



Hospitality Happens

March 2010

Pay It Forward



BABY ISAAC

When my wife got so sick with pre-eclampsia and ultimately ended up having a c-section at 30 weeks, these two questions kept coming up. Why did this happen to us? What is God's plan in all of this? At the

time I didn't know how close I had come to losing my wife, but in hindsight it is scary to think about. Not to mention looking at my son for the first time, with all the equipment they had him hooked up to, and him being only half as big as any other baby I had ever personally seen. Many times I just wondered why.

There were tough days ahead, but our son was healthy and whole. That wasn't the case for other babies around him, and you couldn't help but recognize the overwhelming need for support from someone who understands. I knew then that was something God could use me to provide. I am an ordained minister and counseling with people is one of the things I have been trying to develop in my ministry. I saw a huge opportunity in our situation. Dealing with having a premature child is something that you can't understand until you have been there, and God had put us there for a reason.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



Facebook: Hospitality House of Tulsa Twitter: @tulsahospouse

As a part of our NICU experience, God brought us to Hospitality House. Just when we thought things were at their worst, Hospitality House was there. God had put us in a place that made the hills and valleys of the NICU a little less steep and easier to climb. Not only did he put us in a place close to our son, he put us in a wonderful place.

I cannot describe the love and support we felt from the HHT staff and the numerous volunteers we met during our stay. I had no doubt that we were in a good place where we could ask anything and people would bend over backwards to help. Hospitality House made an impression on us that we will never forget. I feel it is only natural that God has drawn me back here



THE WAGNON FAMILY

to try to carry out what God has placed on my heart and the hearts of my family to try to do for preemies and parents of preemies.

Over a year has passed now. Our son is growing and keeping us really busy. Every time I look at my son, I see a miracle that screams God is at work in my life and in the life of my family. I want everyone to feel that peace in the midst of a storm, and I am strongly convinced that is why things happened the way they did.

(Continued on page 2)

Save the Date!

At HHT, our families experience many times...

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and . . .



A Time to DANCE with our Stars

Ecclesiastes 3:1

This event will include heavy hor'dourvs buffet, a smoothie bar, a silent auction, and a local celebrity dance competition. Come join this special event, enjoy the show and vote for your favorite local celebrities as they pair up with professional dancers to waltz, fox trot, cha cha and mambo their way to the title!

Due to scheduling conflicts, the original date for this event (6/17/10) has been postponed. Please stayed tuned for more information!

The Hospitality House of Tulsa

1135 S. Victor Ave. Tulsa, OK 74104

(918) 794-0088

www.TulsaHospitalityHouse.org

Pay It Forward (cont'd from pg. 1)

Hospitality House does a wonderful job of meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of preemie parents when they are staying there. My family wants to be an extension of that work. We want to give back, not only to Hospitality House, but to people who are hurting and in need whether it be physical, emotional or spiritual once they leave the welcoming confines of the HHT.

I know that with HHT's help, we can be more deliberate about being available to people for counsel, to meet physical needs, someone to listen, and most importantly witnessing about the love and sacrifice of Christ and his comfort in times of trial. I am open to letting God use myself and my family in any way He wants and I am convinced that the Hospitality House has something to do with that plan. In this world that we live in, there is very little time to stay connected to people, but God has kept us strongly connected to the Hospitality House, and there is a reason. When we were in need, that reason was to receive. Now that we are not, that reason is to give. Love and relationships are at the heart of the Christian faith. We want to exercise that faith and we want to do it joined with you, our brothers and sisters in Christ who have done so much for us.

Sincerely,

Brian Wagnon

When I was at Oklahoma Heart Institute for extensive testing, it was a very frightening time. The doctors thought I had a blood clot on my lung, and there were many unknowns about the condition of my heart. I am only 48 and still have children at home.

During that time, a large group of children and adults walked cheerfully down the hall at OHI, carrying many bags filled with goodies. They gave me a bag and much needed hugs and smiles. I know this was probably very scary for the children that were there – so many very sick people – but they were spreading hope and courage and kindness to people who were in great need. I know I was one of them.

