

Hello! The Woodfield Area Children's Organization hopes your winter has been going well. We've been working on several projects and would like to take this opportunity to keep you updated on what's going on in March and April, including:

1. Annual Membership Drive
2. WACO Memorial Scholarship applications now being accepted.
3. 3rd Annual Charity Express Pub Crawl – Saturday, March 11
4. End of Winter Coat Drive – April
5. 3rd Annual “Steak” Your Claim Meat Raffle – Saturday, April 29
6. Identiti Resources Golf Outing benefitting WACO – Thursday, September 14
7. Learning in the 21st Century – technology partnership with Microsoft
8. Updates: (1) After Hours Sock Collection, (2) SuperMatch®, (3) FireFan® Raffle Winners, (4) Member Appreciation Night, (5) Toys for Tots pictures.
9. Wish List – one of our agencies needs your help.
10. WACO In the News
11. Amazon Smile program – shop online and benefit WACO while you do.

Become a Member

WACO's membership drive is underway. If you haven't already become a member for 2017, please consider doing so now. Your membership donation helps WACO fulfill its commitments to impoverished children. Ninety-seven cents out of every dollar we raise goes directly to help the children.

Please [download the membership application here](#) and mail in with your donation. You can also [click here](#) to donate online. Contact Linda McGill at mcgwilinator@aol.com or 847.209.5513 if you have any questions.



WACO is accepting scholarship applications through March 31. All high school seniors who have volunteered at either of WACO's Christmas Shopping Tours, helped with any of our charity drives, or have in any other way been involved with any of the Woodfield Area Children's Organization's programs or fundraisers are eligible. The student must also be planning to attend a four-year college or university in the fall of 2017. Applications and directions have been sent to the guidance department at all area high schools. They can also be found at <http://www.waco4kids.org/>. The \$1000 John Bestmann, Michael O'Malley and Bill Kelly Memorial Scholarships will be presented at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9 at Chandler's Chophouse. Everyone is welcome to attend.



All aboard for WACO's 3rd Annual Charity Express Pub Crawl. We'll be boarding the 11:24AM train in Palatine and heading west on Saturday, March 11. We will visit five stops before the day is over. Your \$25 fee includes two drinks and a ton of fun. RSVP by March 8 to geri031706@gmail.com or text/call 630.999.1270. Advance tickets are available at <https://waco4kids.thundertix.com/events/101137>. Full details at <http://www.waco4kids.org/>.



COAT DRIVE WACO's End-of-Winter Coat Drive takes place during the month of April. Please drop off your gently used children's and adult coats any time after April 1 to:

- McDonald's 955 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg
- McDonald's 1775 Algonquin Road, Rolling Meadows
- Rep. Michelle Mussman 15 Weathersfield Way, Schaumburg (SW corner at Roselle Road)
- Corinium Cleaners 2325 W. Schaumburg Road, (½ mile east of Barrington Road) Schaumburg.

Corinium has once again volunteered to clean the coats; however if the coat simply needs to be washed please do so before dropping it off.

WACO will distribute the coats to disadvantaged families. For more info contact Geri McCall-Barrath 847-891-9214 geri031716@gmail.com.



Grab your cooler and head out to WACO's 3rd Annual "Steak" Your Claim Meat Raffle on Saturday, April 29 from 1-4 PM at Real Time Sports 1120 W. Devon, Elk Grove Village. For just \$1 a chance you could go home with one of several 12 lb. slabs of bacon, crown pork roasts, huge prime ribs, crab legs, thick juicy steaks, stuffed pork chops and tons of other delectable items. We'll be raffling off lots of other things as well. Please note: this year's meat raffle has moved. We guarantee you'll have lots of laughs as you help us raise money and just possibly go home with dinner! Be sure to come early. We'll be drawing the first winning tickets shortly after 1 PM.



For the first time in more than 20 years WACO will not be hosting our own golf outing this year, but that doesn't mean we're not golfing. Identiti Resources will be holding an outing benefitting WACO at the Bridges of Poplar Creek, Hoffman Estates on Thursday, September 14. Please mark your calendar.



WACO's Learning in the 21st Century program got a huge boost recently with a new partnership with Microsoft. The tech giant will work with WACO to help create, oversee and even fund a portion of this program.

The program aims to help the children we serve improve their digital literacy, so they can compete in our ever-changing world. Learning in the 21st Century is designed to bring these children up to speed with their more fortunate peers.



WACO Updates: Thanks to all who came out to WACO's After Hours in January. We had a great time and collected 222 pairs of children's socks. ● We had 49 winners in this year's SuperMatch® sweepstakes. Thanks to all who played, and a special thanks to everyone who donated their winnings back to WACO. ● Congratulations to Peter Harrington, Dawn Simonson and Luis Gutiérrez. They are the winners of the FireFan® sign-up raffle. Thanks to everyone who signed up. ● WACO collected more than 200 pairs of children's underwear at WACO's Member Appreciation night in February. Thanks to everyone for coming out on a night when we were under a tornado watch, and thanks to all who donated. ● Lastly, we had a little snafu, but have finally been able to access the pictures taken at the Toys for Tots Dinner in December. They will be posted on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/waco4kids/> very soon.

Wish List

One of the agencies WACO supports rents a few Section 8 housing apartments for use as a satellite preschool during the day and a homework club for the older kids after school. They would love to have a gently used toilet donated, because the one they have is old and very rusty. If you, or someone you know, are remodeling and tossing out a perfectly good toilet, they would love to have it. If you can help please contact Geri McCall-Barrath geri031706@gmail.com ● 630.999.1270.



WACO in the News – here are the links to a few recent articles in the Daily Herald and Chicago Tribune: Scholarships:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20170302/submitted/170309787/>

Pub Crawl: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/arlinton-heights/community/chi-ugc-article-3rd-annual-charity-express-pub-crawl-is-set-t-2017-03-06-story.html>



If you're shopping on Amazon please be sure to do it via Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to WACO. Every time you shop on Amazon just start by going to smile.amazon.com and login with your usual account information. The first time you login to Amazon Smile you will be asked what charitable organization you wish to support. Please type: Woodfield Area Children's Organization. You can also use this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3796051>.

Take care and hope to see you soon,

Geri

Geri McCall-Barrath

President, Woodfield Area Children's Organization

847.891.9214 (home), 630.999.1270 (cell)

geri031706@gmail.com 847.304.8061 (WACO fax)

The Woodfield Area Children's Organization is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Since 1979 WACO has been dedicated to creating positive childhood memories, providing basic needs, along with educational support for children living at or below poverty level in Chicago's northwest and western suburbs. A full 97 cents of every dollar we raise goes to help the kids. Visit our website <http://www.waco4kids.org/> or like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/waco4kids/>. By the way, it's whack-o, not way-ko.