
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

8th Annual Golf Outing

T.H.A.N.K.S. Inc. will hold it's 8th annual golf outing on Saturday, June 14th at Green Meadows Golf Course located on Strausburg Rd. The cost is \$65.00 per player, or \$260.00 for a four-man team. The cost includes 18 holes of golf, cart, hot dogs and chips at the turn, and a steak dinner. Anybody interested in golfing, please contact Jon Madden at (734) 216-5685 or our office at (734) 269-6071.

As always, we are looking for people and companies to sponsor a hole at the event. The cost is \$100.00. The fee will include a sign with your business name placed at a tee. For \$25.00 you can pay your respects to a loved one who has passed away. A "In Memory Of" sign will be placed at a tee as your tribute. If your business or company would like to donate a raffle item or door prize please contact our office. We are ALWAYS in need of these two items for the golf outing.

As in previous years we will be having door prizes, raffles, and SKINS. You can also test your luck by participating in our "money" holes.



8th Annual Dinner/Dance

At this point in time, we don't have an "official" date for the Dinner Dance. We had a GREAT turnout last year having the event the first week in November, so we're looking

to have the event in late October, or early November again. We will keep you posted on all the details as they are finalized.

Bowling

On April 4th we had a GREAT time at the Monroe Sports Center during our cosmic bowling event. For \$15.00 you got three games of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop. Thank you to everybody who came out to support our cause. Thanks to you, we were able to raise over \$1000.00!! Thank you to Tammy Trombley for once again organizing this event (and doing a terrific job...as always), and to the Monroe Sports Center and their staff for the great job they continue to provide to us. Thanks again!

Casino Trip

We'd like to thank everyone who came out and spent the day with us as we headed to Greek Town Casino on March 16th. Everyone had a great time. We left Ida around 11:00 on Sunday morning, arriving at the casino around noon. Everybody enjoyed a day full of gambling and sight-seeing. The bus departed Greek Town around 5:00 and everybody arrived safely back in Ida by 6:00. Thanks to Angie Russeau for once again organizing this event for us and to everybody who came out and supported us. Congratulations to those of you who were lucky enough to actually come home with some money!!

Rummage & Bake Sale

We had such a GREAT turnout for our Rummage sale last year that we're doing it again! Last year we held the event in mid-July and made just over \$3000.00!! This year we are holding our Rummage and Bake sale on Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 am

– 6:00 pm. Just like last year, it will be held in the pavilion behind the Ida Fire Department.

Anybody wishing to donate their “treasures” to our event, we will be having drop off days on Thursday, May 15th & Friday, May 16th from 9:00 am – 8:00 pm at the pavilion behind the Ida Fire Department. If you’re not able to make it during these days, or don’t have the means to transport your items to us, please contact our office and we’ll set up an addition time for drop-off, or we’ll attempt to come and get your items.

Besides all the nice little “treasures” we are also asking for donations of baked goods for our bake sale. The items we had last year went fairly quickly, but unfortunately, we had a pretty small collection of baked goods. You’re help would be greatly appreciated! If you’d like to donate a baked good, please drop them off at the pavilion on Friday the 16th during donation hours, or Saturday morning. As always...your donations are greatly appreciated!

Fun Run

On August 10th the Goldwing Riders will be holding their annual charity fun run. Proceeds from the event will once again benefit our organization. This will be the 3rd consecutive year that the G.W.R.R.A. have donated their proceeds to us and we owe them a huge thank you! As always, the event will be held at Waterloo Park in Monroe (Mulhollen Drive and M-50). All types of bikes and cars are welcome at this event.

1st bike leaves at 10:00 a.m.

Last bike leaves at 12:00 noon

Last bike returns at 3:00 p.m.

The cost to participate is \$10.00 per rider or \$16.00 per couple. There will be hot dogs, chips and beverages provided with your registration. For more information please call Doug Lancaster (734)753-9317 or John Drozdowski (734)322-5884. Come out and enjoy a relaxing day while helping our organization out.

