Meet Kosair Kid Griff Powell

A determined family meets the challenge

UPS & Fat Boy Golf Classics

The Limberg Family & GE Funds

Remembering the Kesslers
Local musician Eddy Metal has a project near and dear to his heart: Rock for Kosair. For the past 7 years, Eddy and friends have hosted a night of local metal and rock ‘n’ roll music to benefit Kosair Charities.

Each year, more than 15 bands donate their time to rock out for the kids! The concert, which Eddy started in 2005, is held each year in early November at Phoenix Hill Tavern on three stages. The concert costs $10 at the door, and is open to anyone 21 and older.

The show begins around 8 p.m. and the last bands don’t stop until close to 4 a.m. Eddy and friends work hard to get a big crowd by promoting the event on 93.1 The Fox and by having local music stores donate guitars to be raffled off.

Eddy has loved music since he was a child. He started doing shows professionally in 1995 as a singer for a heavy metal group. After a few years of singing, Eddy switched to playing guitar because the strain of singing heavy metal hurt his voice.

Later, Eddy became a DJ for a local rock radio station, where he created Louisville’s first music show for unsigned bands. Today, Eddy is a rock columnist for Louisville Music News and continues to play guitar and write music for two bands, The Year of the Gun and Krosjoint. Eddy’s love of music and hard work has helped make Rock for Kosair a huge success, raising over $36,000 for Kosair Charities since 2005.

Eddy created Rock for Kosair to help underprivileged and sick children have the best Christmas they could. All of the money raised provides Christmas gifts for our Kosair Kids.

Eddy says, “It’s the best thing I’ve ever done, and it’s the most important.”

Each year, Eddy and his friends go to Toys R Us and spend all of the money they raised on toys for our Kosair Kids. In 2011, they purchased 17 shopping carts full of toys!

Eddy says, “I love the fact that rock bands can do something that can help so many people who would never expect it from longhaired rockers!”

Eddy is looking forward to the 8th annual Rock for Kosair in November. His ultimate goal is to get a national act to play, but for now he will continue to put on the best original local music showcase.

For more information, visit the Rock for Kosair Facebook page or visit www.kosair.org.
At the 2011 Dreams Take Flight gala, Kosair Charities’ annual gifts and grants night, board member Robert Flowers brought along a special guest. It was 2-year-old Griff Powell, who has Down syndrome, and just as he does in his hometown of Columbia, Ky., Griff proceeded to charm the whole house.

Flowers was not surprised. He sees Griff often, especially on Fridays when he visits his mom at Bank of Columbia where Flowers is the President. He knows firsthand about young Griff’s charisma.

“His baby sitter will bring him to the bank, and we just quit what we’re doing and let him do his thing in the lobby,” Flowers says.

Griff’s “thing” is shaking hands — with everyone he sees. He does the same thing at church on Sundays.

“He’s relentless,” says his mother, Michelle Powell, who works at the bank. “When he gets to the last person, he starts again.”

Michelle and her husband, Brent, laugh and say they see him becoming a politician or a preacher. In any case, it seems clear that Griff was sent to change hearts and minds.

**A determined family**

Michelle Powell’s second pregnancy seemed normal and she had no inkling anything might be wrong until Griff was born on a Saturday night in Glasgow. He had breathing problems, and their pediatrician suggested a transfer to Louisville.

After several days of tests, doctors determined that Griff had a rare form of Down syndrome.

The Powells were scared and confused but also determined. They began to educate themselves, and knew they’d been chosen for a special challenge.

“We feel honored that God feels we are responsible and have what it takes to have a child like him,” Michelle says.

Brent, a surgical nurse at T.J. Samson Community Hospital in Glasgow, agrees: “It’s ironic — when he was born, we were worried about how we would be able to teach him things. And he has already taught us more than you can imagine. We feel so lucky to have him.”

**Meeting the challenge**

Griff (his given name is Griffit, after Michelle’s mother’s maiden name) loves music and animals and playing with his older brother, Luc, who is 7. He often walks around the house with his hands folded behind his back, as if he’s “inspecting” things. Brent and Michelle call that his “supervisor walk.”

But raising a special needs child is especially challenging, and the Powells, who are both 30, have learned the system can be something of a Catch-22. They are pleased that a family friend, a retired teacher, is now caring for Griff during the day. And they are relieved to know Kosair Charities is there to help going forward. That’s a message that Robert Flowers — Michelle’s boss at the Bank of Columbia — drove home early on.

