

Capitol Correspondent



The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber of Commerce ● December 2010

Lansing Jaycees
PO Box 16150
Lansing, MI 48901

www.lansingjaycees.org

Region D
Population Division 7
Base Membership: 68

Stuff the Bus

The Lansing Jaycees fifth annual “Stuff the Bus” was a smashing success! Not only did local shoppers more than fill the wish lists of 38 children and their families, they also donated food and more than \$500 in cash donations.

Thanks to the generosity of residents of the Greater Lansing area, who opened their hearts and pocketbooks, these children and their families have coats, gloves and hats to stay warm this winter; clothes; and had toys to open on Christmas morning.

The overwhelming support surpassed our expectations and goal to provide Christmas to 30 children through the Salvation Army’s “Angel Tree” program.



Left: Bikes in front of the CATA bus.



Right: Inside the bus after lots of donations!

In total, gifts and monetary donations exceeding \$6,000 helped make Christmas a brighter holiday for 38 children and their families. We were able to make the Christmas dream of a family of four children come true by donating a bike for each child; and an expectant mother was gifted a car seat and bassinette for her little one on the way.

Cash donations were used to buy grocery store gift cards for the families which they could use to buy a holiday dinner.

Held at the Wal-Mart Shopping Center at Eastwood Towne Center, Stuff the Bus involved more than 20 volunteers, both Jaycees and non-members, and featured a CATA bus for local shoppers to fill full of toys and clothes.

After the event, donated goods were again taken to Sohn Linen for sorting and boxing before being delivered to the Salvation Army.

Thanks to all the volunteers, participants and supporters who again made Stuff the Bus a tremendous success!

Submitted by: Lauren Leeds, Chair, laurenloo823@yahoo.com

Lansing Jaycees

December 2010

Jaycee Creed

by C. William Brownfield

We believe that faith in God gives meaning
and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends
the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won
by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws
rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure
lies in human personality; and that
**SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS
THE BEST WORK OF LIFE**

The Lansing Jaycees is an organization of people ages 21-40 which promotes leadership training through community service. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) at Tripper's Bar and Grill in Frandor. Visit our website, www.lansingjaycees.org for more information.



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2010 Board of Directors

The Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month, 6:00 PM at the Jaycees Service Center

President

- Angela Fossi 586-484-7027

Chair of the Board

- Angela Clock 517-410-9527

Board Members

- Colleen Burton 517-281-6049
 - *Membership VP*
- Sheryl Soczek 517-862-6376
 - *Individual Development VP*
 - *Management VP*
- Alexandra Briseno 517-974-0965
 - *Secretary*
- Carrie May 248-756-3840
 - *Treasurer & Chaplain*
- Samantha Keeney 989-714-5272
 - *Director*
- Andrew Hoard 517-303-6643
 - *ID Director*
- Ilona Hajdar 517-667-4236
 - *Director*

Join us for our monthly membership meeting at Trippers! Every first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 PM



President's Report

It's hard to believe the year is almost over. Congratulations to everyone that helped make this year a success. I have really enjoyed serving as President this year and I look forward to serving again in 2011. As the year ends, the board reflects on everything that has been accomplished and works on recognizing everyone that went above and beyond to help make a positive impact on the chapter.

Our Annual Awards Banquet will take place on January 8th. This is an event that recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a strong commitment to our chapter. We also celebrate members that are aging out. We have a tradition where the person who is aging out will stand on stage and hear from past and current members.

What is aging out? Well, we are a group that is open for people between the ages of 21-40. A person who is 41 is no longer eligible for renewal. This is a great way to hear some interesting stories about events that may have taken place before you joined. Or take a trip down memory lane if you were a part of the events. It is also a wonderful way to see how the chapter has generated friendships that have lasted for years.

That is one lasting benefit of being a member of the Jaycees. We are a close group of people that truly enjoy working together on projects. By working together it is natural for close friendships to develop. I have really enjoyed meeting people during my Jaycee career that I know will be a part of my life for years to come.

I have said it numerous times this year and I think it bears repeating as we move into 2011. One of my favorite quotes is from "It's a Wonderful Life" it is the inscription that the angel, Clarence, writes on a book given to George Bailey, "Remember, George: no man is a failure who has friends". I think this is the perfect time of year to remember this.

I have known several people who have experienced challenges this year that were not always expected. Even though everyone handled these events differently I have been overwhelmed at times to see how our members work together to help out another member. This was true for members that have been a part of the chapter for years or months.

