

Community Outreach

BY MARIA INES MARIN



Students participating in the Libbey Elementary Enrichment Program (LEEP) hold thank you signs for the Toledo Area Chapter, which donated needed school supplies.



Northeastern Indiana Chapter members load donations for Miss Virginia's House, a nonprofit organization that provides food, household, and personal items to low-income families in Fort Wayne, IN.



Albuquerque Chapter President Barbara Sawyer, CPP and chapter member Ursula Farinelli display NPW and APA materials during a benefit fair at Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute.

Chapters Support Local Communities and Others by Giving

When it comes to giving—both financially and personally—APA local chapters are generous beyond measure. Every month, APA's chapters support community and nationwide efforts to raise funds or volunteer for programs for needy children, the elderly and disabled, the homeless, sick, medical research, the military, animal causes, and other social issues.

Their contributions go beyond the spirit of NPW by sharing in the human spirit through their charitable actions. Chapter members volunteer time, collect money and food, prepare care packages, answer phones, and assist others wherever there is a need. There is likely not one charity that has not been touched by the kindness and involvement of APA's chapters.

Chapter members continued their tradition of outstanding community service during NPW 2004. The following are summaries of their activities.

The **Toledo Area Chapter** collected donated school supplies from chapter members for the Libbey Elementary Enrichment Program (LEEP), a Toledo Public School alternative learning program. More than 25 chapter members purchased items for the school.

The program serves fourth and fifth grade students who have problems participating in a regular classroom setting. Most of the students come from a lower socioeconomic home environment, so their needs were extensive. Sixteen children participated in the program this year.

With the help of a corporate sponsor, the chapter provided backpacks for every student, in addition to donating school supplies. The chapter also held a 50/50 raffle to raise \$75 for teachers and students so they could visit Children's Wonderland during the holidays.

When the items were delivered to the school, both the kids and teachers were overwhelmed with gratitude. Handwritten thank you notes were sent to the chapter from every child in the program.

The **Northeast Indiana Chapter** collected donations from chapter members' coworkers, families, and friends to help Miss Virginia's House, a nonprofit organization that provides food and other items to low income families in Fort Wayne, IN.

Chapter members held a meeting to celebrate NPW and their accomplishments. Pat Roller, the Controller for the City of Fort Wayne, and a representative from Miss Virginia's House attended the meeting and addressed the group. Roller also presented the chapter with a proclamation from the mayor's office.

The **Charlotte Chapter** held its Second Annual School Supply Drive for NPW. Members collected school supplies for underprivileged children in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system. The chapter held an NPW luncheon at a local church and assembled items for the drive. More than 40 individuals, including vendors and guests, attended to show their support.

The **Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter (SEPA)** was involved in several community service activities for NPW.

During National Public Lands Day in September, chapter members volunteered to lend a hand at Valley Forge National Historical Park in an

effort to preserve America's national parks. Hurricane Ivan hit the area hard that day with heavy rain, yet many brave chapter volunteers still came to help.

Some worked in the pouring rain on projects ranging from mulching trees to wrapping trees with netting to protect them from wild animals. Indoor volunteers (who were more fortunate) helped tag historical items from the park.

Chapter members also volunteered their time on the Labor Day holiday to answer phones and assist with other vital roles during the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Labor Day Telethon, which helps thousands suffering from the neuromuscular disease.

The event was broadcast both locally and nationally. The chapter plugged APA, NPW, and SEPA during the final 10 minutes of the telethon. Despite being a day off for most people, the chapter pulled together some 14 volunteers.

The **Greater Nashville Chapter (GNC)** organized chapter members for the one- and three-mile Walk to Cure Diabetes at Centennial Park in Nashville, TN to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). The event was the second largest annual fundraiser in Nashville.

Chapter vendor Gresham, Smith & Partners donated money toward the special shirts worn by chapter participants that said, "American Payroll Association GNC supports the Walk to Cure Diabetes for JDRF, NPW 9/6/04 to 9/10/04." NuStone Distributing, Inc. also donated funds toward the purchase of the shirts.

The chapter set up a tent displaying its chapter banner and offered materials to help people understand paychecks and taxes, along with registration/contribution envelopes for JDRF. The chapter gave goody bags to all chapter walkers with recognition coins saying, "You Make Our Team Supreme." Children at the event received NPW balloons.

The GNC had four volunteers serve as team captains to recruit walkers. Through the chapter, 50 walkers signed up to participate. Half of them were chapter members, and the others were coworkers, family, and friends.

The chapter raised \$3,000 for the cause. Optimum Solutions' chapter members held a silent auction to raise an additional \$1,000 for the JDRF.

The **Central Iowa Chapter** conducted a unique charity drive to collect unused prescription eyeglasses. During the September chapter meeting, nearly 50 attendees filled two banker's boxes with donated eyeglasses for those in the community who are unable to afford them.