Another Successful Winterfest

Like so many families and businesses this year, T.H.A.N.K.S. felt the hardship of the economy. We noticed a decline in our attendance, and that directly affected our sales for the weekend. Despite the lower attendance this year, we still managed to come close to last years total; thanks in part to the record turn out at this years snowball tournament. We are so blessed to have the supporters and volunteers that we do! Thanks again to the community for your continued support.

This year our volunteers did such a great job of getting the pavilion ready to go and looking great! Several improvements were made to the facilities...none bigger then the addition of the concrete floor. It was so nice not having to scramble getting stones spread out and dealing with the water issues we always have to fight prior to the event starting. Thanks to everyone who donated their weekends and evenings in the weeks and months prior to the event to make this happen. All of you are a true blessing to our organization!!!

The event itself went great! The steak dinner on Friday was slower then usual, but we anticipated this since this years festival was during Lent and so many Catholics can’t eat meat on Friday. The crowd we had enjoyed some great entertainment. We enjoyed some great bluegrass music from Flat-land Grass followed by Running with Scissors who finished the night.

As we stated above, the success of this years event was helped in large part to the record number of softball teams we received this year. The response from teams this year was unbelievable! We were full 2-weeks after accepting registrations Jan 1st. We’ve never had this kind of response before! Thanks to Ida Schools for donating the use of one of their ball fields, we were able to accept another 8-teams ending with a total of 31-teams this year. Softball wasn’t the only thing happening on Saturday. The child identification program and kids’ games were a big hit this year. The kitchen and bar were nonstop all day, feeding and “hydrating” all our softball players. The spaghetti dinner was another huge success again this year. While the

Texas Hold'em Tournament attendance was down from last year, everyone had a good time. Our gambling area was busy all night as people tried their chance with Blackjack, seven card, and the big six wheel. Once again, we were blessed to have some great entertainment all day and night long. T.V.'s Karaoke & DJ kept the crowd entertained all day long, while long time favorite The Lazy River Band kept the dance floor packed in the evening. A plaque was presented to the Lazy River Band for donating their time and talent for the 8th consecutive year. THANK YOU GUYS for your support to our organization!!!

Sunday started off with some bad weather. Freezing rain and rain mix hit the county. The freezing rain melted the snow on the ball fields and the fields were left with thick ice with water standing on top of that. This made playing too dangerous for everyone and we were forced to make the difficult decision to cancel the tournament for the first time since 2002. Despite the bad roads, our all-u-can-eat breakfast at St. Joseph's hall went great! Thanks to everybody who helped pull off another successful breakfast. Despite the cancellation of the softball, teams competed in a "corn hole" tournament to decide the winners. Thanks to all the teams who stayed and had fun! The afternoon hosted a euchre tournament and T.V.'s Karaoke & DJ provided the entertainment again. Winners from the tournament were presented with their trophies and prizes and the presentation of the annual "Johnnie Trophy" was awarded. Congratulations to the Tailgaters for their team contribution of \$1000.00 to win this team trophy. Raffles were drawn and a plaque was presented to Tony Vasquez for donating his time and service for the 6th consecutive year to our organization. Thank you for all your support Tony!!!

Special Thanks and Well Wishes

-Well wishes go out to **Megan Fricke & family**. We thank God that Megan has finished her treatments for A.L.L. and pray for continued health for her.

-Well wishes go out to **Jared Foland & family**. We are so pleased that Jared has done so well during the course of treatments that he's been through. We

continue to pray that he'll get stronger with time.

-Well wishes go out to **Noah Martin & family**. We are so pleased that Noah has been responding so well to his treatments. We pray that he will have continued success.

-Well wishes go out to **Cody Fairchild & family**. We are amazed by Cody every time we see him. We continue to pray for good health for Cody.

