

Capitol Correspondent

The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber of Commerce • December 2005

Lansing Jaycees
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www.lansingjaycees.org

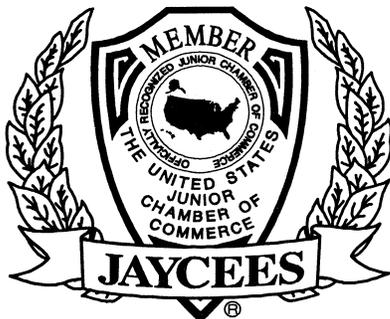
Region D
Population Division 7
Base Membership: 91

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 21-39 which promotes leadership training through community service. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) at Tripper's Restaurant in Frandor. Visit our website, www.lansingjaycees.org, for a map to the meeting location or call us at (517) 853-8620.



2005 Board of Directors

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Laura Vieth (517) 627-7145

Chair of the Board

Sara Ballard (517) 388-1220

Membership Development VP

Chris Vieth (517) 627-7145

Community Development VP

Tracy Prush (517) 699-8166

Individual Development VP

Matt Wiitala (517) 482-4615

Management Development VP

John Pulice (517) 351-4315

Community Development Director

Jill Klinger (517) 282-3877

Individual Development Director

Sheryl Soczek (517) 664-1650

Management Development Team

Amy Miller (517) 525-0129

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A Final Thought

by *Laura Vieth*

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm having a hard time believing that it's already December. It seems like just last week we were stuffing eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, and just yesterday we were buying school clothes for the Children's Shopping Spree. Haunted House feels like it's still going on right now and I'm missing it!

December is a great time to reflect on all of the great accomplishments the Lansing Jaycees have achieved this year. We've gotten a lot of enthusiastic new members in the last year and are poised to end the year with more members than we had in January. Some of these newer members have already taken on a leadership role on the 2006 Board of Directors, which bodes well for the future of the organization. We've run a lot of great projects in all areas: Community Development (Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Shopping Spree, Stuff the Bus and more); Individual Development (Camping Trip, Laser Tag, Foodie Club, etc.); Membership Development (You Think You Know, Happy Hours, Orientations, etc.); and Management Development (Bowl-a-Thon, 2nd Annual Golf Outing, Haunted House, etc). These are just a handful of the things that we've done in 2005, and they demonstrate that the Jaycee concept *works*. We are developing tomorrow's leaders by allowing them to run projects today. That's what it's all about!

On that note, this is my last President's Letter to all of you. Amy Miller will be taking over the reins of the chapter in January, and I hope that you will all give her and the 2006 Board of Directors the support that you've given me and the 2005 Board this year. I want to thank all of you for your commitment to the Lansing Jaycees and our projects in 2005, and I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season.

Laura Vieth
77th President
Lansing Jaycees

December General Membership Meeting



Who Ordered the White Elephant?

The December General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m. at Tripper's. It's a December meeting tradition: after our project updates, we will have our "White Elephant" gift exchange! Find something around your house that you won't miss, wrap it up and bring it to the meeting. We'll draw numbers, select gifts and keep track of the "steals" (you'll need to come to the meeting to find out what that means)! It's a great time you won't want to miss! If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Laura Vieth at lavieth@cmsenergy.com. See you there!

Membership Development

Thank You's...

The end of the 2005 is approaching fast. It's been a challenging year and I want to make sure that I thank the people who assisted with the membership area. First of all a big thank you to Kim Doughty, who served as Membership Director for 2005. She worked very hard not only in the membership area, but in other areas as well. Additional thanks to Kristen McBeath, who took an interest in membership, assisted in recruitment and is now going to serve as 2006 Membership VP. Many thanks to President Laura who was hard-working, supportive and understanding of the membership activities of the chapter throughout the year. Thanks also to all of you who referred prospects to us and recruited new members.

Nearing the Finish Line...

At the time of this writing, we are getting very close to our goal of year-to-date growth. In fact, we only need two more new members to achieve this goal! So, if you know someone who might be interested, be sure to direct them to the chapter. Tell them to go to www.lansingjaycees.org to learn more about what we do and the opportunities that exist for members.

