

Choir Notes



Community News — 12/22/10 Submitted Photo

Show choir members Corey Wong, Natalie Drummond, Jasmine Tzeggai, Paris Williams, Rachel Burris, Darian White, Kyla Lisman, Charnay Pickett, Erika Barron and Ashley Alvarez gather with other Ben Davis competition choir students for the last time in 2010 at their annual Christmas Party on December 17. Sounds and Premiers have begun after-school rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays to prepare for the competition season.

Upcoming Events:
 Executive Board, January 12, 6:30 pm. All board members are asked to attend.
 Sounds rehearsal, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 pm
 Premiers rehearsal, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm
 Premiers, Purple-Aires and Sounds will participate in the upcoming choir retreat on January 29 and 30.
 Cabaret Auditions on Wednesday, January 20, for the three competition choirs. The Dessert Cabaret will be held February 5. Auction items are being accepted.
 Giant Spectacular! February 19, all day. Volunteer opportunities are still available. All choir parents are asked to volunteer for at least one shift. Call the choir office at 227-4023 for information.

Looking Ahead:
 New York Trip, April 6-10, 2011



Students attending schools in Wayne Township are discussing and writing their thoughts concerning the values emphasized by Wayne Township's Westside Values Committee. The essays deemed most outstanding are then submitted for publication, with the hope that readers will enjoy them and share them with other readers.

Why Service is Important

by Zoey Dodge, Ben Davis 9th Grade Center

What is it called when someone helps another person for no reason other than pure humanitarianism? It is called service. Service is deeds that are done out of the kindness of someone's heart. It is also a reflection of his or her morals and how he or she had been raised. Service, although often taken for granted, is an important part in today's society. A good deed helps people create good habits, clean up the world, and be good role models. Service and good deeds are becoming more and more vital as the world becomes too busy to focus on anything other than their hectic lives and what they're having for dinner.

Many people who have grown up in good, loving homes know how to perform service, because they have done it their whole lives. People who haven't grown up in homes, where service projects and helping others isn't a daily thing, often find it more difficult to create these habits of doing good deeds for the sake of just being a good person. More and more homes in America today are becoming a lot like the second example, making it that much harder to find people doing service.

It seems like the only other time you see people doing good now a days is when they're doing court mandated community service. Is this what we've let our world become? A race of people who only help others because they're forced to, or are there still some people in this country who are true humanitarians?

Honestly, it is so easy to help someone and not have it hurt your schedule, reputation, or career; you can buy some groceries for a homeless person, give money anonymously to a charity, or simply help an elderly neighbor around their house. Just doing these things once can help you create good habits that will help the earth, help others, and last a lifetime.

There are many types of service; at least one to fit every lifestyle and person. Almost all good deeds go to helping the earth to be a better place in one way or another. Obviously there are projects like cleaning up trash or helping with the oil spill in the ocean. Those help the earth directly, but there are also the service projects that help humankind (the people that live on this earth).

All people are directly or indirectly affected by a chain reaction, meaning each person's actions affect everyone else in the world. Often, people who do good deed are recognized (by the people they helped or by others who witnessed the good deed) as the ones who change the world. Everyone has the power to help make the world a better place to live in, but the question is, will people step up and do their part to helping, even if it's just donating to a worthy cause?

As well as the peers of adults, teenagers and kids will look up and see the good deeds that their peers, elders or parents are doing. If from an early age, they are showed that helping others is a good thing, and then they are more likely to do good deeds as they grow and influence children and peers of their own to be of service to others. Role models like these are just as needed in the world as the service they do.

If everyone in the world would be a good-doer, we would live in a Utopian society. Sadly, though, there are more people in this world, especially in America, that have bad intentions and only want to hurt others, making the need for people who do good that much more important. There is a great need for good role models in today's American society.

Service is one of the most needed things in today's society. If people don't stop what they're doing now and help someone out of the goodness of their hearts, then this world is going to turn to trash. Everyone needs to worry less about their jobs, their situations and their lives and start helping others with theirs. Service, among other things, is one thing that is needed most in this world.

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BUSINESS COMMUNITY NEWS

Autumn Park Re-opens Under New Ownership

Some may think it is strange that two big-city brothers and their cousin, ages 29, 30 and 34, purchased an assisted living community in Indianapolis. But it made perfect sense to the former investment banker, real estate broker and attorney who are now at the helm of Autumn Park Assisted Living Community in the heart of Indianapolis.

While the Michigan-based family has successfully owned and operated senior living communities for more than 40 years, it wasn't until their 89-year old grandmother's health declined that they decided to follow in the footsteps of their grandfather and father. Scott and Tony Kantor and Bradley Dubin quit their high-profile jobs and created Bloomfield Senior Living to focus exclusively on independent

living, assisted living and Alzheimer's and dementia care.

When it became evident that their grandmother needed daily living assistance, the closely-knit family confronted the dilemma of where she should live and began searching for the perfect assisted living community. It had to provide the special assistance she needed and the individuality, independence and privacy she still desired. It had to be more than an institutionally disguised, dime-a-dozen, profit-driven business. They were searching for a community which would allow her to maintain her lifestyle as well as deliver socialization, personal attention and care.

Building upon their family's values, principles, reputation and three generations of experience, the trio set out to create an assisted

living community by redefining senior care with a more modern, less expensive, lifestyle approach to health care.

Family members acquired Autumn Park, along with its sister property on the east side of Indianapolis, Autumn Glen Assisted Living Community, in August. They also acquired one senior living property in Ohio and two in South Carolina. Since January, Bloomfield has acquired five senior living communities, 306 collective units, for nearly \$11 million from bankrupt senior-housing giant Sunwest Management, Inc.

Using the family's conservative ideology and long-standing policy of not being highly leveraged, Bloomfield paid for the Ohio and South Carolina properties outright and conservatively financed the Indiana properties. The philosophy of operating properties with little or no debt provides residents and their families comfort that they will be around in the future.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to more than double from 39 million today to 87 million by 2030. This is a result of the surge in births worldwide following World War II and an ever-increasing life expectancy. Many seniors entering their retirement years will require some level of care. Whether resulting from gradual deterioration which accompanies the aging process, a need for social interaction with their contemporaries or another dramatic event such as the death of a spouse, a fall in the home or a medical crisis, chances are that many people will confront the task of making difficult choices regarding a parent or grandparent.

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Indianapolis Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor
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