
T.H.A.N.K.S. Inc.

Tailgaters Helping Aid Needy Kids' Spirits

President: Tim Russeau Vice President: Brian Trombley Treasurer: Steve Bolster Secretary: Heidi Bolster
Trustee: Harold Russeau Trustee: Jon Madden Trustee: Melanie Davis

Dinner/Dance.

It's almost here. We hope that you have already gotten your tickets, or have contacted our office to hold tickets for you at the door. This year our event is on Saturday, November 8th. As always there is quite a menu planned. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. with access to the soup and salad bar. As in the past years, the soup will be homemade and guaranteed to warm you up on a chilly November night! Dinner will be served from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The menu includes prime rib, chicken, potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll, and a wide variety of desserts. Pop and water are free throughout the night. Upon arrival you will receive 2 free beer tickets, but additional beverages can be purchased for a \$1.00 donation. Beginning at 8:00 our 50's and 60's themed music will begin.

The cost for the evening is \$35.00 per person (\$65.00 per couple). Those of you ages 60 and over can come and enjoy the night for \$25.00 per person. We certainly hope that all of you can make it out and spend the evening with us.

This is our last fundraiser of the year and we depend greatly on its success to help with year-end expenses. Please help us sell this event out by inviting your family, friends or neighbors to join you this year.

As in previous years, we will be accepting dessert donations. Everybody has done such a GREAT job with all the baking in the past. We always have such a wonderful array of desserts to choose from! We thank you in advance for your donations!

Winterfest Planning Underway.

The dates for this year's Winterfest will be Friday, February 13th – Sunday, February 15th. As in the past years, we have a variety of different events planned. While events are subject to change, here are just a few of the activities that will be included in this year's event:

- Softball Tournament
- Friday Night Steak Dinner
- Saturday Night Spaghetti Dinner
- Sunday Morning Breakfast
- Live Music & entertainment
- Refreshments
- Raffles
- 50/50
- Texas Hold'em tournament
- Team Fundraising Competition

We have a number of other projects and events that we are working on for this year's event. For example, we are looking at some different activities for kids to do throughout the weekend. We're thinking about giving the carnival style games a break this year, and looking at doing some fun things such as a puppet show, arts and crafts, and we're also trying to set up an appearance by a clown! Look for future mailings that will include dates and times for each of the events listed above. Please let us know what you think, if there is an event you would like to see us have that isn't listed or if you have any suggestions, please contact our office. We're always looking for new ideas.



Volunteers needed.

With THANKS becoming bigger and bigger, now more than ever we need volunteers to help us out. We certainly appreciate everybody who has volunteered their time in any capacity in the past. Every little bit helps. Please consider helping out in any of the following ways:

The Winterfest...it takes a small army to assure that things run smoothly for this event. There are all kinds of "pre" Winterfest things that need to be taken care of. The biggest being setting the sides on the pavilion so that everybody stays warm during the event. We also have to hang the heaters, clean the kitchen, set up and clean the picnic tables, and a variety of other tasks before the actual set-up of the event can start to take place. Prior to the doors opening on the date of our event we have to load up and bring everything to the pavilion. This includes the large number of raffle items that people donate, and all the supplies needed to make it through the weekend. Of course during the Winterfest we are always looking for people to work at any of the "stands" that we have set up. We also accept donations of baked goods to be served with our meals if you're interested. After the event we have the tedious task of "clean up". If you can help out in any of these areas please let us know.

The Rummage sale requires DONATIONS. We couldn't put on this event without all of you there to donate your items for us to sell. Along with your donations of items, we are always needing help setting up. The rummage sale also includes a bake sale...so once again, your baked goods are always appreciated.

The Golf Outing is always held the 2nd Saturday in June. This event requires volunteers to run all our betting holes, as well as people to set-up and clean-up after the steak dinner.