Chapter members also supported the MDA by participating in the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon in their local area. The telecast was held at Holmes Oldsmobile in Clive, IA. Three breakaway spots from national coverage to local coverage gave the chapter an opportunity to shine. The camera focused on the chapter volunteers at the phone bank for seven minutes. Later, one chapter team member emphasized the missions of the APA and the chapter during an on-camera interview.

The way to people's hearts is through their stomachs, as the **San Diego Chapter** discovered during NPW. Chapter members met at the Ronald McDonald House in San Diego, CA to cook and serve dinner to families residing at the facility, some of whom had children staying at the nearby children's hospital.

The chapter is a regular at the home, bringing food, cooking it, and serving meals at least four times a year, not just during NPW. Chapter members felt a sense of satisfaction knowing they helped parents and families who are facing other concerns and probably hadn't had a home-cooked meal in some time.

At the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, the **Greater Milwaukee**
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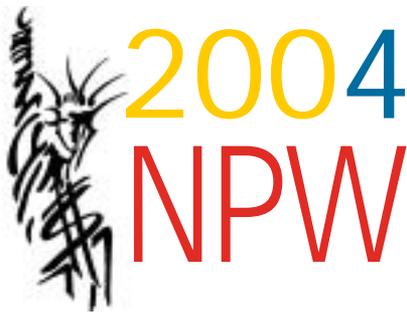


The Charlotte Chapter held its Second Annual School Supply Drive for NPW as well as a celebration luncheon. Chapter officers pictured with the NPW cake are (left to right): Director of Education Dawn Stevens, CPP; Chapter Coordinator Vicki Bacho, CPP; Director of Hospitality Wanda Parker; Director of Special Events Sheila Ek, CPP; Secretary Joanne Contento, CPP; and Chapter President Cheryl Miller, CPP.



Above middle: Braving Hurricane Ivan's rain and wind, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter (SEPA) members volunteered at Valley Forge National Historical Park to assist with preservation efforts.

Above: SEPA chapter members Jackie Wiley, CPP and Richard Moyle show off their acting talents at historic Valley Forge.



2004 NPW



Central Iowa Chapter members celebrated NPW with fun games and activities during their September meeting at Prairie Meadows Pavilion.



Greater Milwaukee Chapter Past-President Michelle Ganzer, CPP; President Rick Mayer, CPP; Susan Bostwick; and Membership Secretary Claire Wotjak, CPP prepare to donate books, games, toys, and stuffed animals to the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin during NPW. The toys pictured here represent a small portion of the entire donation.



Greater Nashville Chapter members participate in the Walk to Cure Diabetes at Centennial Park to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Center of photo from left to right are: Chapter President Lisa Wachter, CPP; Trisha Chrisman, Director of Community Service; and Kathy Pack, CPP, Director of Social Communication.

Chapter served up various gifts for children, including books, games, stuffed animals, cars, and other fun toys.

The chapter coordinated a successful drive for donations from chapter members so the little ones staying at the hospital would have some comfort toys of their own. The hospital was grateful and later thanked the chapter in its monthly newsletter.

The **Dallas Chapter** organized a triumphant "Dress for Success" clothing drive to collect donations for the Family Place, a safe house for battered women and children.

During the chapter's meeting in September, 170 chapter members brought suits, blouses, skirts, and other professional business attire to contribute to the Family Place. A total of 100 suits or outfits were donated by the evening's end.

The Family Place's executive director was invited to the meeting as a guest speaker, where he expressed his gratitude for the chapter's efforts and involvement.

Two chapters shared the same creative idea when they ventured out to bowl for local charities.

The **Long Island Chapter** sponsored a bowl-a-thon to benefit diabetes and cancer at the AMF Melville Lanes Bowling Alley. Sixty-five enthusiastic attendees took to the lanes and enjoyed a disc jockey, giveaways, raffles, and other prizes. Children enjoyed special contests and face painting. Several sponsors donated door prizes, and everyone went home with something, including a specially made APA T-shirt. The chapter raised \$3,400 for the charities.

The **Rainier Chapter** joined with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Washington State to organize a successful bowl-a-thon to help grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Chapter members, family, and friends showed their support by hanging NPW balloons and the Make-A-Wish banner, and bowling strikes and spares throughout the evening. Prizes were awarded for both high and low scores, and a grand prize was given to the individual who raised the most money. Several chapter members who could not attend the event still raised money for the foundation.



Long Island Chapter President Kristin Amato (right) and her sister, Chapter Vice President Lorri Cochrane, CPP, proudly display donated raffle prizes during NPW at the chapter's Second Annual Bowl-A-Thon for the American Diabetes Association and the American Cancer Society.