

Midwinter 2010 Operation Little Angel Report

Submitted by National Chairperson, PNP Barbara Nobile

The recipient of the National convention gifts 2009 was the BRODIE HOUSE, a domestic violence shelter in Rochester, MN. The best way to report that event to the body is to read the letter received from the coordinator, Jackie Foley.

"I don't even know where to begin with the thanks and gratitude that I need to bestow upon you from the residents and staff of the Rochester Women's Shelter. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity toward us. In sorting through the gifts, I noticed how many units and individuals contributed to the shelter. I wish I could contact each one to say thank you.... To each and every one of you members of the MCLA, know that you have made women, a family, a child more comforted and her stay with us more comfortable. You have a fantastic organization and it has been a privilege to work with you."

We contributed \$3050.00 to this shelter in the form of bedding needs, children's items, countless school supplies, homemade items, rugs and school rugs. I believe the giving to this shelter was more generous than any other in term of items brought to the convention.

We continue to create fundraising opportunities for our members in which to participate. We do this to offer homemade items from our members of ANGEL gifts that members may wish to purchase. We have set aside \$1000.00 to a CD so we have an emergency fund should we need it.

Our guest for Midwinter 2010 was to have been the Women of the Chapel from Quantico, VA, Marine Corps Base. After all the years of choosing local church groups and shelters in the VA, DC area, it was brought to our attention that we should be honoring and taking care of our own. We gave them \$1200.00 in gift cards via mail and ladies in attendance donated over \$650.00 in cards and gifts. A representative for the chapel came to the hotel to pick up the gifts. The theme for this February's event was to have been RED/WHITE & BLUE SALUTE. The committee and those in attendance have expressed a desire that revisit this theme and the same guests for next Midwinter.

We will save our fundraising project items for National convention, not having had the ability to sell at Midwinter.

With the horror in Haiti, I wondered and prayed about how we could help. That prayer was answered by one of our own members. Colleen Chmelle, from the Dept of Michigan is a critical care nurse, and as we speak is preparing to leave for Haiti with a group to work in one of the orphanages. The committee voted to send \$500.00 for Colleen to use in that work. Gerri Tuohy, OLA, committee member is the proud mother of this member.

It remains critical that units/Dept and our fleas support this ongoing project. Thank all of you for continuing to do so. It warms my heart each time I receive one of your letters or notes. Large donations or small are greatly appreciated. The Devil Dogs were again wonderful to our project in donation \$1000.00 at Midwinter. We greatly appreciated this donation.

We continue to update OLA information on the National web page. Soon we will have information regarding our summer site and gift wishes.

We urge all members to submit ideas for upcoming OLA projects and thank you so much for your support. National Committee, PNC Helen Hicks, Tracey Killinger, Pat Engel, Gerri Tuohy, Lora Woods, Janet Voltaggio, Carol Smith.