-Get well wishes go out to **Tim Goins** as he recovers from hip surgery. We missed you at the Winter-fest this year and hope to see you back on your feet.

-Get well wishes also go out to **Bonnie Whittaker** who also had hip surgery following the Winter-fest. We wish you a full and speedy recovery!

-Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Carole Branham** on the loss of her father recently.

There are so many people to thank for their efforts at the Winterfest that we don't know if there is enough room in this newsletter. If we didn't list your name, please know that we truly did appreciate your help. Here goes:

-A special thank you to everyone who helped set this event up, and tear it down. Several people took time off work to assist us and we want to thank the following people: **Harold Russeau, Brian, Steve, & Tom Trombley, Steve Bolster, Jon Madden, Tommy Manwaring, Bob Branham, John & Sue Cosby, Melanie Davis, Bill Bray, Mike & Sue Branham, Randy Trombley, Mert Trombley, Marve Trombley**, and for the many, many more people who came out to help.

-Thank you to **Harold Russeau** and his sidekicks **Bob Branham and Candy Schoenherr** for the many people who helped once again to run the concession stand.

-Thanks to **Randy Kruger** for cutting all the steaks as they were ordered.

-Thank you to **Sue & Mike Branham, Patti Carrick** and their family for running our spaghetti dinner.

-Thanks to **Ken Svinra** for running our gambling area again this year and to all our

dealers and volunteers. Thanks to **Sherry Vaughan, Barb Eddings, and Anna Trombley** for all their help selling the gambling chips and cashing people out.

-Thanks to **Angie Russeau and Carole Branham** for all their long hours at the ticket booth.

-Thank you **Mary & Hoy Hatfield** for all the long hours selling our merchandise this year.

-Thanks to **Tommy Manwaring and Ed Clock** for running our busiest booth...the beer stand.

-Thanks to **Kari Goins** for running the kids games on Saturday.

-Thank you **Jon Madden and Larry Hemery** on running another successful Texas Hold'em event.

- Thanks to all those people who worked out in the cold to help with another successful snowball tournament. **Alice and Craig Deland, Terri and Melvin French, Steve Bolster, Steve Fernandez, Rick Ley, Bob Hayes, Bo Swanbeck** and the rest of our umpires who donated their time. Thanks to **Gary Fricke** for his help out at the school diamond.

-Thank you to the breakfast crew, **Dave and Rosemary Stoner, Marvin and Kate Trombley, Bill and Joyce Whittaker, Brenda and Jim Hall, Del and Marge Serra, Denny and Carol DuVall, members of the Knights of Columbus,** and others we may have forgotten.

-Thanks to **Sharon Thompson** for selling our 50/50 tickets again this year.

-Thanks to **Monroe Bank & Trust, and Kohls** for supplying us with volunteers...we all know it takes a small army to run this event!

-Thanks to the **Ida Volunteer Fire Department** for all of their help and support.

-Thank you to the bands that rocked the house all weekend: **Flat-Land Grass, Lazy River, and Running with Scissors,** and to **Tony Vasquez** from T.V.'s DJ and karaoke for his wonderful D.J. and karaoke skills.

-Thanks to **MDF Awards** for donating the wonderful trophies that we gave out to all of our softball winners.

-Finally, thanks to those people who stayed up ALL NIGHT long to clean up the pavilion and keep everything safe: **Tom, Travis**

and Tanner Trombley, Steve Trombley, and anybody else we may have missed.

-Thank you to **Amy Janssen** for running the euchre tournament.

-Thank you to **Jeff Miller** from We Haul Refuse for the use of the dumpsters.

-Thanks again to everyone who headed up a committee, volunteered time, donated money or raffle items or anybody who just came out to support us...we are very much appreciative.

-Thank you to **Bill Seger** for the use of all the speakers, the t.v. for the guitar hero game.

-Thank you to **Herkimer Radio** for the use of the radios for the softball tournament.

