

BOARD UPDATE

Reminder: There will be no board meeting in February. The extra time will allow for board members to assist with the board's biggest fundraiser, the Redwood Express on March 5.

CALLING ALL NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Serving as a board member is a challenging and highly rewarding volunteer assignment. While induction to any board is an honor, being a board member is serious and important work. Board members have important legal and fiduciary responsibilities that require a commitment of time, skill, and resources.

Redwood's board is made up of trustees and overseers. Trustees are the policy-making and decision-making arm of the board. Overseers are a group of advisors who advance the mission through leadership, manpower, and technical support for board or fundraising committees and special projects.

Redwood is now seeking people interested in serving as overseers. To be successful in this role, the new overseer will need to invest the time necessary to learn about Redwood and to actively participate in board and committee work. If you are interested in learning more about the overseer role, please contact Donna Bloemer (391-2554) or Barbara Howard (331-0880).

ANNUAL AWARDS

Redwood honors individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, service, and dedication to our mission each May at the Annual Meeting. Nominations are now being accepted for the Dorothy Jean Wood Award and the President's Award. We invite you to submit a nomination for either award. The submission deadline is February 26, 2010. For more information or to request a nomination form, please contact **Barbara Howard** at 859 331-0880 or bhoward@redwoodnky.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Redwood Express: Destination British Invasion will be leaving the station on **Friday, March 5 from 7 – 11 p.m.** Don't miss what is sure to be an exciting event in support of Redwood's children and adults. The event includes an open bar until 9 p.m. hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting with celebrity wine pourers, entertainment, live and silent auctions, raffles and Monte Carlo. New this year is Big Card Poker! Tickets are \$45 in advance (before March

4) and \$50 at the door. To RSVP, contact **Beth Moore** at 331-0880, ext. 297 or bmoore@redwoodnky.org.

As most of you know, a successful Redwood Express is dependent on having lots of gifts for the various auctions and raffles. Special thanks to the following for hosting a gift gathering party: Co-chairs **Phil & Lynn Schworer; Bob & Sandy Groneck; the Redwood Guild; Kasey Bond; Mary Jo Rose and Nicole Bosley; Lynn Ehlman; Denny & Jackie Hirt; Mac Heidrich, Carl Biery and Tom Jacober, and Redwood's Management Team.**

Even with these parties, we still need more gifts to make the Redwood Express truly special. Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Host a gift gathering party
- Get a few friends to buy one large item together
- Look around your basement for gifts (unused) that you received and someone else might treasure!
- Host a "No Party, Party." There's no set-up or clean up. Invite friends, family or co-workers to NOT come to your house. Basically they just drop off a gift and you don't have to do any work!
- Ask your business or organization for a contribution. The development office can provide a donation request letter, if needed.

Gifts must be received prior to Wednesday, February 24th. Gifts received after this date are still welcome, but will be used for another Redwood special event. For more information, call the development office at 331-0880.

Volunteers are also needed at the Express! If you are willing to work two hours (or longer), please email **Dawnielle Foussard** at dfoussard@redwoodnky.org.

Lynn Ehlman and Mike Haas are planning a delightful **Redwood Derby, Friday, April 30**, at Notre Dame Academy. Be sure to save the date and watch for more details!

Congratulations to January Derby winners: **Vincent Melching, Gail Rider, James A. Kluener and Steve Berling.**

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

Redwood is committed to always being open on regularly scheduled workdays. On occasion, an emergency closing is necessary because of severe inclement weather.

When your weatherman says blizzards or ice storms are on the way, remember that Redwood follows these guidelines:

- Redwood will open at 9:00 a.m. on mornings when authorities declare a Level 2 weather emergency for the City of Ft. Mitchell or for all of Kenton County.
- Redwood will close on days when authorities declare a Level 3 weather emergency for the City of Ft. Mitchell or for all of Kenton County.
- Redwood may close on other inclement weather days, even if it is not a Level 3 emergency based on the decision that conditions are too hazardous for travel to/from Redwood.
- Announcements of Level 2 or Level 3 weather emergencies for the City of Ft. Mitchell or for all of Kenton County are broadcast on local television and radio stations. Additionally, Redwood will publicize a 9:00 a.m. delay or an emergency closing day on local television and radio stations, and on our emergency line (859 331-0880, ext 217 or 859 344-5577).

PASSAGES

Congratulations to **Ed Augur** on the birth of his daughter.

Our sympathy is extended to **Marian McCoy** who recently lost her sister and **Marlayna Cooney** who lost her mother.

FAMILY CORNER

Both the **Tay Robinson family** and **Koeninger family** have again made amazing gifts to inspire children with special needs to grow and develop through enriching visits to Disney World.

Diane Booth remembered when her daughter experienced the magic of Disney thanks to a donor years ago. Diane said, "It was the greatest thing to happen to Ashlei." The **Koeninger family**, Diane's mother and siblings, joined her in making the Disney gift.

Families interested in the 2010 Robinson or Koeninger Disney Dream Vacation should contact **Barbara Howard** at 331-0880, or bhoward@redwoodnky.org, to receive an application. Applications are due by April 15th. The recipients of the 2010 Disney Dream Vacation will be selected by April 30th.

BOARD EDUCATION

What is the average size for a board of directors? According to BoardSource, the average size of a board is 16 members. Organizations with larger budgets tend to

have larger boards. Optimal board size may vary according to what a board needs to accomplish. With four councils, sixteen committees, and a full plate of fundraising events, Redwood's board has a lot to accomplish. The bylaws state that the board may have 75 members with up to 25 trustees with the rest of board members serving as overseers. This number of members assures that all functions are addressed without some members being overworked and others not having the opportunity to actively participate.

WISH LIST

Special thanks to **Safeco** for their generous monetary donation in support of assistive technology equipment. We also appreciate the cash donation from **Kentucky Motorcycle Rider's Organization** for general needs. Items/support still needed include:

Carpet cleaner Mops/Vacuum Clorox Wipes Wood bookcases/cabinets 9' x 12' area carpet Toddler chairs	Play food and Playdough MagnaDoodles Bubbles Hard cardboard books Dress-up clothes Art materials/supplies
Games for young adults (Monopoly, Checkers, Connect 4, Uno, Jenga, Battleship) Books/Magazines for young adults	External hard drives Laptops USB Flash drives USB Mouse Computer speakers Digital cameras DVD player w/ remote control Radio/CD player
Wet wipes and tissues	Sofa or Recliner (leather or vinyl)
Batteries (all types but AA)	Four-seated stroller Infant activity mat

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore! Dream! Discover!

– Mark Twain

CALENDAR

03/05 Redwood Express: Destination British Invasion
03/24 Dynavox Training (3:30 – 5:30 p.m.)
04/30 Redwood Derby

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

This is your newsletter. Suggestions or comments for/about articles are welcome. Direct responses to **Shannon Hollenkamp** at Redwood, 71 Orphanage Rd., Ft. Mitchell, KY Phone: 331-0880, Fax: 331-6177, Email: shollenkamp@redwoodnky.org