

Sheltervoice

Newsletter of The Women's Shelter
First Quarter 2011

Running On Miracles

When I first began working at the Shelter, one of my first questions was how did we managed to stay afloat in the Midlands for thirty years ,relying so heavily on contributions from individuals and businesses in the community. "The Women's Shelter runs on miracles," I was told by our Executive Director, Kathy Riley, and with that I was introduced to how a non-profit organization can be faith-based without being exclusively tied to a particular religion or denomination.

That was almost four years ago. Since then I have gotten to know our main fundraiser, *The Thanksgiving Souper*, sponsored by Chick-fil-A. I have come to understand what Kathy means. Each November, the Midlands community comes out to pay \$2.00 or more for a meal of soup, crackers, and tea from Chick-fil-A. Between people coming to dinner with their family and making contributions in honor of their loved ones, we raise nearly \$30,000 every year with no upfront cost to the Shelter. This is made possible through the generosity of Chick-fil-A and the help of two churches, Eastminister Presbyterian Church in Columbia and New Kirk Presbyterian Church in Blythewood.



This year, we had the pleasure of adding a new site for *The Thanksgiving Souper*. One of our long time supporters, Danny Barrett, is also a member of New Kirk Presbyterian Church in Blythewood. He saw the opportunity to expand this event with their growing congregation, and this young church was the perfect place to do it. With the help of Pastor Bowerman and B.A. Walters, New Kirk hosted the first *Blythewood Souper* with Chick-fil-A this past November 18th.

Usually new events bring much anxiety to the non-profits that depend on them, but the congregation at New Kirk was so supportive that we did not have to extend Shelter resources to get it done and \$3,636 was raised. This, combined with all Souper fundraising efforts, resulted in \$28,828 raised for The Women's Shelter. This was all done with the love and hard work of volunteers from the community as well as the delicious food provided by Chick-fil-A. Like Kathy said, the Women's Shelter does indeed run on miracles.

-Written by Scott Close, Director of Development

Trans-Siberian Orchestra Does It Again

Every December for the past several years, The Trans-Siberian Orchestra has visited the Midlands on its Winter Tour. For Shelter supporters who are not familiar with this explosive musical group, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra is the result of Paul O'Neill's vision of a rock opera that would push the boundaries of rock further than any group before. This high-energy performance is not for the weak at heart, as both the acrobatics and music of the performers is as loud as it is awesome. For hours, patrons are treated to epic rock'n'roll ballads as well as a pyrotechnic and laser-light show that rivals anything in Las Vegas. Patrons leave the show wide-eyed, often not believing what they had seen was possible.

The staff at The Women's Shelter is also left in awe when the Trans-Siberian Orchestra departs. Thanks to their dedication of \$1.00 per ticket sold donated to The Women's Shelter, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra raised \$7,871 from their Tour Stop in Columbia. This group has been a welcome blessing to our work since they began contributing amid the economic turmoil of recent years. Every year as this event approaches, Brent Johnson at B106.7 (WTCB) makes sure both the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and The Women's Shelter get plenty of promotion on the air. Without community minded businesses like the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and B106.7 (WTCB), The Women's Shelter would not be able to serve the Midlands as effectively as we do now. **We wanted to be sure to include a huge "THANK YOU!!" to both the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Brent Johnson at B106.7 (WTCB)** and encourage any of our supporters that love a good concert to make sure and check it out next year. This Midlands tradition should be part of any Shelter supporter's holiday season. Look for another article next fall about the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's next visit!

SAVING STAMPS AND TREES

Sheltervoice is going green!!!

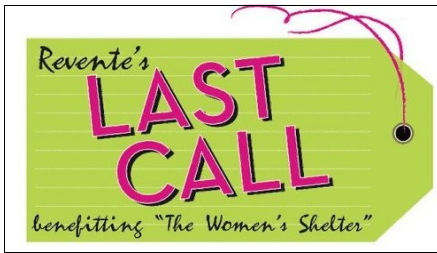
If you would like to receive your newsletter or other correspondence by email, please send us your email address! Each supporter that opts for an e-newsletter saves The Women's Shelter \$1.00 per year!

Thank you!

Please e-mail: newsletter@womenshelter.org with "subscribe" in the subject line

Revente's Last Call

A First for The Women's Shelter



2010 has been a rollercoaster of emotion for everyone at The Women's Shelter, employees as well as residents. Much has changed as we begin to understand the permanent economic shifts that have come to affect our organization since 2008. We also had some dear friends and colleagues move on to other wonderful organizations, and as hard as it is to say good bye, its nice to say hello to new friends and opportunities which is exactly how we received Debbie McDaniel's call this fall. Debbie, owner/operator of *Revente's* consignment shop in Five Points and Shelter supporter, called to let us know she wanted to open a new thrift store. This was exciting news on its own, but she added that she wanted 100% of the net profits to go to The Women's Shelter! To say we were extremely grateful and utterly surprised at the generosity of such a proposition, would be an understatement.

Having a great citizen like Debbie dedicate all proceeds from a new venture to such a great cause was a wonderful miracle that really inspired us coming into the holidays. Since then, we have tried to promote *Revente's* as much as possible, but this 1st quarter Newsletter is probably the best place yet. The details are below, we encourage anyone who believes in The Women's Shelter to patronize both *Revente's* and *Revente's Last Call*.

What: *Revente's Last Call, (803)799-5900*, A Charity Resale Shop to Benefit The Women's Shelter. Specializing in Men's and Women's Clothes and Accessories, as well as Jewelry.

Where: 3015 Millwood Avenue
Columbia, SC, 29205

When: 10:00AM-6:00PM, Monday thru Saturday

The Women's Shelter
3425 North Main Street
Columbia, SC 29203
www.midnet.sc.edu/shelter/
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #1018
Columbia, SC

WOMEN'S SHELTER WISH LIST

- ♥ **Laundry Detergent (Regular and HE)**
- ♥ **Cleaning Supplies (Mops, Sponges, Dish Soap)**
- ♥ **Coffee, Sugar, Creamer, Hot Cocoa Mix**
- ♥ **Paper Towels**
- ♥ **Feminine Hygiene Products**
- ♥ **Energy Efficient Light Bulbs**
- ♥ **Lip Balm**
- ♥ **Stamps**
- ♥ **NEW twin size comforters**

Call Christy with any questions (803) 779-4706



Thank You for Your Continued Support!