



SOME PEOPLE WANT IT TO HAPPEN

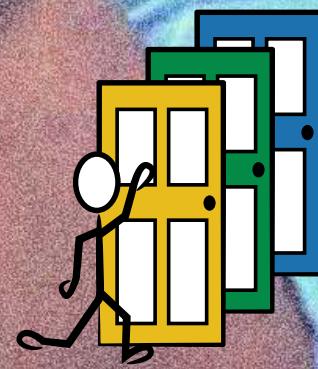
SOME PEOPLE WISH IT TO HAPPEN

OTHERS MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Opportunity Knocks presents

# THE OK ANNUAL REPORT

2012 - 2013



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



**August 13, 2013** – OK launches phase II, 'The Life Shop,' a day program for adults older than 22

**September 12, 2012** – OK launches 'Morning Opps,' a partner program at OPRF High School

**July 1, 2011** – OK obtains 501c.3 status and dissolves relationship with fiscal agent, Goodcity

**February 22, 2010** – OK launches the After Opps Program

**November 30, 2009** – Agree in terms to a lease with the River Forest Community Center. Begin build-out and renovation of program space.

**September 15, 2009** – Strategic Plan developed and approved by OK Board of Directors

**March 12, 2009** – OK is officially incorporated. Board of Directors & Auxiliary Board are established

**September 27, 2009** – The 1st OK Event. Michael Carmody organizes the 1st Annual KG Classic (now known as the OK Classic)



## A Message From the Brothers Carmody

Each year seems to move just a bit faster than the last here at The Knocks. It was a bit of a shock for us to look up in January of this year and realize that the early months of our year would be spent re-negotiating our lease at the River Forest Community Center, as it was set to expire in July.

Yes, that's right! We have been operating for nearly four years now! In February of 2010, we launched the After Opps program with modest beginnings, three paid staff for 18 enrolled Warriors. We have since grown to offer three different programs, employing 21 total people and most importantly serving nearly 70 Warriors each year!

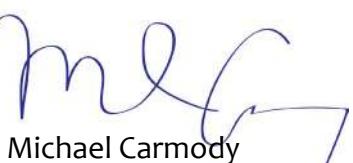
It's amazing to look back and see how far we have come in such a short time. The momentum seems to be irresistibly infectious! It is also amazing to see how many people continue to support this effort. Over the course of our last fiscal year, we received more than 1,963 donations, forging partnerships that led to 95 different sponsorships. We continue to derive a great deal of support from our events as evidenced by a guest list from our slate of 2013 events that hosted more than 2,600 attendees.

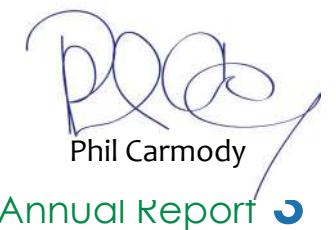
Not one part of any of this is possible without the abundance of our greatest resource, our people. So many incredibly talented, selfless and committed individuals come together to make this mission thrive. Between our Board of Directors, the Auxiliary Board and the Advisory Board, we have 73 strong serving with dedication. On the OK staff roster, we are very lucky to have 20 of the

finest people we could find working day in and out on the program, crafting an engaging and valuable program experience for our Warriors. Many of whom got their start as volunteers. At the end of it all, it's about the people. The people who come together to make it happen and the people that are affected by what we are doing.

As you can see from above, we have been gathering some data. The last number we want to share is two, as in the two of us want all of you to know how honored, grateful and inspired we are by all that you do for this mission. You and the smiling faces of Warriors are what keep us going.

We are so proud to be a part of this incredible organization. To think that we are nearly two years ahead of where we had planned to be at this point is a pretty impressive realization. Please enjoy that with us as we take a look back and forge ahead! Thank you for all of your support.

  
Michael Carmody

  
Phil Carmody  
Annual Report 



## After Opps

Formerly known as 'The After School Program,' we adopted new naming this year to better represent that our Warriors come from school and work to join us at this program. Entering year three of operation in February 2013, enrollment is at an all-time high and growing. The program continues to be developed with a person-centered approach, with Warriors serving as equal architects in program development.

