


A Publication for Friends and Supporters of *Orange Grove Center*

THE OSAGE

CONNECTION

Vol. 2, Issue 1  
June - September 2007



Debbie Chadwick's  
Story

**How serving others led  
to meeting the President**

**Profiles of other OGC  
volunteers**

**Our clients share their  
hobbies with us !**

**Tribute to Jim Goldman**

*"To recognize, support and celebrate the qualities of the individual"*

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A quarterly publication of **Orange  
Grove Center Inc.** of Chattanooga  
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Photography: Dennis Wilkes  
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Cover photo courtesy of Mark Grissom

Printer: Graphic Impressions  
Chattanooga, TN



**PHOTOGRAPHY** by Dennis Wilkes  
Reprints courtesy of Life Care Centers of America  
and Mary Chadwick



**F**ebruary 1, 2007, will perhaps be the most memorable day of Debbie Chadwick's life. On this day, she watched as Air Force One landed at Chattanooga's Lovell Field, carrying our 43rd President, George W. Bush.

"We waved at the airplane," Debbie said.

Debbie and her family waited patiently as the President stepped off the plane, acknowledged the crowd, and made his way to award her with a lapel pin for her achievements in volunteerism. She then gave him several hugs, showed him where to put the pin, and topped it all off with a "high five," "thumbs up," and a kiss.

Debbie, a 10-year Life Care Center volunteer and Orange Grove client, is one of more than 550 nationwide to receive the President's Volunteer Award. The award makes her a USA Freedom Corps Greeter, an honor bestowed on deserving individuals since 2002. Mary Chadwick, her mother, was by her side, silently maintaining her position.

"It was her day," Ms. Chadwick said. "I was trying to be calm, cool, and collected. It was exciting that she earned the right to meet him."

Just ten years ago, the 44-year-old was matched with Life Care Center by Orange Grove. She has accumulated over 4,300 hours, spending two days a week helping residents with activities and meals, pushing them in their wheelchairs, and countless other offerings from her heart. Her kindness has extended to recruiting other volunteers from Orange Grove Center, and starting the programs Silent, Sightless Angel Program (SSAP) and Hugs And Touches (HATS). SSAP aims to help the blind by teaching them to read Braille and encouraging the use of sign language for the hearing impaired. HATS encourages affectionate contact with residents.

"I feel very confident that she is here," said Mae Petty, Activities Director for Life Care Center of Missionary Ridge. "She starts on her job, and I don't have to stay with her. She gets right to it."

Petty added that residents love her and expect to be loved in return and they were never disappointed. She says during activities such as Bingo, Debbie helps residents place chips.



Above: Lapel pin presented by President Bush.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



Jim with Dr. Pat Kopetz (left) and board member, Susan Rouse, at the dedication of the **Jim Goldman Speech and Language Center**, 2003.



Goldman volunteering at the Recycling Center.



Taking time out to participate in Orange Grove Center-related activities.

In memory of Jim Goldman, my friend, whom I will miss... Page 4

In August 2007, I will have served the folks at Orange Grove Center 20 years. In my time here, I have worked with many people who have either passed through, or are still part of the Orange Grove family. Some have passed through, deciding this work was not for them. The desire to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve comes easily for some, and not at all for others.

In the 1993-1994 school year, a retired gentleman expressed interest in Orange Grove and the work we do. He wanted to volunteer in a classroom. Though he had no prior experience with our population, he quickly bonded and took interest in our students and staff.

After working in the classroom, he decided that he wanted to put his efforts into the Speech and Language Department. He came to our department knowing little about the power of communication, teaching language, or voice output devices. However, he had a passion to learn and work with those we serve. He already had a following of students who loved him, and with whom he cared deeply for and felt a connection.

His ability to connect with students with his sense of humor, his respect for them as individuals, and his heartfelt love for them and their best interests made him a mentor. He had already taken some under his wing. His goal was to see that, even though for some clients there were no funds to receive the things needed to succeed, he would find a way to provide for them, whether it be glasses to help their vision, or communication devices to help them communicate. Jim Goldman would persevere and do whatever it took to see that they had what they needed.

Our department trained him to provide communication therapy to a variety of folks, and very quickly became our biggest asset for providing not only speech therapy, but an unconditional love and respect for those he encountered. The students loved him and he believed passionately in their abilities. He always believed in them and respected even the slightest accomplishments they made. To Jim, they were all milestones!