The organization has the ability to introduce you to amazing experiences that would be difficult to manufacture on your own. I encourage all of you to participate in as many events and opportunities as possible so you can develop the relationships and memories that will last a lifetime. It's a great time to be a Jaycee!

I hope all of you enjoy the holiday season and have a happy and healthy new year!

Sincerely,
Angela M. Fossi
82nd President



Membership/Community

Membership Anniversary Dates:

December: Stacy Daniels, Robert Dowding, Carrie May, Jennifer Stevens, Jennifer Zavadil

January: Andrea Hoard, Andrew Hoard, John Prush, Kim Ulrich, Michelle Walk

December Birthdays

*Jerry Davis
Robert Dowding
Tamara Ferguson
Kyle Guy
Jaimie Hutchison
Joe Kelly
Carrie May*

Happy Birthday!!!



Welcome New Members!!!

Geoff Streit



Volunteering at the MSU Global Festival

On Sunday, November 21st, five Lansing Jaycees volunteered our time at the Community Volunteers for International Programs 24th Annual Global Festival at the MSU Union. We assisted by helping to sell donated items in the World Gift Shop. Items from glassware, clothing, woodwork, antiques, jewelry plus many other types of objects from around the world were donated by people in the community to raise funds for scholarships for international students. In addition to the World Gift Shop there was the MSU Nationality Club Exhibit booths, International Student performances, food at the Global Café and Children's Games from over 30 countries such as Cameroon, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The MSU Union was packed with people learning about each culture, trying new foods, watching the performances and of course buying international items. It was interesting learning about the donated items and talking with the people who came in to buy them. If you haven't gone to the Global Festival in the past, it is highly recommended to put this free event on your calendar for next year.



Submitted by: Alexandra Briseno, 2010 Secretary, xandrab@hotmail.com

Lansing Jaycees



A. Woodward and D. Harris playing with bikes...



Our group trying to get donations at Stuff the Bus!



E. Sheppard, A. Woodward, D. Worthams and Andrew Hoard at Stuff the Bus!



E. Sturdy making purchases at Wal-Mart for Stuff the Bus!

Seen in Action

Individual Development

A Message from the Individual Development VP

We made it, 2010 is done! Congratulations to everyone for all of their hard work this year. I am hopeful that everyone had the opportunity to learn something new or fine tune a skill already had. I enjoyed planning events over the past 12 months and thank you all for helping to make them happen.

Your membership in the Lansing Jaycees is only as good as what you put into it. If you would like more programming, it is in your hands to request such and help with the planning of it. Dan Harris will be the Individual Development Vice President for 2011 and I wish him the best of luck. I know he has several ideas and you will all enjoy them. Please feel free to contact him with any programming you would like to see in the future.

Enjoy your holiday season and see you next year!

Sheryl A. Soczek
2010 Individual Development Vice President



You Cannot Fix What You Do Not Know To Be Broken

There have been recent stories that I have heard that reminded me of this situation and I believe tie well to what many people have experienced before.

The first story brings me to a situation at a friend's workplace. The business was doing very well and the work was starting to pile up. My first thought was, "Well, this is a sign of job security. The work is being done on the outside by their contractors and they are bringing more business into your office. What a wonderful thing." What they did begin to realize as I was told this story was a total lack of miscommunication, which started before even before the recent surge in business. Together in the office, they needed to work with each other to work done. Once it was realized that work was getting done due to one reason or another, people in the office started to blame each other for the problems. However, it took someone to realize that there was something broken, in particular, the lack of communication. This staff member was on the low end of the ladder, but his necessary realization of the problem was crucial to getting the business on the right track. They are still doing well today and keep moving forward working together as a team. The second story brings me to another friend of mine who belonged to a non-profit organization last year and held a leadership role. He had some struggles in his life throughout that year, mostly struggles with his work life. These things started to affect his leadership in the organization. He made others aware of it so they could help him through this tough time but failed to receive that assistance and he felt he was on the right track in his role. Without receiving assistance with people he knew as his friends, he decided to leave that organization and is spending time in another area of the country with people who truly act as his friends. After I asked him if he would stay with that organization if he knew what he needed to do to get back on track, he told me he would have stayed with that group. Are you mad at others because of what they do and help them to be better people? Or do you rather let them falter and collapse right in front of your eyes? This all goes back to the point that they cannot fix what they do not know is broken. Consider mending these relationships before the New Year comes around.