**08** SESSIONS PER YEAR

**12,096** DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAM HOURS PER YEAR

**36** WARRIORS PER SESSION

**\$9.37** PROGRAM COST PER HOUR TO PARTICIPANT

## Peer-Led Programming

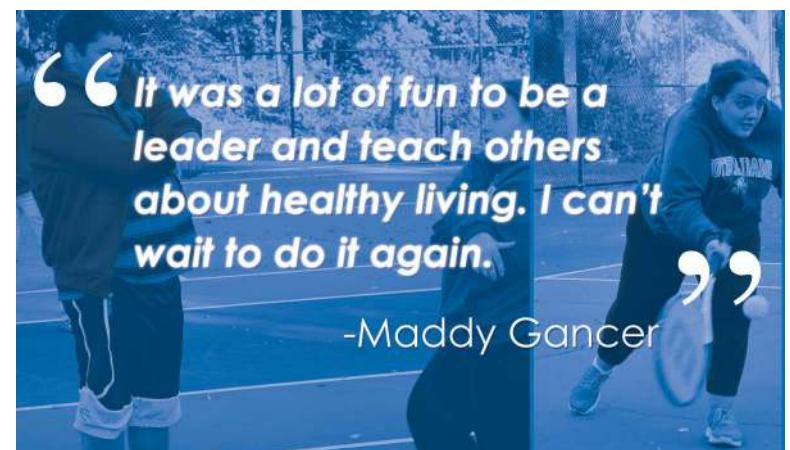
As an organization, we have prided ourselves on a Warrior-centered approach that has allowed participants to be active and engaged members in all aspects of our programming and events. This is a process that has taken time, patience and creativity. This year, we continued with the next steps to incorporate the Warrior voice into our program development.

With this year's newly launched **Peer-Led Programming Initiative**, we are providing the tools and opportunities for participants to plan and carry out programs of their choice and design. The peer leaders meet every Friday in the first session of every season (1 season=2 sessions) to brainstorm, plan the activity and hone their leadership style for leading the program they create.

The Warriors are in charge of everything, from writing the program plans to gathering the supplies for the ac-

tivities, to then implementing their plans. The Warrior Leaders then guide their peers through the programs that they create every Wednesday of the second session of each season.

Maddy Gancer and Sonya Taylor were in charge of one of the first Peer-Led Program activities. They chose to lead an activity called 'Healthy Living,' in which they led activities about how to better eat and be active. It was a great success. The peer-led program initiative continues to evolve and stands to remain a cornerstone After Opps program.



## iPad Breakthroughs

Early in 2013, OK rallied support from several funding sources, including grants from the **Oak Park Community Mental Health Board** and the **OPRF Rotary Club**, to purchase 10 iPads for various uses in OK programs.

The devices were purchased for multiple purposes, primary of which was to utilize them as one-on-one tools, exploring methods and application in the realms of:

- Alternative Augmentative Communication
- Behavior Management
- Transitional Challenges

We have also used them for group program activities and in planning for our events, among other uses.

In our first winter session of 2012, we began our first trial implementation of one-on-one use with our other Maddie. Maddie Crane has several medical conditions that make her extremely uncomfortable at times. Her communication is mostly non-verbal and she has difficulty communicating her discomfort without becoming physically aggressive. To say the least, the impact was instant and measurably profound:

Maddie's behavior incidents tracked for 3 total sessions:



## Morning Opps

Launched in 2012, Morning Opportunities is a partner program with OPRF High School. Offered on late arrival Wednesdays throughout the school year while the OPRF faculty and staff participates in professional development training, OK hosts on-site activities for all students in OPRF's TEAM (Transitional Education with Access to Mainstream) classrooms. Last year's program included 18 session days, averaging nearly 20 students per session. Activities range wide and are built similarly to the After Opps program. Additionally, we have been able to integrate a growing list of other student body organizations, including Best Buddies and the OPRF Football team.

## Warriors Pay it Forward

Community Opportunities was founded by Warriors during 2011 After Opps programs. Essentially, it is an incubating non-profit within the non-profit. It was introduced as a program to create opportunities for Warriors to embrace the concepts of community and altruism. It took hold fast and has become a long-standing program mainstay.

The mission statement is focused on supporting causes that help children, animals and the environment. Since its inception, it has been driven by Warriors with OK staff serving only in supportive roles. The ownership and creativity we have seen from these Warriors has been truly inspiring. They've even taught us a few things about how to run a non-profit.

To date, they have supported a long list of local organizations: Hepzibah Children's Association, OP Animal Care League, Adopt-A-Family, Holiday Food & Gift Basket, the OPRF Food Pantry, Children's Memorial Hospital and Trailside Museum.