In May 2003, the Speech and Language Department was lovingly dedicated in Jim's honor, naming it the "Jim Goldman Speech, Language and Hearing Center." We will forever be honored and proud of our name, for it holds the very heart and soul of one man who truly loved who we are, what we do, and what we try to achieve.

Since joining the Orange Grove Center, Jim has touched the lives of everyone, including clients and staff. He became the greatest advocate, the most passionate, loving, caring, and giving person to ever walk through the doors of Orange Grove. He led in many capacities, serving as President and Treasurer of the OGC Board, and was solely responsible for the creation of the Medical Committee. Jim was an all-around advocate for what we stand.

These qualities, however, were not new for Jim Goldman. He lived his entire life with the very same compassion, grace, devotion and appreciation of others that he brought to the Center so many years ago. His love for his family and anyone else he came to know shone through his every act.

I will forever treasure knowing Jim, and cherish the many memories that I have in my heart. He will forever be a part of my life, and of Orange Grove Center, and will always be remembered by everyone who knew him.

Jim Goldman, We love you!

Missy Lewis, SLA

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Top and middle: Front and back of Debbie's award from the Secret Service Agency.

Bottom right: Debbie at Lovell Field in front of Air Force One.

Bottom: Debbie at Life Care Center.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"I'd be running my legs off if she wasn't here."

Debbie, perhaps unlike most receiving the Presidential honor, was born with Down Syndrome. Media attention shed light on the fact that people with Down Syndrome can do a lot of things, according to Petty. She said it is a big undertaking for her to have remained at Life Care Center so long.

Debbie arrived at Orange Grove at age 6, beginning as a student in the Center's school. Her teacher, Darcy Owens, helped to bring her out of her shell.

"When she first got here, she would hide under the desk," Debbie's mother said. "She wouldn't even go in the pool."

With time and the support of her teacher, Debbie blossomed into the happy-go-lucky person she is today. At school, she was prone to showing an outpour of love and affection for those in her presence. Owens took notice, and wanted to help her channel her energy toward geriatric patients, whom she says are always in need of love and care.

"She has all the personality traits of a caregiver. She's cheerful, and she's outgoing," Owens said.

With time Debbie has joined the ranks of her peers who've decided to become more self-sufficient by working and becoming involved in the community. These things were made possible with the backing of her mother and the staff of Orange Grove.

You can still find Debbie at work at Life Care Center on her scheduled days. The residents are aware of her meeting with President Bush, but she still receives and gives the same loving treatment at the center.

Debbie's service hasn't gone unnoticed. In 2005, she was named the Tennessee Health Care Association's Individual Volunteer of the Year, and last year was awarded the American Health Care Association's National Individual Volunteer of the Year.

If you meet Debbie at Orange Grove or while caring for residents at Life Care Center, you can expect to be hugged again and again several more times. She doesn't meet a stranger, as in the case of her embrace of the President.



## P.E.

63 OGC clients participated in **Double GG Camp** at Possum Creek in Soddy Daisy, TN, from June 2 to June 8.

Activities included kickball, an ice cream party, hot air balloon rides, a boat ride, singing by the Orange Grove Center Chorus, a talent show, a dance, daily swimming, arts and crafts, and more.

## Training/Compliance

DSP **Laura Pittman** was recently spotlighted in the Spring 2007 issue of **Personally Speaking**, a bi-monthly publication of the Division of Mental Retardation Services.

Pittman is a nine-year Orange Grove Center employee, and has worked in Nutrition Services, ICF and to her current role in Training and Compliance. She is the first DSP to be awarded credentials by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP).

## Res Hab

**Derrick Schofield, Christy Pate, and Jewell Jackson**, and six consumers, **Jimmy Roes, Arthur McClendon, Mike Brickey, Shirley Pierce, Shellie Hicks, and Susan**

**Weekly** attended the TNCO Mega Conference at the Nashville Marriott, May 31-June 2. OGC applied for a stipend for them to attend and benefit from the conference. They enjoyed a magic show, banquets, a dance, exhibits, swimming, movies, shopping at Opry Mills Mall, and eating out at area restaurants. They are already in talks about next year! (See photos, page 12)



**Brian Jones**, Residential Support Coordinator, has been accepted into the Leadership Chattanooga Class of 2007-2008. Brian applied and went through a screening process which consisted of essays, references, and letters of recommendation to be accepted into the class. He will be attending once a month, day-long training, information sharing, and networking sessions for 9 months. The class is cumulated by a two-day retreat.



