

The Woodfield Area Children's Organization wishes you a happy and healthy New Year. We thank you for all your support in 2016. It was a banner year, but we could not have done it without your volunteer help, donations and equally as important - encouragement. Thank you! WACO is gearing up for 2017 and we start with:

1. 2017 Membership Drive
2. SuperMatch® - an exciting sweepstakes based on professional football and the Super Bowl
3. After Hours - Wednesday, January 18 at Chicago Prime Steakhouse
4. WACO Member Appreciation Night/After Hours - Tuesday, February 28 at Rosati's on Wise
5. Learning in the 21st Century - Microsoft partners with WACO for a new technology program
6. School District 54 Foundation "Food 4 Thought" Program - WACO sponsors breakfast for an entire year at Jane Addams School.
7. WACO's 2017 Board of Directors
8. FireFan - download the world's newest sports app and help WACO in the process.
9. Amazon Smile - shop online and benefit WACO while you do.
10. WACO Says Thanks
11. Updates: (1) Food Drive, (2) T4T Dinner & Award Winners, (3) Shopping Tours, (4) Toy Drive
12. WACO in the News
13. 2017 Calendar of Events

Become a Member

There's no easier way to help WACO fulfill its commitments to impoverished children than by becoming a member. Copy and paste this link to join online <http://www.waco4kids.org/become-a-member.html> or download the attached membership form.



SuperMatch® Super Bowl Sweepstakes - WACO's Super Bowl sweepstakes is back.

For \$20 you'll get four tickets with four different sets of numbers. Every ticket has a 1 in 14 chance of winning, and the prizes range from \$10 to \$5000. We had more than 60 winners last year. WACO will track your numbers and let you know if you win. For every \$20 you spend, WACO keeps \$14.

You can also buy tickets online at <http://www.charitymania.com/give/P7006>. Or if you'd like to help us sell some tickets, or simply want to buy some without doing it online please contact Geri McCall-Barrath 630.999.1270 • geri031706@gmail.com.



Please join us for a fun evening at WACO's first After Hours of the year. It's set for any time after 5PM on Wednesday, January 18 at Chicago Prime Steakhouse, 1444 E. Algonquin Rd., Schaumburg. The Prime will provide appetizers and will also donate a portion of whatever you spend back to WACO.

There is no entrance fee, but we'll be collecting children's socks. They say we've got a cold winter ahead of us, so please help us supply the kids with some warm socks. All sizes are welcome.

Coming late? May we suggest giving the Prime a call 847.969.9900 and asking the hostess to check to see if any of the WACO gang is still there?



AFTER HOURS/MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT -

WACO will combine our February After Hours event with a Member Appreciation Night. Both members and non-members alike are welcome to join us after 5PM on Tuesday, February 28 at Rosati's, 1770 W. Wise, Schaumburg. Rosati's will make a donation to WACO based upon how much you spend and WACO will provide some pizza during the first two hours.

We are grateful to our members and would like to say thank you to them with a couple cocktails, along with a special members-only raffle or two.

If possible, we request everyone bring a package or two of children's underwear. The agencies we work with say this is their number one clothing need. We're looking for sizes to fit boys and girls ages 2 to 12.

Not a member yet? An application is attached to this newsletter, or copy and paste this link in your browser and join online <http://www.waco4kids.org/become-a-member.html>.



WACO's Learning in the 21st Century program got a huge boost recently with a new partnership with Microsoft. The software 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 has signed on as the first school sponsor for the School District 54 Foundation's Food 4 Thought breakfast program. As a result, qualified children at Jane Addams school will receive breakfast for an entire year.

While impoverished children qualify for the federal free lunch program, schools are required to fund breakfast programs on their own. The SD54 Foundation has committed to funding the breakfast program for all 28 schools in the Schaumburg area.

Studies show on average, students who eat school breakfast achieve 17.5% higher scores on standardized math tests and attend several more days of school each year.

You can sponsor an individual child for \$200, or an entire school for \$10,000. For more information, contact Jennie Waldorf at 847.357.5038 • d54foundation@sd54.org.



WACO's 2017 Board of Directors – At WACO's annual meeting in November the following people were chosen to lead WACO in 2017: Geri McCall-Barrath, President; Linda McGill, Secretary; Joe Rivkin, Treasurer, Jess Richard, External Vice President and Kevin Leighty, Internal Vice President. The board thanks outgoing Internal VP Adam Howard for his service. Adam will remain on the board as a director along with Brad Belfield and Ed Sobon.



Do you shop on Amazon? Now you can help children in need with each purchase you make. 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>.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to WACO. It's easy! The only thing you need to do is always use this link. Please bookmark it!

If you forget to bookmark the link, it can also be found at the bottom of the home page on our website <http://www.waco4kids.org/> Thanks, and enjoy your shopping!



If you like having fun, and would also like to help WACO raise some money to help the kids, have we got the game for you! It's called FireFan and it's the coolest interactive game you'll ever play. How cool? There are already more than 1.6 MILLION people around the world playing! Remember when Pokémon Go launched and broke the internet? Well FireFan's launch broke that record, and it's only getting started.

The FireFan app allows users to predict outcomes in real time on game day with a series of game-related questions such as which team will win, who will score first, how many yards will be gained on the next series, or will there be a turnover. Players who predict correctly will be assigned points. The amount of points depends upon the level of difficulty of the question. Once you accumulate enough points you can exchange them for great sports merchandise like NFL hats, NHL jerseys, MLB game tickets and also iPhones and other name-brand electronics.

