

## KC CAN! Newsletter – Fall 2009



### Faith and Mercy Drive

This summer, KC CAN! held the first annual “Faith & Mercy” Drive to benefit Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. This event was conceived by KC CAN! Executive board member Tiffany Roberts in gratitude to the hospital for saving the life of her day-old daughter born with a congenital heart defect. The Roberts family gained a profound appreciation for the hospital's importance as a resource for all children in our region requiring pediatric specialty care.



KC CAN! learned that due to budgetary constraints, one area of need at Children's Mercy was in the Child Life Department. Certified Child Life specialists at the hospital promote a positive environment for patients and families, in part by providing materials for play and by preparing and supporting children going in for medical experiences. Unfortunately, there was going to be a shortfall of new toys, art supplies, games, books and movies available for the children staying at Children's Mercy.

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To address this need, in July KC CAN! placed bins at various locations across the Kansas City area to collect items to benefit the children at Children's Mercy. On August 1, the donations were collected and delivered to Children's Mercy. Almost 1200 individual items were collected by KC CAN! during this drive. Children's Mercy was extremely thankful for the results of this drive which directly benefitted the Child Life Department at Children's Mercy. KC CAN! plans to make the Faith and Mercy Drive an annual event and will be holding it again in 2010.

### 2009 KC CAN! Auction

“A Night at the Movies – Let's Dance!” was held on Friday, October 2, 2009. At this 8<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser, over 320 auction attendees participated in both the silent and live auctions while enjoying dinner and drinks. Almost \$40,000 was raised to support new and existing KC CAN! projects. While the event was fun, it was also essential in allowing KC CAN! to continue making a difference in the lives of Kansas City children. Thanks to all who attended!

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual KC CAN! Auction is planned for October 8, 2010, with a theme of “Horror Night at the Movies”. Our goal is to make this event bigger and better, so if you have friends that may be interested in attending, please let them know about our 2010 event. Thanks!

### Future Projects

As in past years, KC CAN! will have a holiday project for children at the Gillis home in 2009. This project helps the children to have a happy and memorable holiday season.

KC CAN! has also committed to working with Charlie's Safe Haven in 2010. Charlie's Safe Haven works to educate parents and others about childhood safety in the home. This organization is the newest partner for KC CAN!, and KC CAN! helped to raise over \$7500 for Charlie's Safe Haven via the 'Fund-A-Need' contributions at the 2009 auction.

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### Back To School Project

In August, KC CAN! completed our third annual Back To School (BTS) project which provided at-need Kansas City schoolchildren with classroom supplies. KC CAN! partnered with Higher M-Pact to complete this project.

Via this program, at-need schoolchildren registered to participate in the BTS event. By meeting certain criteria (participation in after-school programs, personal conduct guidelines), schoolchildren qualified for the BTS program. Each qualifying child received school supplies, school clothes, and shoes for use in the current school year.



KC CAN! sponsored 46 children ranging in age from K-6. KC CAN! and our board members provided donations to sponsor these children and compiled the necessary school supplies for each child. In particular, Phil and Kim Lopez donated funds to directly sponsor 10 children. KC CAN! participated in the event where the supplies were distributed to the children. The event reinforced that KC CAN! projects such as this one have a significant impact in the life of a child. Without this support, some of these children would be without the materials they need as they began their classes this year.

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### Safety Street Operations

KC CAN!'s flagship project, Safety Street, continued to make great progress over the past year. Safety Street is an interactive safety program that provides children with information on key safety concepts. Held on a mock city street, children are taught hands-on information about bus, car, bike, and pedestrian safety. From June 2008 - May 2009, almost 1200 kids participated in safety classes at Safety Street.

After finishing a three year partnership with the Kansas City Missouri Health Department during which KC CAN! provided \$60,000 of funding for Safety Street operations, KC CAN! transitioned operational ownership of Safety Street to the Health Department this past summer. The Health Department will utilize their operational knowledge and focus on health-oriented programs to operate the Safety Street site and program going forward.

### Ways To Help

KC CAN! is always looking for people who are interested in becoming involved in KC CAN! activities. If you want more information on volunteer opportunities with KC CAN!, please contact Mark Schmidt (913-221-6474, [markpschmidt@kc.rr.com](mailto:markpschmidt@kc.rr.com),) or visit [www.kccan.org](http://www.kccan.org).

### THANK YOU!!

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement in KC CAN! With your help, we continue to make a difference in the lives of Kansas City children.



Kansas City  
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