I have been a Christian for many years and have a strong faith in the Lord, but my faith was being tested those two days and I needed to see "Jesus with skin on". That's what that group was to me. THANK YOU! God is using you in a great way, and your ministry has been an inspiration to me and many others!

Linda

Mere words cannot express our thanks for your gracious, biblical ministry of hospitality. You just do not see this open-hearted, HOLY, & sensitive reflection of our Lord's heart in our society these days. You inspire me to search out an opportunity to serve in this manner in my home-town community. To have family concerns on our hearts, and enter this apartment, with its prayer-bathed & spirit-filled atmosphere is precious beyond price. NO gold-encrusted palace could bless like walking into Hospitality House. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

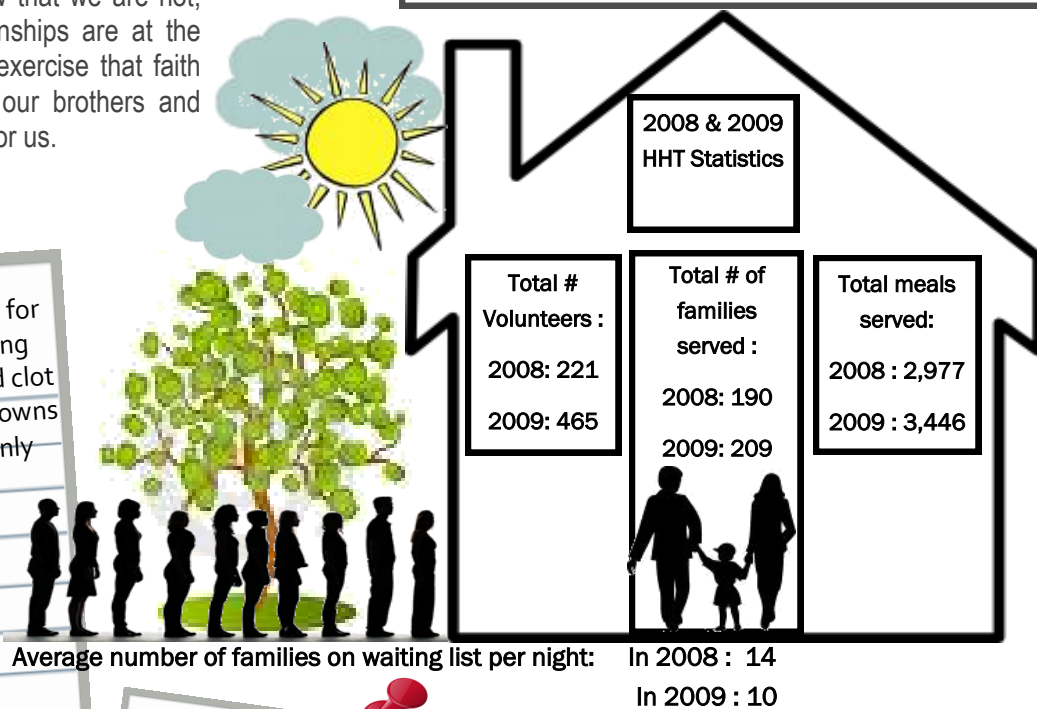
Connie from Kansas

Dear HHT Staff and Volunteers,
"Thank you" is surely inadequate to express our appreciation for the haven you have provided for us this week. Your prayers and provision is an encouragement to us. May you be blessed for being a blessing to us by being His heart and hands!

