

WINTERFEST EDITION

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

Tailgaters Helping Aid Needy Kids' Spirits

PRES President: Tim Rousseau **Vice President:** Brian Trombley **Treasurer:** Steve Bolster **Secretary:** Heidi Bolster
Trustee: Harold Rousseau **Trustee:** Melanie Davis **Trustee:** Tom Trombley

Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a great holiday season and we want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! It's been quite some time since we sent a newsletter out...as noted by the number of people who have contacted us wondering why they haven't received one lately. Thank you to everyone who have contacted us. We're glad you enjoy reading the newsletter and we'll do our best to get them out a little more often.

Things have been extremely busy for us lately. Once again, we finished up a very busy parade season in the month of December. The float looked great again and everyone did a fantastic job getting it ready. We completed a successful Christmas drive to help a couple of our sponsor families this year. All the families were surprised by everyone's generosity. We were so happy to bring a little happiness to them.

We teamed up with the Wayside Tavern to conduct a "Ace of Hearts" raffle that we hope will bring us some much needed funds. We selected a sponsor family for 2011 who we are very motivated to help. As the cold sets in, our volunteers have begun preparations for our biggest and most important event of the year...The 2011 Winterfest!

So, without further delay, here it is, our Winterfest Edition Newsletter!

11th Annual Winter Fest is here!

Here it is...our 11th Annual Winterfest!!! Who would of thought we'd still be doing this when we started this thing back in 2000? We never imagined that this event would become our signature event or that we'd even still be around as a organization. It truly is a credit to the dedication of so many people who volunteer long hours to ensure our success. One thing is for certain, our volunteers are hoping for the day when we don't have to spend long days in the cold to make a buck. Until that day comes, bring on the snow!!!!

In this newsletter you will find information on events happening all weekend long and contact information if you'd like to help out. We have added a few more things for kids to do this year including a magic show by Eli Martin - Eli is a National Award winning magician and did we mention he is only in the seventh grade! We'll also have the Toledo Mudhens mascots Muddy & Mudonna coming out to take pictures with the kids again this year. We are also excited to have Colin Bartley perform on Friday. Colin is 11-yrs old and won this year's Pickers & Shredders contest at the Monroe County Fair. We are so excited! Also new this year, we'll have a paint ball game for kids and adults alike. It will be a weekend packed full of exciting things to do!

Our Winterfest has a little something for everyone. Please help us make this year's event a huge success! Tell your friends, tell your family, tell your co-workers...just tell everyone please! We hope to see you there!!

Friday, February 18th

4:00 p.m. – Doors Open
4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. – Concessions
4:00 p.m. – midnight – Raffles & 50/50
5:00 p.m. – midnight – Gambling
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Steak Dinner (Cook your own steak, baked potato, salad, and roll.) \$ 12.00
5:00 – 6:00 – Live music featuring Colin Bartley - Winner of 2010 Pickers & Shredders
6:00 – 8:00 - Live Bluegrass Music
8:00 – midnight – Live music featuring "Nightwing"

Saturday, February 19th

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Snowball Tournament.
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. – Concessions
8:00 p.m. – Midnight – Raffles & 50/50
Noon – 12:45 p.m. – Magician- Eli Martin
1:00 - 3:00 pm - Toledo Mudhens Mascot "Muddy & Mudonna".
1:00 - 4:00 pm - Clown, face painting, games, & other kid activities (library community rm)
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm – TV's Karaoke & DJ
3:30 p.m – 11:00 p.m. – Texas Hold'em Tournament (preregister)
4:00 – Midnight - Gambling
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Spaghetti Dinner (donation - \$ 5.00 minimum)
5:00 - 8:00 - Live music featuring "Country & Classics"
8:00 – Midnight – Live Music featuring "The Lazy River Band"

Sunday, February 20th

8:00 a.m. – ? – Snowball Tournament
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Concessions & Raffles
9:00 a.m. – Noon – All-you-can-eat breakfast (St. Joseph Hall) \$6.00
Noon – 4:00 p.m. – TV's Karaoke & DJ
? time – Raffles will be drawn immediately following the final softball game and trophy presentation.

***times & events are subject to change**

Committee's:

The following is a list of committee's we've set up to help with the planning of this huge event. If you'd like to volunteer or contribute in some way to one of our many activities, please contact the person in charge of that committee, or you can contact our office.

Concession Stand/Dinners:

This stand always requires a small army of people to keep up with everyone's appetite. We can use some help in the kitchen, as well as help with the dinners. Typically, we try to keep our volunteers rotating shifts every 2-3 hours. We'll be serving a wide variety of food (i.e. hot sandwiches, homemade soups, snacks, hot coffee and cappuccino). The concession stand is open Friday from 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m., and Sunday 8:00 a.m. until the completion of the Softball Tournament. Our staffing needs are heaviest during our dinners on Friday and Saturday night. If you would like to help out between 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. please let us know. If you like to do dishes...I think we have a great spot for you!!! If you are unable to donate your time please consider donating a dessert for the steak dinner on Friday night or for the spaghetti dinner on Saturday night. Contact:

Harold Russeau 734-777-2510



Beer Stand:

Once again this year, our beer stand will feature a wide variety of drinks.