Flowers is a longtime supporter of Kosair Charities. He’s been a Mason for 40 years and a Shriner for 14 years, and just completed his first year on the Kosair Charities Board of Directors. To say he is a huge fan and advocate is an understatement.

The Powells are impressed by the resources available from organizations supported by Kosair Charities, including Kosair Children’s Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House and Down Syndrome of Louisville. At Griff’s second birthday party in January, they asked guests to bring personal care items such as pillows and laundry detergent, for donation to Ronald McDonald House.

And, Michelle says, “We were blown away at gifts and grants night. Even though we know Kosair Charities does a lot, we didn’t know how much. That was amazing to see. It was amazing to see those little kids.”

**‘We learn from him every day’**

Flowers said it was a privilege to take Griff to the gala, where he presumably shook a few hands as well.

“He’s such a pleasure to all of us,” Flowers says. “We feel like he’s ours.”

Michelle admits she used to feel sorry for kids with special needs. No more. Now, if she sees someone staring at Griff, she welcomes it as an opportunity to educate.

“I used to think they aren’t smart or can’t do things,” she says. “I’m embarrassed to say that, but now I know it’s not true. He is so smart. His body works differently, and it may take him a while longer to do things. But people like Griff have it down pat — we tend to complicate things, and he keeps things simple. We learn from him every day.”
On Dec. 4, 2011, over 350 Kosair Kids and their families came to the Crowne Plaza to see Santa and Mrs. Claus at the annual Kosair Charities Holiday Party. Frosty, Rudolph, Ginger and the inflatable Shriner stopped by to join in the fun!

Each child got to sit on Santa’s lap, where they received a gift, four books, a Miranda the Panda Bear, and a coloring book. Also, thanks to Ada Lee Kane, a Kosair volunteer, 80 new bikes and helmets were donated for the party and raffled off to our Kosair Kids.

A great time was had by all. We look forward to another spectacular party next year.
After many years at the helm, the Herricks have decided to convert the tournament to a committee structure. Cole’s Classic will now be known as the Kosair Classic, and the Herricks will be part of a committee that will plan the tournament. We cannot thank the Herricks enough for the support they have given – and will continue to give – Kosair Charities.

The Shriner of the Year award went to Ted Burgin for his help with the Kosair Charities Holiday Party. The party, which benefits underprivileged and special needs children, was started by Ted over 50 years ago. After decades of service Ted has decided to hang up his microphone at the holiday party, the 2011 event was his last in charge. While he will be greatly missed, Kosair Charities is eternally grateful for his dedication.

The Community Partner of the Year went to Park Community Federal Credit Union for partnering with Kosair Charities for Louisville’s first debit card for charity (For more information see page 14). Kosair Charities looks forward to a long partnership with Park Community.

The Calling All Angels Award is a new award in honor of Ada Lee Kane. Ada Lee, a longtime volunteer, was instrumental in the donation of over 80 bicycles for the Kosair Charities Holiday Party (see page 2). The Ada Lee Kane Calling All Angels award will be named in her honor and given to volunteers who embody her spirit and her dedication to our Kosair Kids.

For more information on how you can volunteer, join us on the first Tuesday of the month for our volunteer meetings, or visit www.kosair.org.
UPS Golf Classic & Kosair Charities: A winning partnership

A bunch of UPS employees who liked to play golf. That was the answer from everyone we asked how the UPS Golf Classic benefiting Kosair Charities got its start. Nineteen years ago, UPS held a golf tournament that was completely sponsored by employees just for co-workers to have a day of enjoyable golf together.

After two years of the “just for fun” tournament, UPS employees Mike Wright and Greg Kerley decided they wanted to make the annual event a tournament for charity. Mike’s son, Austin, was born with a few medical problems, and while Mike was visiting his son at Kosair Children’s Hospital, he saw firsthand the work that Kosair Charities did.

Mike befriended a couple at the hospital whose little girl was born with multiple heart problems. The family owned a small auto body shop, and did not have the best insurance. Kosair Charities stepped in, and helped the committee in making 2011 the best year ever. The 17th annual UPS Golf Classic raised more than $83,000 for Kosair Charities — its biggest donation yet.