Stuffed Animal Drive

We are still accepting donations of stuffed animals to be given out during the Christmas in Ida parade in December. We ask that animals be in good condition (no rips or tears), and free from any stains. Call our office to arrange a drop off.

Megan Update

"After 26 months, Megan finished chemotherapy on January 3, 2008. She is doing well and continues to see her oncologist once a month for blood work and a physical. We will continue doctor visits on a monthly basis for one year, then for 2 years we'll go every 3 months, then the next 2 years we'll go every 6 months, then after 5 years we will see the oncologist once a year...forever. I don't think the worry of the "what ifs" will ever go away.

Megan is a special little girl who has touched the lives of so many people, she loves to play, laugh, run and is now much more able to keep up with the other kids. She has a big heart and wants to help everyone she sees. Megan will turn 6 this summer and will start first grade in the fall. She is too young to understand Leukemia so it was never a 'big thing' to her, just a 'thing'. Ahhhhh, life's little blessings....."

-Amy Fricke

My View

For those of you who don't know...I recently returned to school (AGAIN). This time, I'm going to obtain my RN Degree. With two degrees already under my

belt...I'm hoping that the third time will be a charm (contrary to popular belief...I really DON'T like school, although I seem to be making a pretty good career out of going.) I'm not sure exactly when I decided that this is what I wanted to do. I can remember back when I first started High School I wanted to be a nurse...then came Chemistry, and I changed my mind pretty quickly. I obtained my an Associates degree in business, and worked in Accounts Payable for 5 years before going back and getting a bachelor of arts degree in Family Life Education. I did an internship at Mott Children's Hospital in the Child and Family Life department, and I think I knew at that point in time that I wanted to work in a hospital setting. After continuing to work in Accounts Payable for a total of 10 years, I finally moved on to a new job in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Mott Children's hospital. I initially still didn't want to be a nurse. I thought the Nurses that work there were amazing, but dealing with life and death situations wasn't exactly what I pictured myself doing. So I continued being an Administrative Assistant in the PICU for 2 years. It wasn't until I actually started interacting with the families, patients and nurses that I realized how rewarding nursing could really be. After much soul searching...I decided that Nursing is where my passion truly lies. I also think that THANKS played a large role in my decision. Through this organization, I've been able to talk to families about their experiences with a critically ill child. I think that I have something special to bring to pediatric nursing. Nursing is more than just taking care of a patient...it is also taking care of the family, and I've been doing that role for the last 8 years with THANKS. I am getting ready to start a new position in the PICU...I am going to be an ICU Tech. This is going to give me more of a "hands on" role on the unit. I will be able to draw blood from art. Lines, record vitals, do dressing changes, among other things. The things I learn are going to help me out tremendously when I start my clinical work in the nursing program.

So...as I start taking more and more classes, you're going to see me having to step back from my THANKS duties. There are only so many hours in the day, and with work,

school, being a mom and a wife...it doesn't leave me too much time for anything else. So...if you're good at working a computer, and would like to help out with some office tasks, give me a call.

-Heidi Bolster

How can you help?

If only I had \$1.00 for each time I've heard this question. There are SO many ways you can help. The most obvious way to help out is to volunteer your time. We have meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. You're always welcome to come out and share your ideas, and get involved.

Another way to help out is by donations. We have so many donation opportunities. We often have dinners that include desserts. Dessert donations are also so helpful and appreciated. We also go through a TON of office supplies. We could always use donations of office supplies such as pens, highlighters, copy paper (white and colored), markers, poster board, etc. Almost every one of our events includes raffle items and/or door prizes. Donations for these are also extremely helpful. And finally, our families go through an insane amount of gas and grocery cards. If you would like to donate some of these, our families would be extremely grateful.

Web Site Changes

Our web site is currently undergoing some changes. Some of you may have noticed recently that an "error" message occurs while trying to log on. We apologize for the inconvenience, but we hope everyone will like the improvements.

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.