Submitted by: Andrew Hoard, 2010 Individual Development Director, Andrew.t.hoard@gmail.com

The 5.5 Secrets of Successful Delegation Pt. 4

Most of us know successful delegation is more than assigning a task to a person and hoping for the best. As with most things there is part art and part skill behind implementing this process. I have identified 5 and a half secrets behind successful delegation: proper breakdown of task, assigning the correct person, creating an open dialog, monitor progress, review and revise, and building an environment of trust. Part 1, proper breakdown of task, part 2, assigning the correct person, and part 3, creating an open dialogue, were covered in prior issues of the Capitol Correspondent. The remaining elements will be shared in this and the next 2 editions of this newsletter. If you would like a copy of prior articles on this topic please contact the author by email: dan@dnharris.com.

Monitoring Progress

Often overlooked, monitoring progress of delegated tasks is a crucial element of successful delegation. Once you have thoughtfully and tactfully created open dialogue, have agreement, and have transferred ownership of the tasks to appropriate individual who will be responsible for assuring that the job will be you are well on your way to leveraging the fourth secret to successful delegation: monitoring progress. No matter how hard we try problems arise.

In part three, I introduced the importance of attaching metrics, timetables, and outcomes as an aspect of proper delegation management. Outcomes such as deliverables, metrics like key performance objectives, status reports, and utilizing timetable tools such as gantt charts allow you to monitor the progress of the project. However, the key behind this is in maintaining the professional relationship between you and those you delegate to. In your monitoring strategy ground rules need to be established and communicated to those involved in the project. Some questions you may want to address are: what primary and secondary forms of communication do you expect when reports are given (e.g. email, sending a written report; submitting a milestone on the organization's project management app); and establishing format, location, and times of any formal meetings (face-to-face, teleconference, web-based).

Once the ground rules of project monitoring have been established you need to plan how you will address boundary challenges that might come up. One symptom of this would be when the delegate asks for you to double check all their work. While this may be necessary for critical elements of the project doing this routinely might be an indication of one of three things, 1) they misunderstand who owns the task, or 2) they feel their skills are inadequate for the job, or 3) both of you misjudged the amount of skill required for the task. How might you handle these challenges? In the short-term you may want to plan for contingencies like these by having back-up staff available to handle these issues, however, if this becomes a common issue you may need to brush up on your skill-evaluation skills, communication skills, or your general knowledge of your subject matter. If (when) these instances come up this can be a great training opportunity in itself for you to help the delegate learn how to research and find their own solution and for yourself to lead and assist others in their own professional development. If you start seeing a lot of project rebounding back to you (e.g. insufficient knowledge, time, or resources) you may want to look at breaking the task up into smaller pieces. One way of approaching this would be to establish and utilize a 4-part grid used in regular communication that lists accomplishments, issues and roadblocks, upcoming tasks, and deliverable status. In addition to general project management feedback this tool can be used as a brainstorming tool to forecast future issues that may not have been considered during the original project design and implementation.

Be sure to encourage delegates as they progress towards milestones, accomplish key objective improvements, or improve their skill set. Receiving a genuine encouraging word, especially when doing something new or challenging, often improves their confidence, improves your working relationship, and positively impacts their image of you. Consider how you might encourage and reward those who are working on a project for you.

Now that you are monitoring your task you, ensuring ownership has been placed on the delegate and have a system that allows you and delegates in tracking progress towards milestones along, communicating and brainstorming challenges, encouraging them towards successful completion you are prepared to think ahead towards final project review and revision. The feedback mechanisms and critical thinking done during this phase help solidify what you and your delegates have learned throughout the project. Too often this part is brushed off as either irrelevant, or if considered often not implemented as people are rushed to accomplish the next project. Don't be misled. This phase is critical for true learning and process improvement to happen. This will be covered in the next installment of the Capitol Correspondent.

Daniel Harris is a member of the Lansing Jaycees. He has his own management consulting practice and the author of a forthcoming book. He received his M.B.A. from Northwood University in 2007 and is currently working on his Doctorate of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship studying innovation management. He can be reached at dan@dnharris.com.

Individual Development

Chaplain's Corner

Carrie May,
Lansing Jaycees Chaplain
carriemay@aol.com
248-756-3840



Thank you!

I've had the opportunity to serve on your Lansing Jaycees Board of Directors for five years, with three of those including the office of Chaplain. Here's what I know:

- I've been asked to impart words of wisdom at times when I feel like that's the last thing I should try to offer.
- I've been asked to provide perspective when I feel mine is, at best, skewed.
- I've encouraged people to be open to new ideas and adventures while feeling settled and comfortable with my routines.