The tournament now hosts upwards of 200 players each year, and is open to all golfers, not just UPS employees. Thanks to the innovative thinking of Henry Kern, the golf classic is sponsored by many local and national businesses. These sponsors and players fly or drive in from all over the country — and some even come from Europe — to play in this tournament and support Kosair Charities. In its 17 years, the UPS Golf Classic has raised over $500,000 for Kosair Charities!

Fat Boy Golf Classic

In 2004, Shane Harding planned a golf tournament for his 10-year high school reunion. It was such a huge success that he decided to host it again in 2005. He named his tournament the Fat Boy Golf Classic, because, he said, it was just a bunch of chubby guys who loved to get together and play some golf!

In 2005, the second year of the tournament, Shane brought in twice as many players. He realized then that the Fat Boy Golf Classic had the potential to make some serious money for charity.

In 2006, Shane and all of the original “Fat Boys” got together for a brainstorming session and decided to give all of the proceeds to Kosair Charities. They chose Kosair Charities because it was local, and, Shane says, because he has “always been impressed with Kosair Charities and the work they do.” In 2007, the tournament really took off and has been bringing in “fat” profits to our Kosair Kids ever since! The Fat Boy Classic is held each August at Woodhaven Country Club. It truly is a family event. Shane’s wife, Kim, works the registration table each year, while their daughter, Madelyn, sells homemade cookies to the golfers and hands them their goodie bags. The Harding’s son, Henry, works the crowd and greets each golfer while showing off his posh country club attire and his own golf clubs!

This year, Shane hopes the Fat Boy Classic will gain a few more teams and maybe even grow into a new course. In the eight years that Shane has hosted the tournament, it has raised more than $7,000 for our Kosair Kids. The 2012 Fat Boy Golf Classic date is still to be determined, but will definitely be on a Saturday morning in August, and will cost $80 per player.

For more information, go to www.kosair.org or call (502) 637-7696.
With the passage of time, important names can get lost to history. So it was a nice surprise recently when Kosair Charities was contacted on behalf of a Past Potentate, Herman Kessler, and notified that he had left a gift to the Charities that was payable upon the death of his beloved wife, Mary Lou, who passed away in late 2010.

Mr. Kessler, who held the post in 1949, was a lawyer by training but had become one of the city's leading businessmen. He operated Standard Printing Co., which was known for printing almanacs and work by the famous painter Ray Harm.

He served on the Kosair Crippled Childrens Hospital board for several years, and along with many colleagues, he worked tirelessly to protect the young hospital's unique mission of helping sick and injured kids.

Devoted to Kosair Charities

Kosair Crippled Childrens Hospital grew and prospered, thanks to the long-term vision and strong guidance of men like Herman Kessler. In 1981, Kosair Charities reached an agreement with the Norton Healthcare System to create Kosair Children's Hospital, which today ranks as one of the nation's top pediatric hospitals. Kosair Charities remains the hospital's largest private funding source.

Herman Kessler's enthusiasm for Kosair Charities was matched by Mary Lou's. Through an auxiliary program called TWIGS (Together With Important Goals Shared), she helped generate volunteer support for the old hospital, and along with colleagues in the Crescent Hill Women's Club, she worked to staff the volunteer gift shop during the 1960s. When Herman passed away in 1980, she continued his devotion to Kosair Charities.

The value of service

To recognize the Kesslers' efforts, Kosair Charities has named the Community Room on its campus in their honor. Two of their grandchildren, Kathie Wrightson and Dr. Alan Wrightson, attended the presentation during Kosair Charities' W. Barnett Owen Society fall luncheon.

Kathie, who works with gifted and talented students in Shelby County, says her grandparents taught her the value of service. For her most recent project, she asked her students to produce an elaborate recording of children's stories, set to music, which will be donated to Kosair Children's Hospital. "I grew up knowing what a fine legacy the hospital would become for my grandparents," she says. "I am so proud to know that their dreams were realized. Our most vulnerable and precious citizens, our children, will always have a place to get well."

In today's busy world, going the extra mile isn't always easy, but Quentin Hill, 23, did just that 141 times. On August 28, 2011 Quentin raised over $1,000 for Kosair Charities by completing the Ford Ironman in Louisville, which includes a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112 mile bike ride, and finishes with a 26.2 mile run.

Quentin began his love affair of running in September of 2008 after he ran his first 5k. Quentin was immediately consumed by the sport and ran his first half marathon just two months later. After completing this amazing feat he set his sights on the Ironman Triathlon of Louisville.