**Laura Pittman, her son, Jonathan, OGC Deputy Director, Hal Baker, and Kyle Hauth, Executive Director of OGC, at the MegaConference in Nashville.**



The **Orange Grove Parent Group** is holding their next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, October 23 at 7 p.m. in the OGC Training Room.

Attendance is encouraged!



## Stab Center

**Rick Rader, MD**, Director of OGC's Morton J. Kent Habilitation Center, appeared in the May 19 issue of *New Scientist Magazine* in the article, "Uproar flares over Alzheimer's tags." Rader discussed a past proposal to plant VeriChips in some patients. (Written by Celeste Biever; Issue 2604, *New Scientist magazine*, page 14)

# Around the Grove

Dr. Rader presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics conference, "The Future of Pediatrics," in Orlando, FL, on June 29. He presented, *The Challenges of Medical Transitioning* (moving from pediatrics to adult medicine).

During May, he was keynote speaker at the 2nd International "Come to Your Senses" conference in Toronto, ON, May 2007.

He also presented at the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Atlanta, GA, on the Groningen Protocol, the program of euthanasia in Holland for babies born with severe deformities.

Another presentation was given at the National Conference of the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association in Albuquerque, NM.

Dr. Rader contributed to the March/April 2007 edition of *Pediatric Dentistry*, with his submission of "The Emergence of the Pediatric Dentistry: Educating Clinicians about the Challenges and Rewards of Treating Patients with SHCN."

## Children's Services

Orlando Gabriel Baerga

Michael Patrick Kays

Jon Thomas McDonald

Jonathan T. Morris

Matthew Ossewaarde

Carrie Elizabeth Scott

Nathaniel Houston Smith

Charles Leslie Souter

Charles Matthew Turner

Graduation services were held for Orange Grove Center's Class of 2007 on May 18 in the school gymnasium.

Guest speaker, Hamilton County Superintendent Dr. Jim Scales, is the first superintendent to attend the yearly ceremony.

Congratulations graduates!

## Actively Living A Belief



I love the Orange Grove mission statement. It is not just meaningless words, but instead a mantra that is lived out by the staff and volunteers who make up the Orange Grove family. "Recognize, Support and Celebrate The Qualities Of The Individual." It is short and to the point and I think pretty well says it all in terms of what we believe and do. I have the pleasure of sharing the mission statement to new employees who come to Orange Grove.

At every orientation session, I have a short time frame to explain the history, purpose and philosophy of Orange Grove with individuals who have chosen our Center as a path to fulfilling their personal goals. It is probably one of the most enjoyable experiences of my job. With the Orange Grove history book in hand, I begin to fold back the pages which bring to life the 54 years of servitude our agency has offered the residents of Hamilton County.

Although I feel strongly that our organization has some excellent guiding principals that many people have fought hard to sustain, I always impress upon every person who comes into contact with our service delivery system, to speak up if we are not living out our mission every day. Mission statements are just meaningless words, if they are not followed up with actions. If we are not actively living a belief, it's not really a true belief at all. It is so very important that our common set of values permeate every aspect of Orange Grove so that each employee and volunteer, when faced with an ethical dilemma, knows how to react.

We can all think of historical examples of how a company's practices were diametrically opposed to its mission statement. Enron is one that often comes to mind. This company had a great motto, "Respect, Integrity, Communication, and Excellence." Its "Vision and Values" mission statement declared, "We treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves.... We do not tolerate abusive or disrespectful treatment. Ruthlessness, callousness and arrogance don't belong here." Of course, many of the people who worked for Enron lived up to these statements but, unfortunately, the people who were most responsible for safeguarding the integrity of the business had ignored its guiding principles. Some people tried to warn the management that Enron was failing its own mission, but nobody was listening.

Most people are somewhat callous to flowery mission statements. Maybe that's why Wal-Mart does not have a formal mission statement. Wal-Mart does have a philosophy, which they espouse. "To provide everyday low prices with exceptional customer service." You either see it or you don't. That's pretty much the way Wal-Mart management views its mission. I suppose Wal-Mart has its fair share of complaints, but the bottom line and the most important element to their success is whether or not people keep going back. I can tell you that I do.

