

Wings

Brian Christopher Lanier Wings of Hope Foundation



May 2010

Please Remember

- 100% of funds raised go directly to help the children
- We are a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization — all your gifts are tax-deductible
- Our officers and board members receive no compensation — children get maximum benefit from your gifts
- We rely on our volunteers and donors to make the difference — and you do!

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How Blessed We Are

Dear Friends,

In spite of the many difficulties and challenges that came with 2009, Wings of Hope was able to assist more needy children and young adults than at any time in our history. Last year, with your support, we were able to give over \$113,500!

And here's another amazing number I'm please to share – since we began our journey of helping abused, neglected and abandoned children, we have given over \$772,000 – that's just about 3/4 of a million dollars! Wow!

When times are tough, the generosity of family, friends, neighbors – and even strangers – shines through. Perhaps dealing with those times causes us to stop our fast-paced lives and take a moment to look around. It's a great time to count our blessings and offer a helping hand to someone else.

A couple other situations occurred during the last year – the number of

children being abused increased. Many times families that are struggling with job loss or home loss tend to take out their frustrations on their children. On top of that, state budget cuts have cancelled many of the programs and services these children rely on to become whole, healed, and functioning. So the needs have grown more critical and numerous.

That's why we are especially grateful for your support. No matter how many words are used, they're still inadequate in expressing the depth of our sincere gratitude. Not only are you a blessing to Wings, without a doubt you make a difference in the many young lives that are touched through our work together. On their behalf please accept our most humble thank you.

God Bless,

Dates to Remember!

It's not too soon to make plans for our 15th Annual Dinner and Auction which will be held on Saturday, **October 2, 2010** at the Lake Mary Marriott.

Not only can you count on gourmet food, an open bar, and lots of fun, but there will be outstanding auction items available for bidding!

You can count on exciting getaways, golf packages, beautiful and unique jewelry, dinners at your favorite restaurants, and perhaps

some unique experiences like riding in a T-34 warbird! The possibilities are endless!

And for the second year we'll launch our event with an innovative online auction that will run from **September 8 through September 28**. You'll be able to see photos and read descriptions of all the items available in our auction on this site. (Read more about this on page 3.)

Why not invite your friends to join you and fill a table of 10? It's a winning combination – great friends, great food, great cause!





Developing Stars

Keeping the Dream Alive

“I’m gonna be a star in the NBA!”

That’s the dream of many school-age boys and young men. How do you keep the “star” dream alive while encouraging them to work in smaller steps toward more realistic goals? Goals such as: good grades; part-time work; staying out of trouble; choosing friends wisely; and learning life skills?

Intervention Services of Orange County does an outstanding job of keeping youth recently in foster care focused on realistic goals. Here’s a success story of a young man firmly on the right track – thanks to the care, encouragement, assistance and small steps he was taught and motivated to take.

MJ, now 19 years old, was in a group foster home for most of his life. Basketball has always been his passion. In high school, MJ played basketball and, with guidance and support, he studied hard to achieve a 3.0 grade point average. A part-time job took up any free time.

Following high school MJ enrolled in community college where he continued to play basketball. He was scouted by Boston University and invited to participate in their summer basketball training camp. Because of his talent and his academic achievement, MJ has been accepted into Boston University with a basketball scholarship and will be moving to Boston this summer to begin the fall 2010 semester.

Will MJ “be a star in the NBA?” That

would be nice but he’s on the path to many more “stardoms” thanks to Intervention Services teaching him how to keep the dream alive while working on basic life skills.

By supporting Intervention Services we’re helping to develop a lot more “stars.”

Wings of Hope was able to assist 40 youth served by Intervention Services through the funds raised at our 2009 event. These young adults “age out of the system” when they turn 18 years old and are working hard to continue their education while working and caring for themselves.

The funds received from Wings provided tutoring, college application fees, books, supplies for technical college, and tuition that was not covered through state programs.

In addition, a computer was purchased for the residents of The Village in Orlando. The Village is transitional housing, operated by Intervention Services. It provides young adults recently involved in the foster care system the opportunity to enhance their independent living skills before moving and living on their own. It’s safe and affordable housing that includes essential life skills training and access to many community services geared to helping the youth achieve emotional well-being and self-reliance.



