

# 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

## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. As in previous years, it will be held at the F.O.P. Hall on Strasburg Rd. Tickets are limited so we suggest getting your tickets in advance to guarantee your seat. Ticket prices this year are \$35.00 per person, or \$65.00 per couple. (Ages 60 and over the cost is \$25.00 per person.) The cost includes your dinner, pop, water, two alcoholic drinks (additional alcoholic drinks can be purchased for a \$1 donation), entertainment, and snacks throughout the night. Dinner consists of Prime Rib and Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables, roll, and a full arrangement of desserts.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with access to a full-service salad bar. Dinner will be served from 6:00 – 8:00, followed by dancing and karaoke from 8:00 – midnight. This year we will be having 50's and 60's music...so come ready to dance! It is guaranteed to be a good time. Please call our office to reserve your tickets today. Remember...tickets are not guaranteed at the door.

If there is anybody interested in donating a dessert for the event please contact our office. We have always had a great response in the past, and as always, it is greatly appreciated.



## **Comedy for a Cure**

T.H.A.N.K.S. will once again be holding a Comedy for a Cure event in conjunction with Ambassador Hall in Monroe. The date is Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a seven course dinner buffet, all cocktails, and entertainment from MC James Craven, featuring: P.J. Butland, and Headlining Kevin Zeoli. Reservations are required. Tickets can be purchased directly through us, through Ambassador Hall, or by going online at [www.emonroe.com](http://www.emonroe.com).



## **Golf Outing Update**

What a beautiful day! Mother Nature was extremely kind to us this year. The weather was absolutely perfect...it wasn't too hot, but the sun was shining, there was a wonderful breeze, and we all had a great time. There were over 30 teams who came out to play 18 holes and enjoy a delicious steak dinner...a new record for us. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out and worked all day to make this event a success. Thanks to Green Meadows and their staff for doing a terrific job (as usual) to accommodate us. A special thanks goes out to Dana & Brian Reicker from Tim Hortons for supplying our volunteers and golfers with a wide arrangement of breakfast goodies. Thank you to all our hole sponsors and to Jon Madden for once again organizing this

event, and making it such a huge success (we brought in over \$5,000.00!!). Congratulations to all our winners.

### **2009 Winterfest**

The dates for our 2009 Winterfest will be Friday, February 13 – Sunday, February 15. I know it seems a long ways away...but in reality it's not...6 months and counting!! It takes a lot of hard work and preparation for this event to run. We will need plenty of volunteers, donations, and raffle prizes. If you can help in any of these areas, please contact our office. Please look for more info to follow as more details are worked out.

If you have any suggestions for our 2009 event, please contact us. We are always looking for ways to make things better.

### **Thoughts for the day:**

-If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

-If you have never experienced the danger of battle, loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation...you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

-If you own just one Bible...you are abundantly blessed. 1/3 of all the world does not have access to one.

-If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.

-If you have a refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.

-If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

-If your parents are still alive and still married...you are very rare, even in the United States.

-If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful...you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.



### **Christmas in Ida Parade**

A group of volunteers have already started working on the float for this year's Christmas in Ida Parade. Working on the float is always a good time. We are currently looking for more volunteers to help out with the float for this year's parade. You don't even have to have any "skills"! Just come ready to work, have a good time, and you'll fit in just fine.

### **Rummage & Bake Sale**

We were pleasantly surprised at the success of our second rummage and bake sale. The donations were plentiful...WAY more than last year, so thank you to all of you who so graciously donated items. Thank goodness for all the volunteers who came out to help set up the week leading up to the event. We never would have been ready on Saturday morning if it hadn't been for them. Thank you to everybody who baked for us! We had such a great assortment of baked goods this year...it was a HUGE hit! This year we decided to have a concession stand, which turned out MUCH better than we thought! We brought in just shy of \$3,000.00!! Start saving all your "treasures"...we'll be doing the rummage sale again next year. We'll keep you posted on the dates.

### **Sponsoring a family through the Holidays**

It's never too early to start thinking about the Holiday season. With the economy in such bad shape, we are predicting that the majority of our families will need help through the Holiday season. We are currently helping three families, and just received applications from two more. The

need has never been greater in our area. Anything that you can do to help us to help these families is GREATLY appreciated. If your place of employment sponsors a family each year, consider sponsoring one from us. Another option is when you're out doing your Holiday shopping, buy a \$5 (or more) gift card that we can give to a family. You can always send a monetary donation to us and ask that it be used for our "holiday drive". It is a wonderful lesson that many of our volunteers have shared with their own children (taking them out to purchase a gift for a boy or girl who otherwise may not get anything)...consider doing it with yours. ANYTHING will help. We cannot tell you the joy it brings us to go out and be able to shop for these families, and see their faces when they get their gifts...it's a look of relief, gratitude, and joy. It has been a humbling experience for everybody who has been involved in the process. Thank you to those of you who have helped in the past, and to those of you who keep our families in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Fun Run**

On August 10<sup>th</sup> the Gold Wing Rode Riders Association (G.W.R.R.A.) Chapter C of Monroe will have their annual Fun Run. The ride will be held at Waterloo Park. The cost is \$10 per rider, or \$16 for a couple. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, the Gold Wings have graciously chosen our organization to donate their profits to. They have really come to be huge supporters of our organization. You can always tell when they walk into an event...with their matching blue shirts, we are THRILLED to call this group of riders our friends. We truly appreciate every single dollar we get, and we're sure the families that we support feel the same way. Thanks again!