This year, the Warriors took it one step further, joining forces with our friends at **Weichert Realtors Nickel Group** to put on the first ever car wash, The Warrior Wash!

Including all Community Opps efforts, this year the Warriors raised more than \$2200 to support their favorite local organizations.



## The Life Shop

### A Journey of Preparation

On August 13, 2013, we officially launched our day program, the Life Shop. After two years of planning that included countless committee meetings, an environmental scan of more than 20 Chicago-area day programs, a 90-family survey and two focus groups, we were finally ready to open our doors to the next phase of the mission, the Life Shop.



### Another Collective Effort

The planning and preparation also included a rallying of support behind the program to help us bring it to launch. We were blessed with a captive audience at the 2013 Night for Opportunities Gala, where we made an appeal to the crowd that raised more than \$32,000 for the Life Shop.

The good fortune continued as we reached outside of our network for new supporters. We were blessed to make a connection with the good people at **The Coleman Foundation**. They generously granted us \$25,000 of support toward the Life Shop, our largest grant to date. The continuing search for support led to new partners and old who have come along to get behind the Life Shop. Included among them were Options Clearing Corporation, the Gordon Flesch Company, the River Forest Mental Health Committee, the Mander Foundation, Whole Foods Market River Forest and the OPRF Rotary Club.

### Lease in Hand, Off to Work

In July of 2013 we signed a new lease at the River Forest Community Center, taking on an additional 800 square feet of space to headquartered the Life Shop. Shortly thereafter, we rallied our skilled labor friends to renovate our new homebase. It was another awesome team effort, reminiscent of the first buildout: pulling together painters, electricians, movers and carpenters to help us get the Life Shop ready.

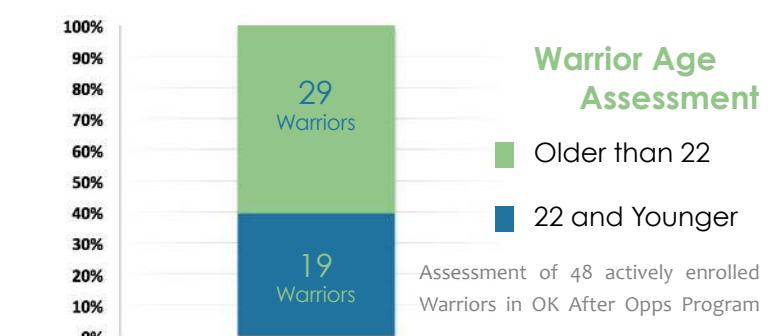


### The Pilot Staff

Long before we signed the lease or renovated the Life Shop headquarters, we recruited the staff and built the a curriculum foundation. With the Board's blessing, Kim Meares, former director of the After Opps program, assumed command of the Life Shop. She was joined by the Executive Director, a team of awesomely talented Life Coaches and a board member or two to map out the initial programming plan.

### The Pilot Warriors

The next big step was recruiting the Warriors who would go forward with us in the Life Shop as participants in the program. We began this process with an analysis of the currently enrolled Warriors in the After Opps Program. After a thorough and considerate recruitment process involving all of the eligible families, we had 10 Warriors.



### Older than 22: Day Program Status

- Life Shop Member
- Still in Need
- Already Committeed  
(Job/Volunteer/Day Program)



### The Pilot Launch

On August 13, 2013, we officially launched the pilot of the Life Shop. It is a program built on goals collaboratively developed with the Warrior at the center of a planning coop that includes the Warrior's Family and OK Staff. The initial focal points will be steeped in health and wellness, self exploration, life skills and community engagement.



As the program evolves, it is our goal to continue to carry forward the mission of self-enrichment as determined by each Warrior. As the pilot takes true form, we will begin planning to serve more Warriors and explore other areas of adult life, such as vocation and ongoing education. Our vision is ambitious and our aim is true. We are excited!