Thanks for Reaching Out

Special Helpers in 2009

Last year the **Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority** celebrated the opening of the 414 extension. Part of the celebration was a 5k Walk/Run, and OOCEA selected Wings of Hope as the beneficiary of the race. And you can be sure we had a celebration of our own when they presented us a check for nearly \$15,000! Just think of the number of children that were helped through that very generous gift. We’re most grateful to OOCEA, title

sponsor Johnson Brothers and the many sponsors who made the race possible.

Pat Longo, a dear friend of Wings and Sales Vice President for **Jewels by Park Lane**, holds ongoing fundraisers for Wings of Hope. Pat donates 30% of the net sales of each fundraiser directly to Wings of Hope. And she even donates 30% of sales from Wings supporters received online at www.myparklane.com/plongo!

Shop and Have Fun Early with the 2010 Online Auction!

Did you participate in our first online auction last year? If you did, we know you'll do it again; if you didn't, you won't want to miss this year! You'll get caught up in the fun and flurry of bidding and check often to see how your bids are holding up.

So, other than the fact it's FUN, why should you participate in the online auction?

You can see pictures and read descriptions of all auction items. Some will be available for bid in the online auction only, some at the event only, and some items begin in the online auction and, after it closes, move to the event.

Auction items are categorized! You can easily find the kinds of items that interest you most. Getaways . . . Golf . . . Electronics . . . Dining . . . simply click on the category and you will see all bid items available in that category!

It's easy to bid! Simply register on the auction website and start bidding! You have lots of choices:

- **Buy It Now** guarantees you get the item if you pay the established price. Many popular items never make it to the live event!
- **Proxy or Auto Bidding** automatically enters a new bid for you at the lowest

possible increment needed (up to the maximum you determine) every time someone else outbids you.

- **Manually** enter a bid and you will receive a bid alert any time you've been outbid.

Your family and friends who live outside the Central Florida area or who are unable to attend our event can participate, too! Because it's an online auction, virtually anyone in the U.S. can participate. And they can opt for "absentee bidding" on their favorite items, and a Wings of Hope volunteer will bid for them at the event.

The online auction will take place September 8 – 28! And the site will be available for "viewing only" in early August. Be sure we have your e-mail address so we can send you updates. Contact Kathy at Kathy@wingsofhope.net and remember to include your name and home or business address.

You'll be able to access the online auction site through our website at www.wingsofhope.net or directly at www.biddingforgood.com/wingsofhopefoundation.

Happy bidding!



Online Auction Dates:
September 8-September 28

The children have many needs throughout the year. Why not consider establishing a monthly donation to Wings of Hope to provide ongoing support for the kids! Please call Kathy at 407-312-0884 or email Kathy@wingsofhope.net to find out how!

You Can Help the Children Now!

As you know, Wings of Hope is dedicated to providing financial help for children and young adults in Central Florida. Although our primary fundraising occurs in the fall at our annual dinner and auction, the children have ongoing needs throughout the year.

Right now, there is a great need for school supplies, clothing and shoes for the upcoming school year.

Think about how excited your kids are when you take them shopping for back-to-school clothes and supplies. They just take for granted that Mom and Dad will see to it that they have everything they need for the first day of school. Now take a minute to

think about the abused, neglected and abandoned kids who don't have a Mom or Dad to take them school shopping . . . that's where we can help!

We must start now to provide the necessities to enable a student to feel confident and prepared to begin a new school year. To participate all you have to do is:

1. Be sure your donation is made by **July 17** so all the shopping can be completed in time for school
2. Call Kathy at 407-312-0884 with your credit card number or complete the card enclosed in this newsletter and mail in the envelope provided.



Help a child get ready for school



Remember a friend and help a child with a Remembrance Card

Did You Know?

There are a variety of ways you can help us meet the needs of the children throughout the year. Here are just some examples:

Workplace Giving

Whether your company participates in the United Way Campaign or has a unique Workplace Giving program, Wings of Hope qualifies to be your designated charity of choice.