Quentin knows he has been blessed with great ability, and wanted to use it to give back. He was motivated to run the Ironman of Louisville with a purpose, and quickly found one with Kosair Charities. Quentin accepted donations from friends, family and businesses on a per mile basis, motivating him to finish every mile of the race, which he did with an astounding determination.

When asked what message he wants others to receive from him completing such an event, Quentin replied, "Growth, whether it be physical, spiritual or just you as a person, demands a temporary surrender of comfort and security."

Kosair Charities says "Thank You" to Quentin Hill. Kosair Charities helps, but it's individuals like Quentin who make it happen!

Remembering Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kessler, who helped Kosair Crippled Childrens Hospital grow and prosper

Quintin Hill: Going the Extra Mile Raised Over $1,000

“I grew up knowing what a fine legacy the hospital would become for my grandparents” Kathie Wrightson

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Kathie Wrightson
Kosair Charities debit card

When Park Community Federal Credit Union wanted to develop new products and services, managers put together a committee and asked them to brainstorm. One of their ideas was music to the ears of everyone at Kosair Charities. The group suggested the credit union develop Louisville’s first-ever charity debit card — in support of Kosair Charities. Now, anyone who chooses a Park Community Credit Union debit card makes a $5 donation, with 100 percent going to Kosair Charities. The credit union can also set up an auto-debit for customers to make weekly or monthly donations.

“We wanted to work with Kosair Charities because it has such a good reputation,” said Bobby White, a Park marketing specialist. “By choosing them, we know we are helping so many other causes through Kosair Charities.”

People helping people

Park Community Federal Credit Union was established in 1965 to serve the employees of General Electric’s Appliance Park in Louisville. In 2003, the credit union gained approval to serve anyone who lives in metro Louisville, and “Community” was added to its name. It has 14 branches in three states.

Park Community is a not-for-profit financial institution, with a volunteer board of directors. The credit union is known for its superior customer/member service and great rates on both savings and all types of loans.

White says Park wanted to keep its philanthropy local, and an existing relationship led to the selection of Kosair Charities. “We had a business relationship with St. Vice President of Business Relations & Marketing, Vicky Weber when she was with the Town chamber of commerce,” he says, “and we’ve learned a lot about the great work Kosair Charities does — people helping people definitely aligns with our mission and our mission.”

“A great partnership”

White says he’s heard great feedback about the Kosair Charities debit card, which the credit union has marketed through brochures, local publications and social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Park Community hopes to begin attending Kosair Charities events to promote the card.

Anyone who’s interested in a Kosair Charities debit card can visit a Park Community branch or go to its website at www.parkcommunity.com to open a new checking account. Existing credit union members can simply call or visit a branch and ask about ordering a Kosair Charities card.

“We think it’s a great partnership,” White says. “We’re thrilled to work with Kosair Charities.”

Calling All Angels: Ada Lee Kane

Ada Lee Kane recalls her first dance recital; she was about 8 years old, and on the wall at the Scottish Rite temple, she noticed a saying that left an impression.

“What you do for yourself dies with you; what you do for others lives on and becomes immortal.”

“That became my Golden Rule,” says Kane, who is now “retired” after running Ada Lee’s School of Dance for 61 years. The saying is on her business card, which describes her as a “Professional Volunteer.”

And her favorite place to volunteer is Kosair Charities. She’s done a bit of everything over the years, but nothing quite like her most recent project: Ada Lee made it her mission to get bicycles donated for Kosair Charities’ annual Christmas Party.

Angels step forward

While helping wrap gifts for the party, Ada Lee learned that a few bikes are usually donated and given away in a drawing. She wanted to improve the odds.

She called a longtime friend who gave $100. She visited stores and urged them to donate. Texas Roadhouse donated 15 bicycles and suggested Ada Lee contact a nonprofit organization called Bicycle Safety. Doug Beckert, a safety program instructor there, and his wife, Cherry, checked out the bikes, helped locate helmets and made sure the kids got the right size helmet on the day of the party.

When all was said and done, Ada Lee had solicited more than $2,000 in donations to Kosair Charities, enough to give away 80 bicycles and helmets.

Ada Lee was happy with that outcome but admits the effort required extra persistence. But each time she hit a snag, something divine happened. A stranger handed her $20. A man who’d heard about the effort donated a bike store gift certificate. Volunteers helped assemble bikes, and others helped organize the drawing.