The Life Shop is blogging! Please check us out online and follow the progress of these brave 10 Warriors! Check it out at [www.opportunityknocksn.org](http://www.opportunityknocksn.org)



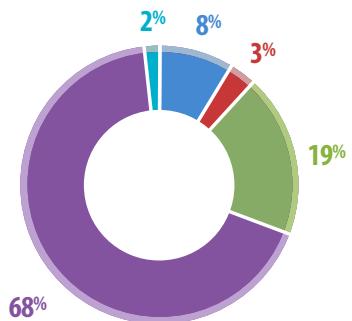
THE LIFE SHOP, DAY 1

# OK Financial Summary

## Statement of Activities: Revenue

Revenue	2013	2012
Private Contributions	\$34,605.00	\$14,612.00
Grants	\$13,750.00	\$19,500.00
Program Income	\$77,302.00	\$67,833.00
Special Events	\$276,765.00	\$244,708.00
Other	\$6,814.00	\$5,626.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$409,236.00</b>	<b>\$352,279.00</b>

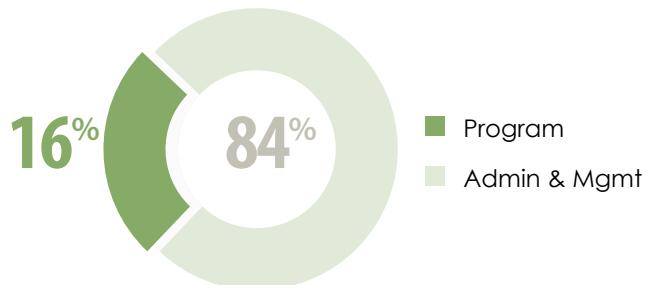
## FY 2013 Revenue



## FY2013 Expenses (minus fundraising costs)

Program	\$292,302.00
Admin & Mgmt	\$56,017.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$348,319.00</b>

## Program vs. Admin Expenses (minus fundraising costs)



## Statement of Activities: Expenses

Expenses	2013	2012
Program	\$292,302.00	\$177,418.00
Fundraising	\$91,376.00	\$78,460.00
Admin & Management	\$56,017.00	\$33,577.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$439,695.00</b>	<b>\$289,455.00</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	2013	2012
Cash	\$113,528	\$150,293
Pledges Receivable	\$16,073	\$37,725
Prepaid Expenses	\$5,151	\$3,703
Total Current Assets	\$134,752	\$191,721

Fixed Assets	2013	2012
Vehicles	\$57,631	\$57,631
Furniture & Equipment	\$31,996	\$13,454
Leasehold Improvements	\$16,929	\$16,929
Total Fixed Assets	\$106,556	\$88,014
(Depreciation & Amortization)	\$42,434	\$21,779
Total Fixed Assets	\$64,122	\$66,235
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$198,874</b>	<b>\$257,956</b>

Liabilities & Net Assets	2013	2012
Accounts Payable	\$3,671	\$26,428
Accrued Payroll	\$3,806	\$2,223
Accrued Expenses	\$7,212	\$6,188
Deferred Rent	\$-	\$4,714
Long Term Debt	\$-	\$-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$14,689</b>	<b>\$39,553</b>

Net Assets	2013	2012
Unrestricted	\$152,984	\$215,403
Temporarily Restricted	\$31,201	\$3,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$184,185</b>	<b>\$218,403</b>
<b>Total Liabilities + Net Assets</b>	<b>\$198,874</b>	<b>\$257,956</b>

# A Program in Partnership

## Funding Partners

\$25,000	River Forest Township	Joseph & Judith Scully Foundation	First United Methodist Church
The Coleman Foundation	Oak Park Township	Whole Foods Market River Forest	Jimmy Zangrilli
<b>\$10,000 - \$5000</b>	Rich & Diane Schuler	OPRF Community Foundation	Linda Cibula
The Mander Foundation	Gordon Flesch Company Foundation	<b>\$5,000 - \$2,500</b>	Claudia Marciniak & Steve Puiszis
Alyssa R. Pagano Foundation	Good Heart Work Smart	Alliant Credit Union	Dr. Perry Rudich
Options Clearing Corporation	Carol Lavin Bernick Foundation	The Rotary Club of OPRF	John & Mary O'Connor
		St. Gile's Mens Society	John & Pam Lawrence