### **Pictures or Video**

We see so many people at our events taken pictures or video. If you have either that you would like to share with us, we would LOVE to have them! We want to start posting more pictures on our website. We also use pictures for scrapbooks, and DVD every year. Please contact our office if you have something you would like to share.

### **Special Thanks & Well Wishes**

-Well wishes go out to ***Ethan Eberhart & family***. We continue to pray for continued good health for Ethan.

-Well wishes go out to ***Megan Fricke & family***. It has been six months since Megan's last treatment...we will pray for continued good health for her.

-Well wishes go out to ***Jared Foland & family***. We continue to pray that Jared continue down the road of good health.

-Well wishes go out to ***Noah Martin & family***. Noah received his last treatment in June...we pray that he will continue his good health.

-Well wishes go out to ***Cody Fairchild & family***. Cody recently had his skull replaced from his last round of surgery. He pray that he will continue to heal.

-Condolences go out to ***Jeff Perkins*** on the loss of his father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

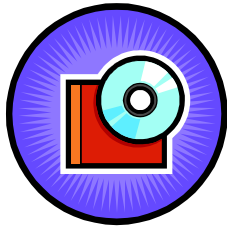
As always there are so many people to thank, and while we hope we don't forget anybody IF we did just know that we truly appreciate your dedication to our organization.

Thank you to *Green Meadows Golf Course* for all their work helping us with our golf outing. Thank you to *all our volunteers* who came out to run a betting hole, take money, cook hotdogs, sell beer, set up for the dinner, clean up, and any other misc. item that you could have helped with. Thank you to *We Haul Refuse* for bringing out the dumpster during our Rummage Sale and cleaning up the HUGE mess that was left for them. Thank you to *everybody* who donated a baked good, and who came out to set up, clean up, or purchase something

from our Rummage Sale. Thank you to the *Ida Volunteer Fire Dept.* for always standing behind us and for helping with the pavilion projects. Thank you to *Mark & Peggy* from KC Campground for allowing us to have a pig roast at their Bluegrass festival. Finally thank you for the MANY, MANY supporters of our organization. We are **NOTHING** without you.

### **DVD's for sale:**

For the past couple of years, T.H.A.N.K.S. has made a "tribute" DVD filled with pictures of our events, our volunteers, and most importantly our families. The cost is \$5.00. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact our office.



### **Stuffed Animal Drive**

The past several years we've asked for donations, and you've always come through for us. However, 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.



### **MY View**

Life is so precious...so fragile...and so temporary. I know I've said it before, but I really wish everybody could experience working in a Pediatric ICU for a month. It really puts things into perspective. Some of the things we THINK are important really

aren't. I cannot tell you how many times traumas come in, and parents are instantly ridden with guilt. Guilt over being short-tempered with their kids, not taking time out to play with them, or always being too busy to spend time with them, and the list goes on and on.

We are ALL guilty of so many things. We hold grudges against friends and family. These are the people we are supposed to love unconditionally...what would happen if one of these people you are holding a grudge against was to be taken away from you today? Would you be able to forgive yourself for not working things out? Think about it.

How many times do you look at your kids and think "Where did the time go?"? I know people need to work, and life happens, but at the end of the day is your QUALITY of time you spend with your kids memorable time? If something were to happen to you today...would your kids have memories of good times spent with you, or would they remember you as a somebody who worked all the time and was "too tired" to spend time with them?

Sometimes we get so caught up in having more, more, more...we forgot to stop and take in the precious gifts that God has given us. When was the last time you went outside and looked at the stars on a summer night? When is the last time you really stopped to smell the roses? When was the last time you went out to look at the sky as the sun was setting? Don't get so caught up in your life that you forget that the world doesn't revolve around you.

Every morning on my drive to work I notice this flower that is growing out of a crack on the side of US 23. It's as if God put it there to remind us to slow down and enjoy life. I wonder how many other people have slowed down enough to notice...

- Heidi Bolster

### **Thank you Lord!!**

-Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings, thank you Lord that I can hear. There are many that are deaf.

-Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible, than you Lord that I can see. Many are blind.

-Evan though I huddle in my bed and put off rising, thank you Lord that I have the strength to rise. There are many that are bedridden.

-Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned and tempers are short, my children are so loud. Thank you Lord for my family. There are many that are lonely.

-Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in magazines and the menu is at times balanced, thank you Lord for the food we have. There are many that go hungry.

-Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you Lord for the opportunity to work. There are many that have no jobs.

-Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you Lord for life.

### **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 Rd. Monroe, MI 48161**. Please feel free to contact us any time.



**The highest  
appreciation  
is not to utter words,  
but to  
live by them.**

-John F. Kennedy