The Dinner/Dance requires setting up tables and decorating prior to the event. There is also all kinds of cooking before the event that takes place. If baking is your

thing...there is always the option of donating a dessert for this event. There is also clean-up after the event as well.

Last but not least...help us to advertise! One of our biggest expenses we incur each year is advertising. It is amazing how many people come to one of our events for the first time and will say that they never heard of our organization. Help us to distribute flyers to the community by posting them at your work, businesses you frequently visit, at church etc. Tell your friends and coworkers about upcoming events and encourage them to attend one of our events. Tell your employers about us and see if they are interested in donating money, raffle items or perhaps they would be interested in a sponsorship opportunity. Some businesses offer grants to groups like ours, please let us know if we can apply for funding through your company. We also need people who aren't afraid to go out into the community and solicit donations. If any of these things sound like something you would like to do, please contact our office.

Stuffed Animal Drive.

We wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have so generously donated your stuffed animals to our organization throughout the past couple of years. Your response this past year has been absolutely amazing!!! We are amazed at what a success our stuffed animal drive has become. The crowd at the Christmas in Ida parade can't get enough! If you would still like to donate your animals, don't worry; we'll continue to accept donations up through the parade (which is the first weekend in December), and throughout the year. Thanks again to everyone who donated!!!



Do It Anyway.

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honest and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest person with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest person with the smallest mind. Think big anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack if you help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you might get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you've got anyway.

By: Dr. Kent M. Keith

Donations Needed.

Since T.H.A.N.K.S. Inc. is a non-profit organization we depend on the generosity of both personal and corporate donations to keep our organization afloat. Without your help we wouldn't be able to put on all the events that make it possible for us to help so many families.

Our organization is completely funded by the public. All of the money we raise each and every year comes from your generous donations and from the money we raise at our fundraisers.

In the past several years since T.H.A.N.K.S. was created, our name has become more recognizable throughout the community. There are a number of families, all very deserving, that are requesting our help.

Quite honestly, we have been a little overwhelmed with the response. We want to be able to help all families in one way or another. Your donations make it possible for us to provide support to these families.

Please keep in mind that this is the season of giving. Please consider giving a donation. Keep in mind that since T.H.A.N.K.S. is a 501(c)(3) organization, your donation is tax deductible.

Christmas Drive

T.H.A.N.K.S. will be sponsoring a drive to help our families with the holidays. If you would be interested in helping us out with this please let us know. If you work for a company that sponsors a family, please consider taking on one of our families for the holidays. We will be putting together a wish list from each of our families and they should be available in the near future. If you're unable to go out and shop from one of our wish lists, please consider sending a monetary donation, or even a gift card. We currently have up to 5 families that will be needing our help during the holidays. Please help us make this holiday season a little more joyous for our families. For more information please contact our office.

Candy Donations

Each year T.H.A.N.K.S. enters its float not only in the Christmas in Ida parade, but also the Dundee parade and Newport parade. Between the three parades, we go through over 100 pounds of candy!! Because of this, we are asking for your help. Anybody donating a minimum of \$25 in candy or money, will be listed as a sponsor on this year's float. This is a great way to get your work or business involved. Please contact our office if you're interested in donating.



Christmas in Ida

T.H.A.N.K.S. will once again be participating in the Christmas in Ida parade this year. This will be our 7th year entering the parade, and we are proud to say that each year we have won a prize in the float contest! We have big plans for our float this year, and we hope that you will all come out and watch this amazing scene of floats covered in Christmas lights go through downtown Ida. This year's event will be Saturday December 6th. It is always held the first weekend of December. If you have not had the opportunity to come out to the parade, we encourage you to make plans this year. There are always a lot of vendors lining the streets of Ida selling arts & crafts, and plenty of good food. The Ida Civic Club does a great job each year with this event. Come on out and enjoy the fun, there is always a nice fireworks show and what child doesn't want to see "SANTA"!!!! As previously mentioned we will be accepting stuffed animal and candy donations to hand out during our parade.