Pam from Mississippi

HHT IMMEDIATE NEEDS LIST:

- Glade Plug-In Refills-Holiday Scents
- Snacks such as: Soup at Hand, breakfast bars, crackers, apple sauce, oatmeal, chips, easy mac
- Postage stamps
- Ingredients for Cookies (self rising flour, semi sweet chocolate chips, quick oats, brown sugar, white sugar, vanilla, baking soda, eggs, butter-flavored Crisco)
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- Febreze/ air freshener
- Dreft Laundry Detergent
- Furniture polish
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Bottled Water
- Coffee
- Clorox Bleach
- Carpet Freshener
- Scrubbing Bubbles
- Printer/copier paper
- Lysol and Lysol Cleaning Wipes
- White towels and wash clothes
- Styrofoam shell "To-Go" containers (divided inside)
- Sympathy cards with envelopes





Growing up in Hospitality, Oklahoma ...

A note from our President

I normally would take this opportunity to present a very professional, statistical report about what your support means to this organization. This report will be different. I am a bit timid about sharing this very personal story with you in such an open letter. However, after reading it, a dear friend of mine encouraged me to share it. While it is my story, it's not about me. It's about people like you.

I had the wonderful privilege of growing up in a typical rural community in Western Oklahoma. My father was the High School football coach, my mother was the Jr. High School secretary. Needless to say, I couldn't get away with anything in that small town!

It was in that community where I first experienced Biblical hospitality at its best. My roots and passion for helping families in medical crisis began there. When I was 17 years old, my family experienced a

serious medical crisis. My mother was diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer. She and my father would travel to Oklahoma City, two hours from home, over many months for surgeries and inpatient chemotherapy.

With three very active teenagers at home, my parents were very worried about leaving us. Their concern was short lived though as we watched the entire community support us during that time. Our church family would pray and bring in meals for us, our school family would make sure we had rides to our church, school, and sports commitments, that uniforms were washed and ready, and that our academic studies did not suffer.

Two years of treatments brought many ups and downs to our family. My parents spared us the details concerning the financial impact this terrible disease was having on our family, but we knew. Toward the end of that second year, my mother was referred to MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas for trial studies.

As they were preparing to board the airplane in Oklahoma City that early morning, the President of our local Sports Booster Club greeted them at the airport. He asked if they knew where they would be staying during their visit to Houston. My parents explained they didn't have a firm plan and thought they would figure it out when they arrived. That dear man then shared that our community had come together for the purpose of making sure they had lodging and meals while there. He handed my father \$700 to meet those needs during this crisis. What a wonderful expression of support!

Sadly, my mother did not survive her diagnosis. My family and community grieved deeply. But even in the midst of that grief, these wonderful people surrounded us with all the love and support we needed to survive the loss. The lessons I learned and the love exemplified to me through this small community will never be forgotten.

If you are ever traveling on I-40 West, just before you get to the Texas panhandle, look for that town. Oh, the highway sign might display the name Sayre, Oklahoma; but to me, it reads Hospitality, Oklahoma.

Stayed tuned for more information on Hospitality House *Dine for a Difference* events. Throughout the year, HHT and a participating restaurant will invite all HHT supporters to come eat and meet sports teams, coaches, and players. Proceeds from each dining event will benefit our families in medical crisis.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice Hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

Still Practicing,

HHT Board of Directors			
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	LaJean Roper Real Estate Agent	Glenda Love Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tulsa	

**Your Requested
Newsletter Enclosed**



GIVE A DAY. GET A DISNEY DAY

A BIG thanks to all who participated in "Give A Day, Get A Disney Day"! We've had 223 volunteers sign up to help families in



medical crisis in just three months (216 of which are new

to HHT) through the program! This has been an amazing community outreach opportunity for HHT!

Aloha!

THE RHYTHM OF HOSPITALITY

We would like to invite you to be our guest at the 2010 HHT Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, as we celebrate and honor you, a significant part of our volunteer team! Please join us to enjoy tropical music, food, fellowship and a look back at all the amazing things you have accomplished this year!

Please RSVP by Friday, April 16th to:
Jessica DuBois
(918) 794-0088
jdubois@tulsahospitalityhouse.org

- **Date:** Saturday, April 24, 2010
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Location:** Asbury United Methodist Church, Community Life Center