## Program Partners

Greeline Wheels	Fitness Formula Club of Oak Park	OPRFHS Boy's Football	River Forest Public Library
The Juice Joint	Dominican University	Aspire	River Forest Park District
Weichert Realtors Nickel Group	Midwestern University	Best Buddies	Hepzibah Children's Association
Whole Foods Market River Forest	University of Illinois Chicago	Seguin Services	Holiday Food & Gift Basket
Skrine Chops	River Forest Community Center	The Answer Inc.	Oak Park Animal Care League
Stencib	Oak Park River Forest High School	Trinity Volunteer Corp	OPRF Food Pantry
Molly Malone's	OPRFHS CITE Program	West Suburban Special Rec.	Ronald McDonald House
Circle Lanes	OPRFHS TEAM Program	Park District of Forest Park	Trailside Museum
Elevate Sports Management	OPRFHS Girl's Basketball	Oak Park Police Department	Edward Hines VA Hospital
		River Forest Fire Department	Little Bits Workshop

## Sponsoring Partners

Weichert Realtors	Reliable Decorating	Amatos	Kevin's
Law Office of Joe R. Milburn	Brand Energy Services, Law Offices of James M. O'Rourke	Aspire Coffeworks	Kolovitz Movers
Bern Realty	The Madison St. Mikes Co.	Bank Of America Foundation	Lakeshore Recycling Systems
AA Rental Company	Infinium Spirits	Better Blinds	Better Blinds
Park District of Forest Park	O'Connor Title Services	Bike N' Roll Chicago	Bike N' Roll Chicago
Kinsale Contracting Group	The Juice Joint	Bistro Margo	Bistro Margo
Chicago White Sox	Chi-Sky Productions	Brown Cow Ice Cream	Brown Cow Ice Cream
Mahoney Express	Original Ferrara Bakery	Parlor	Parlor
McCarthy Ford Inc.	Maria's Mexican Restaurant	ChicagoJobs.com	ChicagoJobs.com
OPRF Community Foundation	Sugared Sweets by Nikki	Circle Bowling Lanes	Circle Bowling Lanes
Bulley Andrews	Affordable Tents	Crossroads Bar & Grill	Crossroads Bar & Grill
Lagunitas Brewing Company	Burke Beverage	Deece Automotive	Deece Automotive
Skrine Chops	Community Bank	Derby Lite, LLC	Derby Lite, LLC
Fatduck Tavern & Grill	Forest Park National Bank	E. J. Mullins Co.	E. J. Mullins Co.
Healy's Westside	Kolovitz Movers	Feldco Factory Direct	Feldco Factory Direct
O'Sullivan's Public House	Phil Kolovitz	Forest Printing	Forest Printing
Elmcrest Banquets	Divane Brothers Electric	Fresh Meadows Golf Course	Fresh Meadows Golf Course
Cash America	Alpine Sub Shop	Gina's Italian Ice	Gina's Italian Ice
OPRF Tennis & Fitness Centre	Buona Beef	Glass Lilac	Glass Lilac
Ovation Dental	Armands Pizzeria	Gloor Realty	Gloor Realty
	12th Street Wings	Goodcity NFP	Goodcity NFP
	34 Publishing, Inc.	Grips for Less	Grips for Less
	AA Rental	Harrison & Company	Harrison & Company
	Allure Skin & Laser Center	Hilton Hotels	Hilton Hotels
		House of Koukla	House of Koukla
		J&R 1st in Asphalt, Inc.	J&R 1st in Asphalt, Inc.
		JS Printing	JS Printing
		Kelly Scott Madison	Kelly Scott Madison

**\$224,000** IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM 2012-2013

**\$521,473** EVENT FUNDRAISING  
TOTAL 2012-2013

## Individual Donors

### \$5,000 - \$2,500

Claudia Marciniak & Steve Puiszis  
Joe & Carol Milburn  
Michael & Lynn McGarry  
Karen Hunter  
Michael & Inah Koss  
Michael Prevolos

### \$2,500 - \$1,000

John & Mary O'Connor  
Thomas Bottomlee  
Peter & Kate Gancer  
Bill Davy  
William A. Wallace  
Susan H. Wallace  
Andrew & Deidre Rudich  
Phil Carmody  
Michael Carmody  
Elizabeth L. Gracie  
Jack Hughes  
Jennene Colky  
John & Therese Rigas  
Ken Fries  
Michael T. Goodridge  
Rami Jabour  
Harry Rosenberg & Char Bessye