Comedy Night

Thank you to everybody who came out to support us during our Comedy Night at Ambassador Hall on September 13th. We had a GREAT time...and the entertainment was unbelievably funny. Thank you to Ambassador hall for the food and a fun evening.

Special Thanks & Well Wishes.

-Well wishes go out to the *Eberhart family*. We are praying for continued good health for Ethan.

-Well wishes go out to the *Epaminonda family*. As you get ready to face an emotional and heart-breaking anniversary, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

-Well wishes go out to the *Smithers family*, as they too will soon face an emotional anniversary. We continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

-Well wishes go out to the *Fricke Family and Martin Family*. As both of you celebrate your first Christmas since finishing treatments for A.L.L., we hope that you will

cherish this time with your family.

-Well wishes go out to the *Bowe Family*. As you come up to the 1st Anniversary of Brandi's death, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

-Well wishes go out to the *Foland Family*. May all of you have a very happy holiday season full of lots of memories and laughter.

-Well wishes go out to the *Fairchild Family*. We pray that Cody will continue to thrive, and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

-Well wishes go out to our own *Angie Russeau* as she continues to recover from a car accident. We wish you a speedy recovery!

As always there are numerous people we need to thank. Thank you to *Ed Clock*, who once again has let T.H.A.N.K.S. use his barn to house our float while our volunteers work on getting it ready for the parade. Thank you to the *F.O.P.* for the use of their hall for our Dinner/Dance. A very special thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up to help take over office duties...your help is tremendously appreciated. And to the many, many volunteers who continue to keep T.H.A.N.K.S. going...Thank you!

My View.

I wanted to take a minute to once again thank all of our volunteers for the time, effort and dedication they have shown to our organization. I am constantly amazed at how things seem to work out. It doesn't matter what the situation or crisis is...it just seems to work out. I have learned so much throughout the years of helping run this organization.

I have learned that people are more generous than we usually give them credit for. Even if they don't have the funds to give to our organization, they donate so much of their time...and THAT is just as important.

I have learned that not everybody in this world is honest. Some people are just looking for handouts. I need to thank these people...because they have made us a more

cautious and responsible organization.

I have learned that I can teach my kids a huge lesson in life by getting them involved in our organization. By letting them interact with our sponsor children, and "help" at the events...they are learning that helping others is just as important as helping themselves. They also learn how rewarding it is to help others.

I have learned that chance brings people together, but ambition and friendship keeps us together. We all want to help other people...and working together to reach this goal is important to all of us.

I have learned that people come into your life at just the right time. Sometimes they stay forever...other times they are there to fulfill a purpose, then they move on. It doesn't make them any less important in my life.

Most importantly, I have learned that just when you think you can't go on...that things are hopeless...your friends and family will step in and carry you. They are the ones who will see you through and help you mend. They are the ones who will listen to you...REALLY listen to you, and do whatever they can to help you.

Over the years, we have made so many new friends through this organization. From the families we've helped, to the volunteers who keep us running. Don't ever doubt your importance in our organization. YOU make a difference! Thank you!

Written by: Heidi Bolster

How to sign-up to receive our newsletter.

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter please contact our office. We send out Newsletters four times per year. You can either receive your copy through the mail, or we can send it to you electronically. The newsletter is a great way to keep up to date on what we're doing, and

how you can help us.

How to contact us.

There are several ways to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns. Our office phone number is (734) 269-6071. Our E-mail address is thanks_incorp@hotmail.com. Our web page address is www.thanksinc.com. Our mailing address is 1207 W. Albain Monroe, MI 48161-9520. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

As our 2008 efforts come to an end, we'd like to thank EVERYONE who helped out this past year. It takes a lot of dedicated people who give up a lot of their personal time (much of the time on weekends) to make this organization survive. On behalf of the board of directors, we'd like to thank everyone once again for their continued support. We hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