I hope you always see our mission being fulfilled in every activity Orange Grove is engaged in. As you review the articles in this newsletter, you cannot help but see dynamic representations of our mission. However, I don't think Orange Grove is perfect. We have many opportunities to get better in serving our population. Hopefully, you will always hear us say that we want to know where we can improve.

It is always nice to hear the positive impact we are having on people's lives, but it is equally important to learn of areas where we could enhance services. So, I ask you to always share with us in any format you feel comfortable. You may communicate anonymously through our virtual suggestion box on the Orange Grove website, you can complete the survey form, and you can visit, call or write. The most important activity that you can assist us in is to consistently judge our actions by our mission statement.

So what do you think? Does Orange Grove recognize, support and celebrate the individuals it serves?

Kyle Hauth,  
Executive Director

If you thought  
Debbie was our only volunteer,  
meet a few others who also like to  
make a difference...

**Kenny Pittman** has volunteered at Chattanooga Community Kitchen more than two years. Twice a month, he dedicates himself to assisting with food preparation and working on the serving line.

Kenny has been with Orange Grove since 2001, and his family has witnessed his love of people become a priority.

"He likes to help," said his grandmother, Mary Pittman. "He comes home and talks about the people he meets."

**Orlando Baerga** volunteers side-by-side with Pittman, prepping and serving food to the less fortunate. Orlando recently graduated from Children's Services, and is moving toward more activities like his experience at Community Kitchen.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**

**Fred Blackburn**

entered the doors of Orange Grove Center as a student back in 1985, and each Wednesday at 9 a.m., he enters the doors of Chattanooga State's 91.5 WAWL radio station as a volunteer. He works with Program/Music Director, Don Hixson, also known as Uncle Don to WAWL listeners. He has volunteered at the alternative, non-commercial radio station for nearly 7 years.

Growing up, one might say that Fred was a music connoisseur. His mother, Forrestine, says he listens to everything from rock and rap, to Christian music. He also collects music, and can identify every band, guitar player, and so on. She says it's a hobby he got from his father, who passed away when Fred was a child.

Ms. Blackburn inquired about Fred working for a radio station. She and Fred's teacher, Darcy Owens, put their heads together, and a call was made to make arrangements. At the time, WAWL was in need of student volunteers, and after meeting Hixson the job was all Fred's.

"Don was so impressed by him," Ms. Blackburn said. "He just took Fred under his wing, and they are very good friends. He showed him the ropes, and he has much patience with him," she said.

Fred usually spends his time reviewing music played by the station, and acting as censor by screening the music for profanity. He sometimes also tapes broadcasts.



### OGC NURSES ONE OF THREE PROGRAMS NOMINATED FOR DDNA AWARD

Melinda Hendon,  
Nursing Coordinator for ACT/Children's Services

The East Tennessee Network of Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (ETDDNA) was one of three networks recently nominated for "Network of the Year," at DDNA's national conference in Albuquerque, NM.

The Network was nominated because of the large percentage of its nurses who are Certified Developmental Disability Nurses. Tennessee led the nation in the number of Certified DD Nurses. Orange Grove Center is one of the top agencies employing a total of seven certified DD nurses. The two certified RNs and five certified LPNs are employed in ACT, Children's Services, and ICF.

The East Tennessee Network of Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association was founded in September 2005 by three of Orange Grove Center's nursing coordinators. Since its conception, it has grown to include not only OGC nurses, but nurses from across the state.