Besides the usual draft and can beers - mixed drinks are also available. Due to insurance regulations, no one under 21 will be allowed in the beer tent after 9:00 p.m. without a parent. If you're interested in helping us out, contact:

Tommy Manwaring 734-625-5545



Gambling:

Once again our gambling stand will feature the following activities...black jack, seven-card poker, the dice game and the big wheel. If you know how to deal, we could use your help! Our gambling area is open Friday from 5:00 p.m. – Midnight, and Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to Midnight. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact:

Brian Trombley 734-646-0004



Texas Hold'em Tournament:

Our Texas Hold'em tournament is back for the fourth year (being held Saturday at 3:30). With limited seats available, you are highly encouraged to call and reserve your spot. The cost is \$40.00 and includes your first \$1,000.00 in chips, sandwiches and pop. (Other items are available for a nominal fee or donation.) 90% of entry fee will be distributed among the top 10 players. We are looking for players and volunteers to staff this event. Contact our office:

Office 734-269-6071

Kids Activities:

We have quite a lineup of activities for children on Saturday. At 12:00 - 12:45 we will have a magic show featuring Eli Martin. Eli is National Award Winning Magician and he is only in the 7th grade! We are very fortunate to have him perform for our event. From 1:00 - 3:00 the Mudhens mascot "Muddy & Mudonna" will be taking pictures with the kids. And from 1:00 - 4:00 we will have arts & crafts, face painting, clowns and much more. All events will take place in the Library Community Room from Noon – 4:00 on Saturday. There will also be light snacks. If you would like to donate some time (or some items for arts and crafts) please let us know. If interested please contact:

Kari Goins 734-777-5471



Softball Tournament:

The success of this entire event depends greatly on the success of the softball tournament. For the fifth year in a row we have filled the tournament up in no time at all! We still have teams calling trying to get in! Thank you SO much for all your support!

As always we can use some help with this event. We are in need of individuals who have good softball knowledge, love standing in the cold and can assist us with umpiring. You don't have to be a licensed umpire to help. Most of the teams who

participate, have been great and we all have a blast watching these people play in some horrendous weather conditions. If anyone is interested in helping out, we'd love to have you! Contact:

Tim Russeau 859-621-5040



Set Up/Tear Down:

Although the majority of the set up is already done prior to the week of the event, we still could use some help getting those last minute things ready to go. Thursday and Friday are very hectic. We could use help running errands, making signs, and anything else that seems to catch us off guard. As always, tear down on Monday is especially difficult. With a good size crew however, we can usually get everything tore down in a day. If you can help, contact our office, or call:

Brian Trombley 734-646-0004



Love Music?

Come spend the evening listening and dancing to some great music this year. We are always blessed to have great bands and this year is no different.

This year we are pleased to have Colin Bartley open up the show for us at 5:00 on Friday. Colin is 11-years old and recently won the 13 and under division at the Monroe County Fairs "Pickers & Shredders" competition. Starting at 6:00 we have some great local bluegrass music. What a great way to start a weekend...steak dinner and bluegrass music!! Following the bluegrass, be prepared for a great show from "Nightwing". On Saturday and Sunday during the day you can enjoy some great music from TV'S Karaoke & DJ. On Saturday night - be prepared for some great country music with "County & Classics". Then get ready to dance all night with the "Lazy River Band". Come out and support these great groups!

Ace of Hearts Raffle:

Like many other non-profit organizations, we have seen a recent decline in donations as a direct result of the slow economy. In a effort to help make up for that decline we have decided to conduct a "Ace of Hearts" raffle. Some of you may have heard it called a Jack of Spades raffle, but it is the same game.

The raffle works this way...we placed 54-playing cards (including jokers) into sealed envelopes numbered 1-54. Each week we sell raffle tickets for \$ 1.00 a piece. Every Sunday at 4:00 pm we will draw a winning ticket. The weekly winner will automatically win \$ 50.00 for having their ticket selected. On each ticket purchased, you will select the numbered envelope you wish to open. If that envelope contains the "Ace of Hearts" you win 70% of the jackpot. THANKS will receive the remaining 30%. If the winning card isn't selected, the jackpot rolls over and continues to build each week until the winning card is

selected. If you don't choose the Ace of Hearts, you can still win additional money by selecting one of the "money cards". Money cards consist of any deuce, jack, queen, king, ace (except ace of hearts) or any joker. The amount the money card is worth depends on the size of the jackpot. The weekly winner payout also increases as the jackpot grows.

We need to thank the Wayside Tavern (formerly RPM's) for allowing us to conduct this raffle at their location. Tickets are on sale 7-days a week at the Wayside Tavern from 12:00 - 8:00. Additional hours are added if needed. The Wayside Tavern is located at 2895 Lewis Ave. Ida, MI 48140. They are located next to Monroe Bank and Trust. Come on in and support THANKS each week. While you're there, enjoy some great food and a cold beverage.