### \$1,000 - \$500

Jamie Holden  
Mallory Lyall  
Joseph Murray  
Joseph Lazewski  
Glenn M. Compton  
Terrence E. Herbstritt  
Michael Brown, M.D.  
Steven Born  
Diane M. Daly  
Sarah S. Hampson  
Francesca Maher  
Jackie & Nick Cannella  
Jason & Kelly Widuch  
Chip & Jill Pollard  
Kathleen E. Franke  
Kevin Doherty  
Kirk Scully  
Brian Napleton  
Marianne Birko  
Nello Ferrara  
Larry & Ramona L. Fox  
Renee S. Norton  
Ruth Rankin  
Terri & Paul Schroeder  
Tony Pacella  
Flynn Family Foundation

### <\$500

Brian Burke  
Tiffany Fustar  
Barbara Smith  
Ted Hosty  
Judith L. Stamm  
Jeffrey Opholt  
Randy Cottingham  
Anne Miller  
Barbara White  
Cathy F. Cahill  
Drew & Meghan Krisco  
Jeremy Mourney  
Colin & Kristyn Carmody  
Francis Anderson  
Brendan Laird  
Catherine M. Hunter  
Charles & Dorrie Levin  
Dermot Griffin  
Gary L. Burgess  
James & Jessica Milburn  
Joan Davis  
John & Berit. O'Connor  
Lou Pagano  
Luke B. Opholt  
M. Mohr  
Michael Januszewski  
Nancy Deuchler  
Patrick McKune  
Paul W. Schroeder  
Rich Gloor  
Sandra Deering  
Susan Nalbach  
Terry & Linda Brown  
Timothy O'Connor  
William Mavrelis  
John & Noreen Carmody  
Jim & Margaret O'Rourke  
Anthony Jones  
Brian Connelly  
Chris McCall  
Christopher Johnston  
Colleen Biggins

David Cross  
David Stanford  
Elizabeth Carey  
J. Rutledge  
Bill & Susan Finn  
James Archuleta  
Joseph Lazewski  
Joseph L. Brinkman  
Joshua Deering  
Laurinda Karston  
Lucy G. Shaker  
Lynn Taylor  
M.D. Gage  
Mary Cozzi  
Neil Rudd  
Pat Cozzi  
Peter Gangas  
Robert Lassandrello  
Elizabeth Shanahan  
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Seamus O'Connor  
Camille Mongiardini  
Sidney Wax  
Desiree Rivo  
Andrew Simpson  
Bridie Hickman  
Catherine M. Brennan  
Ian R. Mays  
Jack & Lea Sayles  
Jaime Cotts  
Megan M. Dunn  
John Morocco  
Joseph Sarsour  
Kerry Powers  
Kris Lenzo  
Lisa Neuman  
Margaret Bidinger  
Marie Moroney  
Mark Georgas  
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Matthew Miller  
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Lauren Pena  
Jeff and Kristen Charkow  
Joanne Donoghue  
Nancy Parker  
Nathan Quist  
Omar Davis  
Patrick Doyle  
Ryan Gates  
Sam Gamboney  
Kate Slad  
Katherine Uchyn-Tisch  
Kathleen Klaus  
Katie Deering  
Kenny Wisz  
Kevin Calkins  
Laura Eidelson  
Laura McCarthy  
Laurie McCarthy  
Linda Belpedio  
Linda Carlson  
Lindsey Dean  
Lisa Brusso  
Lori & Tim Hague  
Mara Leonard  
Margaret Skiver  
Martha Dwyer  
Mary B. Smith  
Mary Rehor  
Mary Shizas  
Matt Doss  
Matthew Kunkel  
Matthew Lambert  
Meg Larson  
Megan Dunn  
Melissa Ambrose-Gora  
Melissa Brouillette  
Mercedes Hennessy  
Michael Connally  
Michael Curry  
Michael M. Burns  
Michael Weik  
Michelle H. Anderson  
Mike Aldous  
Mila & Ava Pero  
Mitchell Ashcroft  
Molly Anne Clark  
Montrell Cochran  
Nancy Quinn  
Nathan Youngblood  
Nello Davy  
Nick & Catherine Perisin  
Tammy Hart  
William H. Lark  
Bob Finn  
Gregory Mocha  
Barbara T. Westermann  
Sherree Krisko  
Adam Miller  
Amanda Shaker  
Amy M. Scheider  
Anna D. Treinkman  
Anne Roche  
Arthur Gene Lawrence  
Barbara Stanton  
Bill Judge  
Billy Canavan  
Billy Wilkie  
Brian Cowell  
Caitlin Morocco  
Caley Hague  
Carol & Dominic DiFrisco  
Carole O'Brien  
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