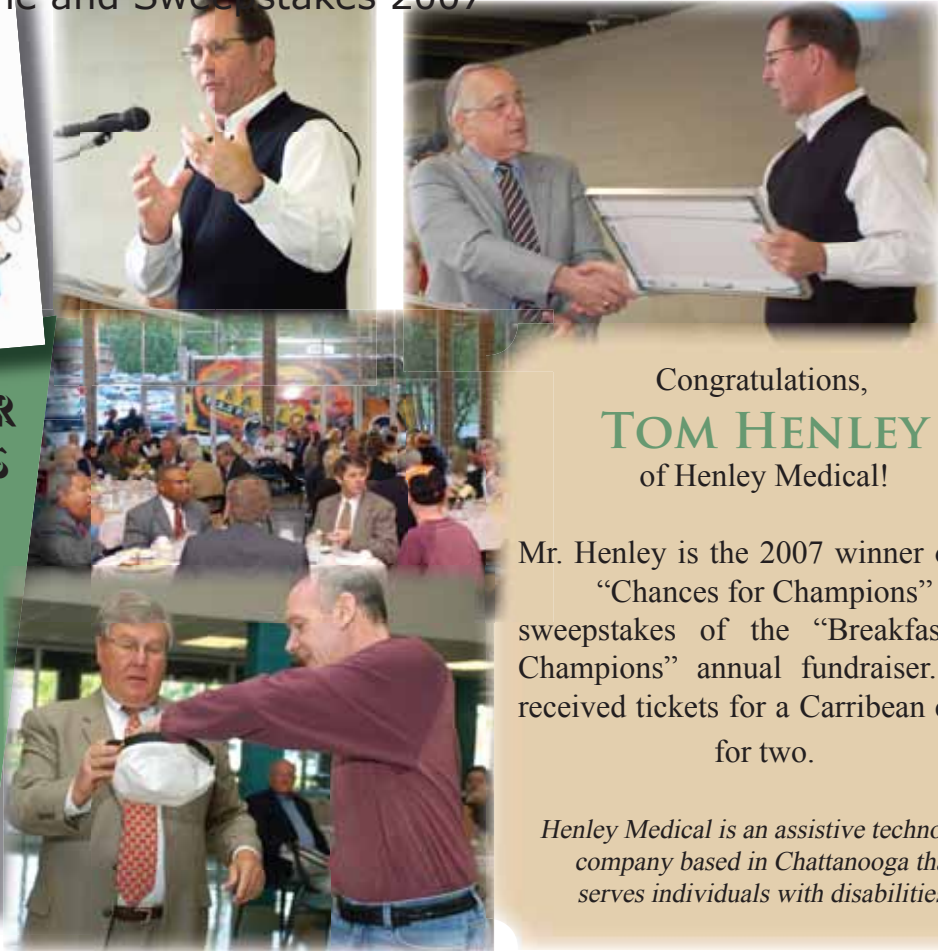
The Network is represented by nurses from almost all levels of nursing, including LPNs, RNs, MSN, and NP. In addition to growing numerically, emphasis has been to promote education of its nurses in the area of Developmental Disabilities, and has itself offered educational programs quarterly for its nurses. The last three programs included Continuing Education contact hours for its members. The Network has also promoted national certification of its nurses in the area of Developmental Disabilities.

To learn more about us and how you can get involved, you may visit our web page at [www.etddna.com](http://www.etddna.com), or email us at [etddna@hotmail.com](mailto:etddna@hotmail.com).



**BREAKFAST FOR CHAMPIONS**  
grossed over \$36,000 as a result of this year's fundraiser.

A special thanks to those who supported Orange Grove Center through ticket purchases, sales and by attending the annual breakfast.



Congratulations,  
**TOM HENLEY**  
of Henley Medical!

Mr. Henley is the 2007 winner of the "Chances for Champions" sweepstakes of the "Breakfast for Champions" annual fundraiser. He received tickets for a Caribbean cruise for two.

*Henley Medical is an assistive technology company based in Chattanooga that serves individuals with disabilities.*



**Volunteering,**  
*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9*

Thursdays are special days for residents of Life Care Center of Missionary Ridge. That is because Crystal Jackson pays them a visit to read to them through the Silent Sightless Angel Program (SSAP).

With the help of her teacher Darcy Owens, Crystal, who is visually impaired, reads Braille books to patients, and even engages others present to read and speak along with her.

Crystal's memory is the same as her name, as she has memorized books, and recalls every part of the stories she reads.



**BARTO NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF OGC BOARD**

Orange Grove Center is pleased to announce that Michael A. Barto is the new president of the Center's Board of Directors.

Barto is a partner at Barto, Hoss & Company accounting firm, and has more than 20 years of experience in his field. He has been on the board of Orange Grove for nine years, with previous offices as Treasurer and Vice President. Barto replaces Hugh Moore, who was president the last two years.

He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University, with a degree in accounting. In 1980, he established his own firm, which later merged in 1993 with the firm of Henry Hoss & Company.

He and his wife, Jane, have two children, Alice and Danny.