She coined a phrase — “Calling all angels” — to describe “how things fall into place. So many angels stepped forward. Without them, we couldn’t have done it.”

An ambitious goal

Recalling how she taught orphans at the old Masonic Home more than 60 years ago, Ada Lee says she dearly loves Kosair Charities, which is named in her trust. “I know that what you give doesn’t go for expenses, it goes to help kids,” she says. And she’s already thinking about this year’s party; she wants to get a bike for every kid.

With up to 400 children at the party, isn’t that a tall order?” “Yes,” she admits with a gleam in her eye, “but I have a little experience now.”

Not to mention, an army of angels.
Do You Believe in Magic?

Kosair Charities is giving you the chance to believe in the magic of helping our Kosair Kids by attending our exciting annual magic show.

Three of Las Vegas’ most prominent magicians will bring their acts to Louisville to help raise money for our Kosair Kids. “The Magic and the Wonder,” starring Vegas headliners Ardan James, husband and wife duo Kalin and Jinger, and Stephen Bargatze, will be performed on May 20 at the Louisville Palace. All proceeds will benefit Kosair Charities and our Kosair Kids.

Ardan James specializes in the mechanics of body illusion, Kalin and Jinger in illusion of psychology, and Stephen Bargatze in motivational speaking to kids through magic. To date, our annual magic show has raised over $100,000 for Kosair Charities.

Tickets go on sale April 13, and are available at Livenation.com, Ticketmaster.com, the Louisville Palace Box Office, and all Ticketmaster outlets.

Call 1-800-745-3000 to order by phone.

Come experience an evening of magic and help us raise money for our Kosair Kids!
Meeting Challenges

The Limberg family and the GE Employee Community Fund

When Anne Limberg addresses her co-workers about the importance of supporting charitable causes, she speaks with the voice of experience.

Anne, an IT director at General Electric’s Appliance Park in Louisville, is a contributor to GE’s Employee Community Fund (ECF), a nonprofit organization established nearly 50 years ago to help employees make charitable donations through payroll deduction.

She is also the mother of a special needs child. Her 4-year-old daughter, Courtney, was born with several developmental challenges and is medically fragile. Courtney has received significant support from Kosair Charities and related agencies, which Anne and her husband, Brian, credit with helping them manage their lives.

‘Devastating’ problems

Shortly after Courtney was born, the Limbergs learned she was missing part of her brain and that she had an endocrine-related disease. Courtney spent two months in intensive care. Then the Limbergs were thrilled to take her home, “but unfortunately, that’s when things got worse,” Anne says.

Courtney cried constantly; her fists and leg muscles were always tight. She barely slept and could not keep food down. “She truly felt miserable,” Anne says, “and as a result, we were sleep-deprived and running on empty.”

Courtney wasn’t developing; eventually a pediatric neurologist explained why she was constantly agitated. She has three major issues:

* Her brain is smaller, so she will likely be mentally delayed and challenged.

* Though her eyes work, her brain can’t process what she sees. The condition is called cortical visual impairment.

* Her brain is smaller, so she will likely be mentally delayed and challenged.

“When we were told that, it was devastating to learn all of this,” Anne says, “but we vowed we would stay positive and get her all the help we could to give her the best opportunities in life possible.”

A family finds answers

The Limbergs were frightened and confused. Raising twin boys, who were 5 when Courtney was born, along with managing their careers, was already challenging. Now they had to become experts on Courtney’s challenges, and that can be a full-time job on its own.

Several organizations that receive direct support from Kosair Charities have played a huge role in helping them cope. Brian says one key development was their discovery of Dr. Ronald Lehockey and the Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies. “He has a solid understanding of what parents of special needs kids need,” Brian says, “and he encourages you to keep pushing when you’re not finding the information you need.”

The family has received help from the Visually Impaired Preschool Services; Anne says they learned several techniques there that they use with Courtney to do visual therapy at home.

They also sing the praises of Home of the Innocents. Courtney’s physical therapist works there, and the Home also hosts Sib Shops, which are workshops for siblings of special needs children.

“Our twin boys, who are now 9 years old, love their sister very much,” Anne says, “but they have a hard time understanding why she is so complicated. They ask us questions like: Will Courtney ever be able to walk or hold up her head? Will she ever talk or eat? Why do we have a Courtney and our friends don’t? Will she ever get better?”

Anne says “these are great questions with difficult answers,” and she appreciates Sib Shops for helping the twins to better understand Courtney and to talk about her to other children who can relate.