The Future

It's hard to face the end of the year without considering the future of the organization and membership in general. We're fortunate here in Lansing to have a chapter that has worked hard at membership and has been in a growth trend for several years (at least six to my knowledge). Many chapters in Michigan and the U.S. have not done this and they are hurting.

We have a good chance to continue our growth, not only in membership... but also in the resulting outcomes that are possible because of membership growth: more projects, larger projects and a greater impact on the community. If you haven't already, please consider taking greater ownership in our organization and furthering the Junior Chamber movement.

To do this, I recommend the following:

- 1) Chairing projects
- 2) Serving on the board
- 3) Recruiting new members
- 4) Building strong friendships with your fellow members.

Thanks again and have a good 2006!

Upcoming Membership Events

Member Orientation – December 6, 2005 at 6 p.m. Before the general membership meeting, this is for members and prospective members who would like to learn more about the Jaycee organization and how to get involved.

Because of changes with renewal processing with the Michigan and US Jaycees, renewals are due one month early. i.e. – September renewals are due in August, etc. **Please check the due dates on your invoices.**

Carrie	May	12/1/04
Denya	Shimnoski	12/1/04
Amy	Coletta	1/1/05
Melanie	Gray	1/1/05
Kathleen	Hausbeck-Miller	1/1/99
John	Prush	1/1/05
Jen	Springer	1/1/05
Josh	Springer	1/1/05
Michell	Walk	1/1/96

Welcome New Members:

Jennifer Eager, Yeo & Yeo
Tierany Myers, AP Capital
Mark Sands, Covansys
Rachel Toothman, Johnson & Johnson
Jacob Williams, Morgan Stanley

December birthdays

Mark Dziak: December 5
Carrie May: December 12
Kimberly Herlick: December 15
Jody Lamb: December 15
Jaimie Hutchison: December 22
Amber McGrath: December 23
Shannon Withenshaw: December 27



Community Development

by Tracy Prush

Now that 2005 is coming to an end, I would like to thank everyone for their help with all of the community projects we have participated in this year. Whether you helped make dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, walked for warmth, hid eggs at the Easter Egg Hunt, took phone pledges for the WKAR auction, collected money for Relay for Life, swung a hammer at Habitat for Humanity, directed runners at Max's Race, took a child back-to-school shopping, cleaned up trash on the highway, raced around town in the Road Rally or donated cans to the American Red Cross, your contribution was greatly appreciated by all of those we helped in our community.

But the year is not over yet! We still have one more large community project that we need everyone's help with.

Stuff the Bus will be taking place at Wal-Mart on Saginaw Hwy. on December 3 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. At this event, we will be collecting gifts for the families our chapter has adopted for Christmas. We still need more volunteers to sign up to work two hour shifts. If you have any questions or would like more information about volunteering for this event, please contact Jaimie Hutchinson at 517-339-2394 or by e-mail at jaimjohutch@hotmail.com. You can also sign up for a shift on the Lansing Jaycees website www.lansingjaycees.org. We hope to see everyone there!

Tracy Prush

Your 2005 Community Vice President

Stuff the Bus Wrapping Party

Just because the shopping has been done and the bus has been stuffed doesn't mean our work is done. We still have to wrap all those gifts! Please join us on Monday, December 12 at 6 p.m. at Sarah Taber's house (2920 Risley Dr., Lansing) for food, wrapping and fun. If you plan on coming, RSVP to Kristen McBeath at mcfly1727@yahoo.com.

Help out during the holidays

The Capital Area United Way Volunteer Center Holiday Wish Book will be available on the CAUW web site at www.capitalareaunitedway.org beginning the afternoon of Monday, November 21. The book features volunteer opportunities offered by local agencies as well as material donations that are needed.

Please take a moment to browse through and see how you can help out this holiday season.

