

Club Hears 'Dream' About 'Hope House' for the Homeless



Carla Brock

Karla Brock (President Steve's wife,) last week told us of what relatives called "her dream" of providing for the "homeless" in McAlester. But asked if it was her idea, she said, "It just happened."

Karla said the homeless in this area are the "single mothers with children."

And that "Hope House," which already has been donated, would be an answer for them.

"Some people do not have a home," the president's wife said. Karla said she had noticed the number of single mothers with children who are homeless, but the last ice storm "brought them out."

She estimated the "start-up costs" at \$25,000, although that amount has not been collected yet. A 501c3 has been filed and a Board of Trustees was formed, she reported. The facility will be operated as a "non-profit status." And although state and federal agencies may be used, the financing will not involve any federal grants, she said.

No one church or denomination is behind the effort, although the Baptists, Catholics, and the Live Church have been contacted. "We're trying to take the right steps," she said.

Bill Derichsweiler, a reported member of the Board of Trustees, said only private foundation grants will be sought.

The women and their children may need various support services, like shelter, food, clothing, job training, mental health care, parent training, credit issues, domestic abuse and substance abuse, anger management, and life skills training. The County Health Department, McAlester Housing

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Brett Smith Elected President; Slate Is Elected For 2008-09

Rotary members on Dec. 4 elected Brett Smith as president, along with a full slate of officers and directors for 2008-09.

Smith is employed by Danielson Oil Co of Ada, but he has lived in McAlester for almost 15 years.

He and his wife Suzanne, have three sons.

Brette is an active member of Lakewood Christian Church, where he runs the "soundboard" and participates in dramas and taking part in the Orphan Ministry.

Brestt has been involved with Cub Scout Pack 1499 since

2001. He currently is Cubmaster and the leader of the Webelo Den.

Brett says in his spare time, he enjoys boating, riding dirt bikes with his sons, and playing a guitar.

Mike Lowber was elected President-Elect and Karl Scifres was elected vice-president.

Directors for the next year will be Steve Brock, Gary Boyd, Betty Talley, Shayne Javersak, Loise Washington, and Clem Santine.

Jim Henley was reelected Secretary-Treasurer.

McNall Tells About Webcoat Progress, Employee Growth

Greg McNall told us Feb. 26 that Webcoat, Inc. has grown from eight employees in 1991 to 191 employees at its peak, and an average staffing of 155. It also buys directly from over 80 local businesses, he said.

The outdoor coated furniture is 1/4th of an inch thick, versus the industry standard of 1/8th of an inch.

The dry Powdercoat coating processed heavy benches are around the city, particularly in the downtown area. The heavy benches with the Webcoating process offers superior wear and electrical resistance, Greg said, allowing

the company to offer a longer warranty. The company has gained market share every year since 1992.

The original company makes plastic coated park benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles. However recent mergers have added the capability of "Jungle Gyms," Monkey Bars, awnings and pavilions.

Aerobic and Isometric capabilities also have been added, along with "outdoor stuff," Greg said.

However, the firm is reportedly having trouble because of its policy of drug-free employees.

Second Annual Day of Caring Set May 9-10 by United Way

Vyette Martin told us two weeks ago about the May 9 and 10 Second Annual United Way Day of Caring.

There were 15 sponsors last year, over 15 volunteers and groups with at least one project; and over 20 projects that were accomplished, from painting bleachers to planting flowers.

Vyette showed colored slides of the work being done.

“Rotary House” got its siding washed and the Boys & Girls Club baseball bleachers and dugouts got painted.

Camp PLEA had volunteers clean their kitchen and organize their storage area.

The National Association of Letter Carriers’ Food Drive collected 7,000 pounds of food.

Two women mowed yards. Others sorted clothing which

had been donated to Shared Blessings and the Salvation Army Thrift Store. One fixed cracks in the wall in a woman’s house; one installed a “grab bar” in a both tub and cleaned a flower bed. Another cleaned a house. One changed light bulbs; one bought groceries for as family. Another scraped paint off of a house. One fixed a back porch and one fixed the frame work on a house.

Public Service Co. had six projects. Beta Iota of Epsilon Sigma Alpha had two. Haileyville High School had two.

Lowe’s had three; Excalibur Cheerleading and Tumbling Club had two.

Rotary Club had one; the Tiak Girl Scout Council had one; that Bank NA had one. Others with one project were Warren Clinic, Jefferson Early Childhood Center, United Way, and McMahan Appraisal Service.

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Authority, and real estate officials have promised help. Help is also offered through the Carl Albert Mental Health Center, area schools, and Work Force Oklahoma, they said. “Shared Blessings” is expanding and promises to help.

Churches can help with Bible study and strengthening self esteem, Ms. Brock said.

The building at 1210 East Cherokee, is the old DHS building. It has 14 rooms, which are small, Derichsweiler said. “Bunk beds” will have to be used. But sheets, pillow cases, and a dining room table will be needed.

Karla asked persons who would like to “be a part” of the project to contact her.

Remember Spring Gala, April 19

Some people do not see the careful planning going into the Rotary Spring Gala, just because Mike Lowber did not contact his chairmen before he read their names. But it is hard to plan a budget when you don’t know if it will break even or not.

The April 19 Spring Gala will need 40 couples to buy tickets, not to go in the hole. It is at the Country Club, and if it breaks even, Gary Boyd and Loise Washington’s “Silent Auction” could make some money. But it needs to make \$1,500 for baseball “pitching equipment” for the Boys and Girls Club.

The invitations were donated by Hi Impson. The tickets

are \$30 for one plate, and \$50 for two.

However, the band costs from \$600 to \$800, and they are a professional bunch, says Mike.

Other chairmen are donating. Doug Auld is in charge of the food, along with Tim Whipps and Roi Nelson. Ann Owens is in charge of decorations.

President Steve Brock is program chairman. Carl Filskow is chairman for invitations.

And if it makes money, it probably will be held next year, and we will praise Mike’s system, and talk about how nice it was. If it doesn’t we’ll try to forget the whole thing.

Attendance, Visitors, Handshakers *And The Big Pot*

Last week there were 49 persons present. Jim Miller and Bill Derichsweiler were guests of Steve Brock. Boyd Bass was a guest of Roi Nelson. “Good Citizens” from McAlester High School were Chris Woodley and Samatha Mahan. Two weeks ago, there were 40- persons present and on Feb. 26, there were 40 present. It was reported that Helen Wheeler had a baby boy last week.

HANSHAKERS-Last week, Brett Smith gave the dollar to Clem Santine. The previous week, Brett Smith gave the dollar to Roi Nelson. And on Sept. 26, Jeff Sellmeyer gave the buck to Jim Bland.

Then the last two weeks, just to show the Club Drawing wasn’t fixed, Fred Turner drew the wrong card, but is working on a straight.