Sounds like one giant paradox, no? But that's really what the Jaycees experience is about. It's about planting ideas and thoughts and watching what happens. Or better yet, it's about being involved in what happens.

For now, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve your Lansing Jaycees chapter. It's been quite a series of experiences over the years, and I truly cherish the time I have spent with this organization.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2011!

A note from the Capitol Correspondent Editor:

Thanks to the contributors of the December newsletter: A. Fossi, S. Soczek, A. Clock, C. May, D. Harris, L. Leeds, A. Briseno, Andrew Hoard

Follow us on Twitter - @LansingJaycees
Follow us on Facebook – Lansing Jaycees

ANYONE CAN BE AN AUTHOR!

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles, photos and shout outs this year!!! I've had a great time doing the newsletter and look forward to seeing great things in 2011!

Angela M. Clock,
2010 Newsletter Editor and Chair of the Board
fallingstar924@hotmail.com

Please submit your articles, photos, or ideas for future newsletters to:

Adrienne Woodward
2011 Lansing Jaycees Secretary,
Newsletter Editor
woodwa46@msu.edu



Lansing Jaycees Activities...

January 4th– General Membership Meeting – Tripper's, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing; 6:00PM Social Hour, 7:00 PM meeting (Details = A. Fossi @ 586-484-7027)

January 8th– 2010 Year End Banquet – Lexington Hotel, 925 S. Creyts; 5:30PM (Details = A. Fossi @ 586-484-7027)

January 13-16th– Texas Hold 'Em – Tripper's, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing; Various (Details = S. Keeney @ 989-714-5272)

January 15th– Bowling League – Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand River, Lansing; 8:30PM (Details = A. Fossi @ 586-484-7027)

Watch the Juice weekly for other events yet to be planned!

A Message from the Management VP

Hello to you all:

Happy December! We made it another year. Congratulations to all of you and all of the work you have done to make the Lansing Jaycees the best we could be. I am proud to say we had several people elected to new positions for the New Year. One of them being Sam Keeney, who will take over the position of Management Vice President. She is well under way planning for the new year and her first event will be Texas Hold'em in January. Make sure you sign up for your spot to help raise funds for our chapter.

I look forward to seeing where we end up for the year with awards and look forward to serving you all as Treasurer next year.

Have a great holiday season,

Sheryl A. Soczek, 2010 Management Vice President,
soczek@msu.edu

Top New Year's Resolutions for 2011

Everyone likes a New Year so we can have a fresh start. And we all hope for the best on our fresh start so we promise ourselves to be better and make a New Year's resolution.

Here are the top 10 for 2011 -

- 1) Lose Weight - There are not to many people who are really happy with the way they look but this year it is not just about themselves it is about the whole family because #2 is
- 2) Help The Family Lose Weight - With an all time obesity in kids we are trying to help everyone
- 3) Get A Job or Better Job - They tell us the economy is getting better however someone has forgotten to tell our pocket books
- 4) Quit Smoking - This seems to be in the top ten every year, they say if you keep trying it gets easier however I don't think some would agree
- 5) Fall In Love - For those who don't have that someone special we hope this is your year
- 6) Enjoy Life - Sometimes we all forget what the important stuff is until it is to late this year we all need to remember what really matters and live life to the fullest
- 7) Get Organized - With so much technology one would think it would be easier, It's not!
- 8) Spend More Time With Family - This is a great time to start that family game night. My family loves it when the games come out and we can all laugh together
- 9) Help Others - Whether it is spending time at the local food pantry or pushing and old man out of a ditch we could all do a little more
- 10) Run A Marathon - What a great way to help with #1

Taken from:

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/6088856/top_new_years_resolutions_for_2011.html?cat=74

Jaycee Business Directory

Keller Williams Realty

I pride myself and the Robert Dowding Team at Keller Williams realty with excellent customer service in the representation of sellers, buyers and investors in the entire Greater Lansing Area. Leverage yourself by hiring a true professional to assist you, your friends and family in achieving your Real Estate dreams and goals.

Ph: 517.853.6390

Email: Sold@RobertDowding.com

Website www.RobertDowding.com

Blog:

www.RealestateRealresults.com

Website Design Services

Vieth Consulting provides development services for organization and commercial websites. Contact Chris Vieth for more information or for a quote.

H: 627-7145

W: 930-3611

cvieth@viethconsulting.com

Relief Massage Therapy

Pain and stress relief by Certified Massage Therapist. Contact Sasha Fournier at 517-410-4251. By appointment only.