2006 Board of Directors

President: Amy Miller

Membership VP: Kristen McBeath

Individual VP: Kim Doughty

Community VP: Angela Backus

International VP: Jimi Carolan

International Director: Jamie Wilmoth

Management VP: Josh Springer

Treasurer/Secretary: Carrie May

Chairman of the Board: Laura Vieth

New newsletter editor

In case you didn't know, this newsletter has a new editor; Me. My name is Kim Tanner and I'm a fairly new Jaycee's member. I received my Bachelor's of Science degree from Central Michigan University in 2003 with a double major in journalism and earth science. I recently agreed to take over as the editor of this newsletter because I'd like to become more involved in the Jaycee's. If at any time you notice an error in this newsletter, please let me know so I can make the needed correction.

At this time I don't have the deadline date set for the January newsletter; however feel free to start submitting your stories and photos to me at jcnewseditor@yahoo.com.

Member volunteers after Katrina

by Angela Backus

As soon as Hurricane Katrina hit, I knew I wanted to do something to help the animals. People were losing their homes and everything they owned, and having to leave behind their pets made a tragic situation even worse. I knew if it were me, I would want to know my pets were safe and taken care of. I started emailing all of the national organizations doing hurricane relief work with pets, and after a couple weeks of waiting anxiously, Best Friends Animal Society was the first to contact me. They had set up a temporary shelter in Tylertown, Miss., and were caring for about 500 animals (over 2,000 animals have gone through the shelter to date, many are being fostered by groups all over the country). Best Friends was sending teams into New Orleans, LA. each day to rescue animals left behind when owners evacuated, as well as picking up animals from Jefferson Parrish Animal Control – these were the pets whose owners had tried to evacuate with them, only to be forced to surrender them.

After packing up enough food and water for myself for a week and driving 16 hours from Michigan, I arrived at Best Friends in Tylertown. There were hundreds of dogs and cats, and a few more unusual pets, including an emu, a pot-bellied pig, ducks, a couple of snakes and a turtle. I'd been told by Best Friends to expect the place to look like a war zone, so I was pleasantly surprised by the housing conditions for the animals – conditions for the people were another story; we slept in cars and tents. The cats were in nice air conditioned rooms, and the dogs were outside in fenced dog runs, and considering the temperatures were in the mid 90s, they were as comfortable as possible. They had tarps for shade and some even had industrial sized fans. They also had the "Dogloo" houses that Best Friends purchased to keep them dry when Hurricane Rita came through.

Volunteers had come from all over the country and even Canada. On any given day there were about 50 volunteers, many who worked with animal rescue groups back home, but a lot were like me and just came on their own because they love animals and wanted to help. Volunteers formed rescue crews that went into New Orleans and took pets left in houses or wandering the streets, they provided veterinary care and grooming, did laundry and cooked for other volunteers, and fed and cared for the animals. Some volunteers came planning to stay a week, and ended being there for a month or two instead.

Most of my first day was spent working with the dogs at "Ellis Island," where the new arrivals were kept. I loaded up wagons full of food bowls and scooped poop. Once that was done, someone asked if I was computer literate, and when I said yes, I was dragged off to the office. Most of the rest of the week was spent updating the database of all the animals and uploading digital photos so the animals could be posted on Petfinder.com for people who were searching for their pets. At first I was disappointed to be doing computer work instead of working with dogs, but I knew I should be grateful to be inside out of the heat (and the poop!), and the work I was doing was important. I ended up with plenty of dog contact too. We had a bunch of dogs in the office that needed special care or were too small to stand the heat. There was a mini Chihuahua who liked to sit on my shoulder instead of walking on a leash – she'd look down and growl at any big dogs we passed. I also spent a day organizing the round-up of over a hundred dogs to be flown to a sanctuary in Arizona called Tara's Babies. It was set up and run by Buddhist nuns and monks who wanted to help the animal victims of Katrina.

