the kids really surprised me. They were willing to do anything Sharon asked them to do," said Leighann Harris.

The children had so much fun participating and the final product brought many laughs, smiles and even pulled on the heartstrings of those who watched as the video was shared at a recent meeting.

The video was shown at the 50's Gala for the first time in public and has been shared on social media and added to our website.

Thank you to the mothers who brought their children and waited patiently during the filming process.

If you would like to see the video, go to our public Facebook page Charity League - Martinsville Henry County or our website.

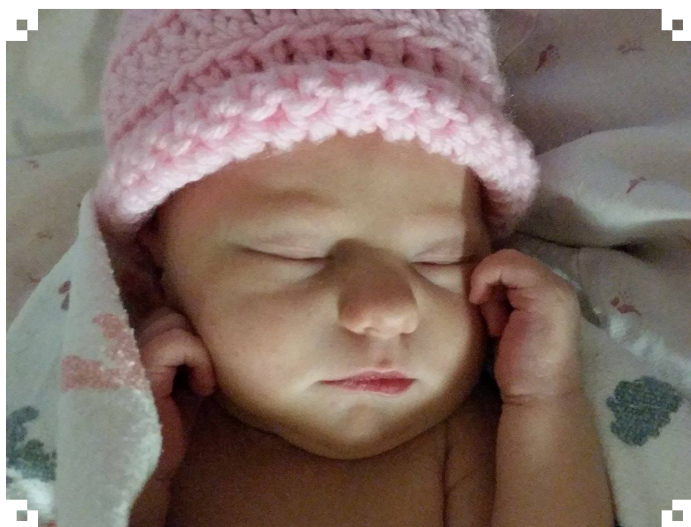


MOVIE AT THE RIVES

The latest Movie at the Rives was Hotel Transylvania 2. This movie was shown to eighty-five children and adults. The children loved the movie and the affordable price made the movie an option for families that do not get to go to see movies regularly. Thank you to Autumn Morris and your committee for your hard work and dedication to this event.



CHARITY CHATTER



Lucy Brannon Favero was born on September 29, 2016 to proud parents, Dr. & Mrs. Patrick Favero (Ann).



Blake Harrison Plaster was born on September 8, 2016 to Travis and Whitney Plaster.



CHARITY LEAGUE OF MARTINSVILLE & HENRY COUNTY
PO BOX 3613
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DESSERT SOCIAL

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