Currently FireFan works with ALL NFL games. All professional sports – NBA, NHL, MLB and International sports such as soccer, cricket and rugby – will follow. So there will always be a game you & your friends can play along with. You can play live at the stadium, while watching at home, or out with a group of friends. It's exciting, fun and highly competitive. And all the while, you'll be helping the kids.

Just click on this link to get started

<http://www.firefan.com/player-invite/waco4kids/waco-4-kids>. Just a few quick questions (make sure you give yourself a unique user name), join our league WACO for KIDS, and then download the FREE app. Once you've joined, FireFan will award you a bunch of free tokens (it takes six to play a game.) And by joining the app you'll be helping the kids that WACO supports.

FireFan is in beta format now, and goes live in less than two weeks. But don't wait until then to sign up. Once it's live, players can earn free tokens simply by watching advertiser videos. You can also buy tokens for a nominal fee.

The Bears are playing the Vikes on Sunday and the Pack faces the Lions. Sign up NOW for FireFan at <http://www.firefan.com/player-invite/waco4kids/waco-4-kids> and use your free tokens during the beta period to check out how cool this is. Tell all your sports-loving friends about it too. It's a great way to enhance your sports enjoyment and at the same time help the kids that WACO supports.



Thank you, thank you – WACO would like to thank both AON Hewitt and Insperity for creating donation programs to benefit us. Your generosity is most appreciated. • A huge thank you to Armstrong Relocation for donating the truck (and driver) we used to pick up all the food donations. • Thank you also to everyone who helped pick up the food and/or sort and it • An extra special thanks goes out to both the Schaumburg High School Varsity Baseball and Football teams for all your help with

the food drive and shopping tours. • Thanks to RichWrap for the donation of 20 big boxes of wrapping paper for the shopping tour. We used every bit of it. • Thanks to everyone who helped us collect and/or donated toys to WACO's toy drive. You put smiles on the faces of thousands of children • Thank you to everyone who came out for (and particularly those who volunteered at) the Daily Herald's Best Martini in the 'Burbs contest. WACO was the designated charity and it was quite a successful night for us. For more details, check out the article below under "WACO in the News" • And lastly to the customers and staff at Rosati's on Wise for completing not only one, but two Giving Trees. All of the gifts went to local children who did not participate in WACO's Christmas Shopping Tours.



WACO Updates: Donations were up by more than 10% at our annual Thanksgiving food drive. In all we collected and distributed more than 13,000 items. • The Toys for Tots Dinner was a big success. WACO presented Identiti Resources with the Commitment to Community Award. The Stan Howard Benefactor of the Year Award went to Action Fence Contractors. Windy City Web Designs won the Joe Sernett corporate partner of the year award. Jenni Berns took home the Volunteer of the Year award. We handed out three Lifetime Volunteer awards to Sue Stocks, Carol Partington and Sue Dixon. And Percy Franklin won the Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations to them all. • In early December WACO took nearly 500 children Christmas shopping for themselves and their families. For the first time in more than 20 years WACO was able to increase the amount of money we allotted per family to \$80. • WACO Vice President Jess Richard spearheaded a more focused toy drive than we have ever done before. Nearly 20 businesses and schools helped us collect several thousand toys. These were split equally between the children we serve and the U.S. Marine Reserve's Toys for Tots program.



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

Chicago Tribune: Food Drive: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/arlington-heights/community/chi-ugc-article-waco-collecting-non-perishables-in-annual-foo-2016-11-07-story.html>

Toy Drive: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/arlington-heights/community/chi-ugc-article-waco-kicks-off-37th-annual-toy-drive-2016-11-18-story.html>

Breakfast Program: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20161122/submitted/161129606/>

Best Martini Contest: <https://lavalamp.com/best-martinis-burbs/>

WACO 2017 EVENT CALENDAR

- After Hours are held periodically and are subject to change. In lieu of an admission fee we collect something for the children we support.
- After Hours – Wednesday, January 18, 5PM – collecting children's socks
- Member Appreciation Night/After Hours – Tuesday, February 28 – collecting children's underwear

- Scholarship Applications Accepted – March, 2017
- 3rd Annual Charity Express Pub Crawl – Saturday, March 11
- End of Winter Coat Drive – April, 2017
- 3rd Annual “Steak” Your Claim Meat Raffle – Saturday, April 29
- Read to Succeed Children’s Book Drive – 4.24–5.6.17
- Scholarship Presentation – Tuesday, May 9
- Swim into Summer Reading Program Kickoff – Wednesday, May 24
- 17th Annual Wingfest & Bags Tourney/FootballMania® Kickoff – Sunday, July 30
- School Supplies Drive – 8.7–8.19.17
- Hats, Gloves, Mittens & Scarves Drive – mid September – October 18
- After Hours/SuperMatch® Kickoff – Wednesday, October 18, 5PM – collecting hats, scarves & mittens
- After Hours – Wednesday, November 8, 5PM – collecting toys and games
- WACO Annual Meeting – Tuesday, November 14
- 22nd Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive part 1 – food collection – November 1 – 17
- Thanksgiving Food Drive part 2 – picking up the food – Friday, November 17
- Thanksgiving Food Drive part 3 – sorting/distribution – Saturday, November 18
- Toy Drive – November 22 – December 12 and beyond
- 25th Annual Elk Grove Village Christmas Shopping Tour – Saturday, December 2
- 25th Annual Elgin Christmas Shopping Tour – Saturday, December 9
- 38th Annual Toys for Tots Dinner – Thursday, December 14

Take care and hope to see you soon.

Meanwhile take care,

Geri

Geri McCall-Barrath

President, Woodfield Area Children’s Organization

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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 and enriching the education of 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.