Remembrance Cards

Your donation in memory or honor of family member or friend is a wonderful tribute to someone's memory or in celebration of a birthday or anniversary.

The recipient of a Wings Remembrance Card will be pleased that a child was helped in their name.

To order cards or for more information, contact us through our website at www.wingsofhope.net or call 407-312-0884.

Matching Gifts

Many companies offer a Matching Gift program so you may want to find out what your company policies are.

Every time you personally make a donation to Wings, your company may match that donation anywhere from 25% to 100%.

It's a wonderful way to make your donation grow and increase the number of children you help!



Thank you, Masco!

Wings of Hope was selected as the Masco Charity of the Month in August of 2009. Employees took part in raffles, bake sale and candy sales throughout the month for many exciting items. A total of \$4201 was raised by employee participation and that was doubled by a 100% match from Masco Contractor Services totaling \$8402 to Wings!

Calling all Sponsors!

There are many benefits to sponsorship of our 15th Annual Dinner and Auction! Why not consider the possibility of sponsoring our event as an individual or talking to someone at your company?

The addition of an online auction offers valuable exposure to sponsors and donors by reaching a national audience. We'll send numerous email communications and use other promotional vehicles to encourage participation and support in spreading the word about our auction.

It's a great way to advertise your business and commitment to the community!

See all sponsor levels and benefits on our website at www.wingsofhope.net.

Thanks to our 2009 Sponsors!

SPONSOR AND WINGS PARTNER -- \$10,000

Masco Contractor Services

PLATINUM SPONSORS -- \$5,000

Bill & Kathie Hohns
Tupperware Brands Corporation

GOLD SPONSORS -- \$3,000

La-Man Corporation
Laschober & Sovich

SILVER SPONSORS -- \$1,500

Bernstein Global Wealth Management
Harriett Lake
LC Marketing
Joe & Alana Quigley
Joe Trepani

BRONZE SPONSORS -- \$1,000

All Media Graphics
Couchman Printing
Daytona Beach West Rotary Club
Enterprise Industrial Park
Joe & Anita Hara
Kelly Canova Photography
Lake Mary Rotary Club
Mayee Leung
Sandi Nelson
The Message Works
Joe & Teresa Trepani
Volusia Rental & Equipment

WingsNet Continues to Impact Youth

The Wings of Hope Foundation created the WingsNet Program in Volusia County in partnership with Children's Home Society to assist young adults who "age out of the system" when they turn 18 and have no family support system of their own.

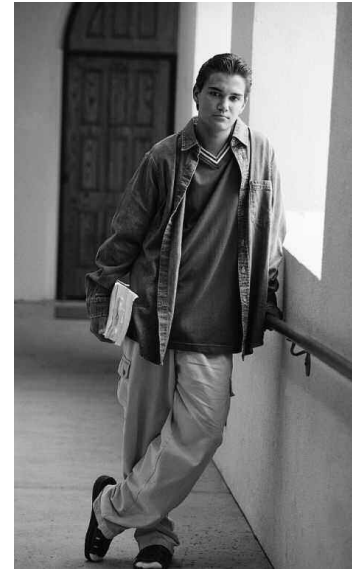
This critical and innovative program allows participants to earn incentives for working, doing well in school and achieving academic goals.

When Christopher was three years old, his mother died. He lived with many different guardians who exposed him to alcohol, drugs and abuse. By the time he was fifteen, he was turned over to dependent care and was placed at Brian's House a Children's Home Society residential home for teenage boys.

After a year of living at Brian's House, Christopher's life changed. He learned to trust the staff and the residents but, more importantly, he learned to believe in

himself. He is working on his GED at Daytona State College and his academic skills have grown. When he passed Daytona State's required admissions test, WingsNet awarded him a \$250 check. When he maintains good grades, receives his GED, and graduates from college, he'll receive additional WingsNet assistance. Christopher's motivation and hard work are a testament to the importance of the WingsNet program – through WingsNet, Christopher has financial incentives to both motivate him and allow him to reach his academic goals. Christopher is putting all his efforts into becoming an independent, responsible adult, and WingsNet can make his journey a little easier.