I got to be a part of a lot of the reunions when people came to look for their animals, since I was working on the database and could help search by breed or other description. It was exciting to see the pets reunited with their owners, and every time it happened, you couldn't find a dry eye in the place. I was also working at night when the rescue crews came in late at night. Each night the vets and vet techs set up a MASH unit outside to care for the animals that were in critical condition, there were more and more of these each night, it was amazing the animals were still hanging on over a month after the hurricane. They also brought in some of the animals for baths right away. The ones who were found outside were covered in sludge and many had chemical burns. Afterwards the rescue crews would come in and tell their stories. Sometimes I heard things that I wished I hadn't, like the night they brought in a dog who had been trapped and had chewed her own leg off, or a dog they rescued who had been not only left inside the house, but was chained to a refrigerator. He will be okay, but another dog in the house had already died. But there were happy stories too, like Himie the Rottweiler who was found with a bottle around his neck. Inside the bottle were his eye medicine and a note from his owner, who had stayed with his dogs as long as he could before being forced to evacuate. Best Friends posted the story on their website, someone tracked down Himie's owner at a Red Cross shelter, and volunteers are working to get them reunited.



Best Friends expects to keep the Tylertown sanctuary operational at least through the end of the year. They are currently dealing with the second wave of Katrina animals, the ones who made it out but whose owners are struggling to rebuild their own lives and are unable to care for pets. All of the animals are being held for 90 days, starting from their rescue or surrender; whether a forced surrender during evacuation, or surrenders now from people unable to care for them. Many pets won't be found or claimed, and many owners won't be able to take their pets back.

If you are interested in adopting a Katrina animal, there will be thousands who will need homes in the next couple of months. Rescued animals have been placed in foster care all over the country, and I'd be happy to help find a group in your area that has Katrina animals. This disaster has increased the total number of homeless animals, and adopting any shelter animal is a great way to help. Monetary donations are still needed as well, and can often be made through your local shelter, or through Best Friends, ASPCA, Humane Society of the United States or Noah's Wish. You can get updates on Best Friends' hurricane relief work on their website at www.bestfriends.org.

Even if you can't adopt an animal or make a donation, there are lots of ways that you can make a difference!

- **Tell Congress not to abandon pets in disasters.** Sign the petition to support The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act, H.R. 3858), currently in Congress, that will protect pets in federal evacuation plans, and urge officials to save currently stranded pets. Go to www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/ and choose "Don't Abandon Pets in Disasters" from the Animal Welfare list.
- **Want to help reunite pets and owners?** If you're comfortable with the Internet and willing to make long distance phone calls, you can work from home to locate owners of pets rescued from Katrina. Visit the Yahoo Groups website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for group "stealthvolunteers."
- **Have pets of your own?** Get a free rescue alert sticker for your window and learn how to prepare for an emergency on the ASPCA website at http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_emergency
- **Contact Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco and ask her to reinstate permission for out of state veterinarians to come in and volunteer.** There are still thousands of animals being cared for in shelters in Louisiana and veterinarians all over the country who are willing to volunteer to provide veterinary care but are no longer permitted to by Louisiana.

Telephone Numbers:

866-366-1121, 225-342-0991 or 225-342-7015

Fax: 225-342-7099

There is also a link to email the governor on the State of Louisiana website at www.state.la.us

Recent Events

Recap of "One Stop Holiday Shopping"

by Kim Doughty

The One Stop Holiday Shopping event was a great experience for the direct sale vendors who participated and the patrons that came through to shop for the holidays. We even had somebody dressed in a bumble bee costume and held up a sign at Abbott road to sway more people into the Hannah Community Center.

As a result we raised over \$900.00 for Toys for Tots!

A special thanks to all the volunteers that helped out that day: Kristen McBeath, Kimmy Herlick, Eric Lathrop, Dave Akens and Carrie May. I would also like to thank my two committee members, Sarah Taber and Teri Sand, for all their efforts to help make this project a success.

Michigan Micro Brew Night a Success

The Michigan Micro Brew Fest, hosted by Patrick Brazil and Aron Clark, was held at Reno's East on November 10, and 52 people participated. Half of the participants were prospective members and the participants voted to put New Holland Red Sail Amber Ale on tap at Reno's East. It was a great turn out.



Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 December	2	3 Stuff the Bus and wrapping party
4	5	6 General Membership Meeting Orientation Session	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday Football at Frank's Press Box East	12	13	14	15	16 Blue Gill Bar and Grill	17
18	19	20 Info Night/ Orientation	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 January	2	3	4	5	6	7 LOTS (Local Officers Training School)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

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