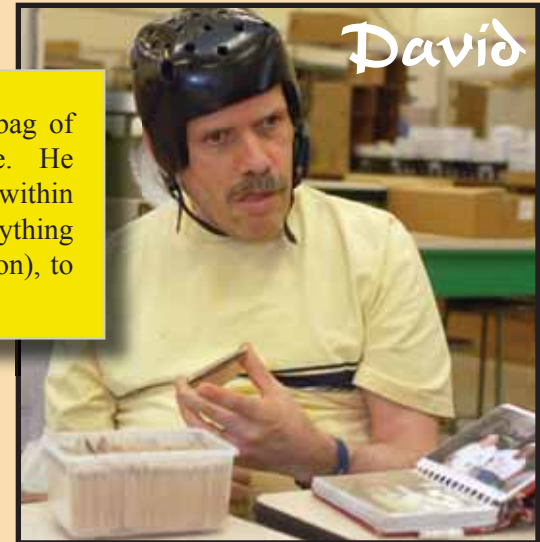


Here at Orange Grove Center, the individuals we serve live their lives like the average person. They enjoy many of the things we may take for granted. Here are their stories:



**Elizabeth**

is a fan of shopping, and not unlike her peers she has an eye for clothing, jewelry, and makeup. She doesn't go anywhere without making herself presentable to those she encounters.



**David**

You won't catch David without his little bag of treasures if you see him at Orange Grove. He joined the Center nearly 20 years ago, and within this time he has become a collector of everything from mystery books (especially Perry Mason), to Bible trivia cards.

has been playing piano since he was a student at Rivermont Elementary. As a child, his music therapist taught him the basics, such as identifying major and minor keys. His interest in playing hadn't fully peaked, even when his father purchased an upright for him to practice at home. Kevin refused to touch it, until the day his father began to play. According to Kevin's father, while on the piano one day, Kevin told him his playing was "not good." His father replied, "Well show me then." Since that day, Kevin has tickled the ivory for his friends and family, and in the community.



**Kevin**



**Melissa**

Robert has a thing for his scanner and Hamm radio. Not long ago, he was so passionate about his Hamm radio, that he decided to pursue certification.

Robert doesn't limit himself to only these actions. While at home, you may catch him dabbling with any kind of technology that satisfies his curiosity.



**Robert**

Melissa has all sorts of hobbies, ranging from piecing together puzzles, to knitting, crocheting, and doing needlework. Her interest in craftwork began around age 14. Since then, she has decorated her bedroom and apartment with specially decorated pillowcases, wall hangings, and other pieces.

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A publication of  
ORANGE GROVE CENTER

615 Derby Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37404  
(423) 629-1451

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## WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE TO UNITED WAY?

Orange Grove is supported by funds through United Way of Chattanooga, and your donation may help provide activities for the children and adults serviced here at the Center.

*The osage orange (background), or the hedgeapple, is a woody shrub with green fruit that was found in abundance around the location of the original Orange Grove School on Main Street in Chattanooga and for which the school was named.*

The annual employee campaign takes place each summer, with donations totaling around \$50,000.

### SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Chances for Champions  
Sweepstakes

Brick Engraving Campaign

Annual Membership Drive

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**JOHN BUHRMAN** is an attorney, practicing with his father at Buhrman, Maddux & Buhrman. He was born in Chattanooga, attending high school at the Baylor School.



He graduated from Cumberland School of Law (Samford University) and Villanova University, followed by employment at UBS PaineWebber Trust Company (formerly Bradford Trust Company) in Nashville.

Buhrman holds local and national memberships in the Chattanooga and Tennessee Bar Associations, Estate Planning Council of Chattanooga, Chattanooga Tax Practitioners, and is treasurer for the Chattanooga Chapter of Society of Financial Service Professionals.

In his spare time, he is an Assistant Scoutmaster for his Boy Scout Troop and serves on the Siskin Children's Institute Professional Planned Giving Advisory Committee.

**BILL LUSK** is a Signal Mountain resident, Tampa, FL, native, and a graduate of Red Bank High School. His collegiate experience extends to Emory University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Lusk supports many causes such as Orange Grove Center, as well as Siskin Children's Institute, Public Broadcasting, the Humane Society, Allied Arts, and the Tennessee Aquarium.

Most recently he was president of Xpress Global Systems, a subsidiary of US Express. He and his wife, Sandy, have two children, Kyle and Anna.



We want your story pitches, bright ideas, submitted writing & artwork for future issues of this publication. Call 308-1160.