The program has proven to be a blessing to hard-working participants, and an inspiration to the organizations which have seen WingsNet's wonderful impact. With a little support, many teens and young adults have the chance for beginning a life of promise and hope.



WingsNet Offers a Helping Hand to Teens Aging Out

Finding Hope and Healing

"My past has been filled with hardship, pain and the reality of loneliness. But even through all the miles of dark tunnels I've had to force myself to continue to walk through, without a gleam of light within sight, all I ask is a chance to be given the trust of a family once again."

Keith expresses himself so well for being a young teen struggling to survive. He wrote these words to his counselors and mentors at the Boys Town Emergency Shelter and Assessment Center in Oviedo.

The shelter is a temporary home for many teens who have been rescued from abusive families, have been runaways, or perhaps have been living on the streets.

Keith's request is to stay with his Boys Town family by moving from the shelter to one of the long-term residential homes. And his words are a testament to the Boys Town organization and staff in providing

treatment to the young people in their care. Treatment — not just food and shelter. Treatment that provides healing, guidance, direction, and hope for becoming whole, self-sufficient, confident adults.

Because of continuous budget cuts, state agencies are placing more youth in traditional foster homes instead of treatment homes such as Boys Town. This may be good for the budget but it's not necessarily in the best interest of the child.

There are far too many children like Keith in need of healing and hope. For the past two years, Wings has "sponsored" a child who is not from the foster care system but who needed the programs Boys Town provides. We believe in the mission and goals of Boys Town and are proud to support their programs.



We continue to pray for all children to have hope for the future



Special Needs in 2009

Throughout the year we become aware of some special needs for children in our community and we were pleased to be able to provide for the following in 2009:

- Wings learned about a great need for eight box springs and mattresses for **Friends of Children & Families** in Orlando for one of their residential homes. Our donation of \$2220 fulfilled that need.
- Wings of Hope sponsored several youths

at the **Central Florida Dream Center** summer camp program last year with a donation of \$1225 because we believe the Central Florida Dream Center makes a definite impact on the youth and families participating in their programs.

- Wings of Hope was proud to sponsor a 5k hosted by Walk on Water last summer. All proceeds went to support the needs of **SafeHouse of Seminole**.

Who We Are, What We Do

What Is Wings of Hope?

The Wings of Hope foundation was created by Kathy and Tony Gautsch in 1996 in memory of Kathy's only birth child, Brian Christopher Lanier.

Brian died from injuries he received in a car crash when he was 19 years old. Throughout his short life, Brian showed compassion for others, especially children who, he said, "need a chance at a better life."

That's what Wings of Hope is about — continuing Brian's spirit of reaching out to needy children with compassion, caring about them, and taking action to make things better.

What makes Wings of Hope unique?

1. All operating expenses are covered by special donations so 100% of all monies raised goes to help the children.
2. No compensation is given to officers or board members because all work is done through the generosity of family and friends.
3. We specify exactly how our donations are to be used and follow up to see the outcome.
4. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization so all donations and contributions are tax-deductible
5. Public or government funding doesn't

provide all the funds needed to care for the children in residential or transitional care, so our goal is to raise funds to help close that gap.

How can you help?

In addition to making a tax-deductible donation, there are additional ways to help:

- Attend our annual dinner and auction — and bring a friend.
- Invite your company to become a corporate sponsor of our annual event.
- Provide an item or service for our auction.
- Check to see if your company has a Matching Gift Program
- Find out if you can designate Wings of Hope as a recipient of your Workplace Giving Program.
- Make a donation in memory of a relative or friend.
- Keep us in your prayers.

Want more information?

Contact Kathy and Tony Gautsch at:

Wings of Hope Foundation

8219 Narrow Leaf Point

Sanford, Florida 32771

Phone: 407-312-0884

Fax: 407-321-8039

email: kathy@wingsofhope.net

www.wingsofhope.net

*Individually
we do make a
difference...*

*Together we
change lives.*