If anyone is interested in helping to sell tickets, please let us know - we'll be happy to put you to work. As of January 30th, the jackpot was close to \$ 4,000.00 and growing! You can view the list of rules, the payout schedule and all the winners at our website. www.thanksinc.com



Christmas in Ida Parade.

Our float was AMAZING once again this year! Our volunteers worked so hard to complete the float before the parade and we owe a huge thanks to Harold, Rob, Tyler, Tommy, Ed, Steve, Brian, Anna, Mike, Sue, Patti, Katie, Curtis,

Christopher, John, Susie, Candy, Jon, Jeff, Tom and the many others who donated their time to make our float light up the night sky!

In addition to the Ida parade, THANKS also participated in the Dundee and the Newport Christmas Parades. We had a great time at all of the parades and we need to thank all the volunteers who braved the frigid temperatures to pass out candy and stuffed animals. Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who donated candy this year. Special thanks to Ed Clock for allowing us to once again use his barn.



Stuffed Animals:

As many of you know, THANKS members pass out stuffed animals along the parade route at the Ida Lights Parade. It has become quite a hit with the kids!

Please feel free to drop off donations of stuffed animals to us during the Winterfest. These are always such a huge success at our events that as long as we can get people to donate, we're going to keep giving them out. Thank you to everybody who has donated in the past.



2011 Sponsor Child Chosen:

Cody Wood has been chosen as our 2011 sponsor child. Cody is 2-years old and has been diagnosed with Stage IV neuroblastoma. Neuroblastoma is a very rare cancer. It is only diagnosed in 650-700 new cases of childhood cancer each year. Cody started having what doctors thought were frequent ear infections when we was a year old. After repeated visits to the family doctor, Urgent Care and even a specialist; Cody's symptoms started getting worse.

Cody was finally taken to the ER at U of M where he was given a wide variety of tests. The final diagnosis was not good. Neuroblastoma was found throughout his bone marrow. They found a large tumor in his abdomen, a tumor up his spinal column, a tumor behind his right eye (which made his eye cross inward). In addition, they also found neuroblastoma in Cody's skull.

Cody was immediately put on a very aggressive chemotherapy. The first chemo treatment was very difficult on Cody as he developed high fevers and terrible mouth sores among other things. Chemo can have some severe side effects, some that are not reversible. Cody has continued his chemo treatments as well as radiation treatments. He has responded well to the aggressive treatment. Cody recently received a bone marrow transplant in December and is doing well. In January Cody went through a intensive radiation treatment where he received radiation for 12 treatments over a 2-week period.

Cody is back home and recovering while his parents (Mike and Shannon) decide which treatment path to take next. There is a new "Antibody Therapy" that

is showing great results. This treatment can increase survival rate by 20%. Here is how it works: A person's immune system makes antibodies to attack germs such as bacteria or viruses, but it will not attack neuroblastoma because the tumor is part of our own bodies. An antibody that attaches to neuroblastoma can be made in a laboratory and then given intravenously to a patient. This antibody will circulate in the bloodstream until it finds and attaches to a neuroblastoma cell. And then the patient's own immune system will attack and kill that neuroblastoma cell. This is amazing science! However, this new treatment doesn't come without side effects. The biggest side effect being pain. Cody would have to be hooked up to a pain pump every time he receives a treatment. No parent wants to see their child in pain, so we can empathize with the decision his family must make. If they choose this therapy, Cody will begin treatment February 6th.

We are very excited to be helping this very deserving family. Mike and Shannon live in Newport and have 3-children, Hayden, Cody, & Megan. The family is expecting their 4th child June 19th. We are very excited for them and want to help them get back on their feet.



Our Inspiration



Jamie Davis

It's hard to believe that Jamie would be 15-years old today. How could a little girl bring together so many people to do so much good? There are people who don't do in a lifetime what she has done in spirit. You are our guarding angel.

Thank you Jamie, for giving us the drive, courage, and dedication to help so many families and children. You are never far from our thoughts. We look at your picture at every event, and know that you've created something so large, so meaningful and so profound in our lives. You have made such a big difference in the lives of more people than you'll ever know. From the volunteers who run this organization, to the families and children we've helped in the past, and will help in the future. Thank you.

Make Everyday Count!

Appreciate every moment and take from those moments everything that you possibly can for you may never be able to experience it again. Talk to people that you have never talked to before, and actually listen. Let yourself fall in love, break free, and set your sights high. Hold your head up because you have every right to. Tell yourself you are a great individual and believe in yourself, if you don't believe in yourself, it will be hard

for others to believe in you. You can make of your life anything you wish.

Create your own life and then go out and live it with absolutely no regrets. Most importantly, if you love someone tell him or her, for you never know what tomorrow may have in store. And learn a lesson in life each day you live.

Today is the tomorrow you were worried about yesterday. Was it worth it?

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 and shipping address is 1207 W. Albain, Monroe MI 48161. Please feel free to contact us any time.

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



"This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good."
Author unknown.