The importance of giving

Philanthropy is important to GE, says Megan Robinson, Manager of Citizenship and Social Media at Appliance Park. The ECF, which is specific to Louisville, raised $1.4 million last year (including a company match). Every penny goes to charity, with GE covering administrative costs.

Kosair Charities is one of the ECF’s designated agencies, which allows employees to direct their donations there. Robinson says GE employees are quite aware of Kosair Charities and its good works. And she says that message is driven home by employees like Anne, who can talk firsthand about how Kosair Charities has helped her family manage a challenging situation.

“She is a powerful advocate,” she says. “From our perspective, when our employees speak of their own experiences, it helps other employees realize how important their support is. It’s more powerful — it could be us in that situation, and would we handle it was well as Anne does?”

The Limbergs are grateful for all of the encouragement.

“We have learned to manage better,” Brian says. “We have some in-home support, so we can sleep at night. It helps balance the demands of job and life. When you are fatigued, you don’t make good decisions and there’s higher anxiety.

“...and in that situation, and would we handle it was as well as Anne does?”

Ann Limberg
Kosair Charities greets two new board members

Kosair Charities would like to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors: Shawn Warren and Martin Walters.

B. Shawn Warren, the elected Assistant Rabban (2nd Vice President) of Kosair Shriners, is a fourth generation Freemason and a senior DeMolay, entering the Masonic Fraternity in 1991. Shawn is a Past Master of St. Matthews Lodge No. 906 and St. George Lodge No. 239, both in Louisville. He was created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Kosair Temple on Nov. 21, 1992 and is an active member of several Units and Clubs. He serves as an Associate Member of the Board of Governors of Shriners Hospitals for Children in Lexington, Ky.

Shawn is a member of several other fraternal, civic and professional organizations. In 1991, he co-founded the company that would become Fratline Emblematics; a firm specializing in jewelry, regalia and promotional products for fraternal organizations. Shawn is a graduate of Drouhard National Jewelers School in Columbus, Ohio, and a certified insurance replacement appraiser.

Shawn and wife Kimberly have two daughters and are members of the Church of the Incarnation.

"I consider it an honor to be a Freemason and Shriner," Shawn says. "Kosair Charities is the premier children's charity in our region and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve the children of Kentuckiana.

Martin R. Walters, ChFC, is a Private Wealth Advisor at Walters, Walters, Redmon & Associates, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. Martin is a Past Master 1994 of Middletown Lodge 732, a member of Louisville Lodge 400, a member of Louisville Scottish Rite and a member of Kosair Shrine. He also serves as a Board Member (Vice Chairman) of the Masonic Homes of Kentucky. Martin has his B.S.B.A. from the University of Louisville and has been a chartered financial consultant since 2001. Martin is married to wife Steppi and has two daughters.

When asked how he feels about his new appointment to Kosair Charities Board of Directors, Martin said, "I have always appreciated the work Kosair Charities does for our community. As a board member, my family will have a greater opportunity to continue to support Kosair Charities' work. My whole family is excited to be a small part. We always love to hear the 'if it weren't for Kosair' stories."

Kosair Charities is proud to have these two distinguished gentlemen represent our history and our mission.

Ladies Oriental Club helping Kosair Kids since 1938

The Ladies Oriental Club, a long-standing pride of Kosair Shriners, was founded in 1938 by 16 Kosair Shriners’ wives who started meeting at the Seelbach Hotel for dinner and bridge, while their husbands had meetings at Kosair Temple. Since most of the ladies’ husbands were members of the Kosair Oriental Band, a club within the Kosair Shrine, they named theirs the Oriental Club; however, the club was open to all wives and widows of Kosair Shrine members.

It started as a social club, but in 1945 the members voted to do volunteer work at Kosair Crippled Children’s Hospital on Eastern Parkway, including helping with the annual picnic. The philanthropic work started by the original group of 16 ladies continues today.

All wives and widows of Shriners are welcome to join the Ladies Oriental Club. They are a non-profit social organization, whose proceeds support Kosair Charities through various fundraisers. These include an annual style show, a ladies friendship tea, a Bring and Buy Auction/Luncheon and other events.

Throughout the year at each meeting, tickets are sold on various items to raise money to give to the ladies at the Masonic Home.

In 1987 when Kosair Crippled Childrens Hospital was transitioning to its new home downtown, the club donated $10,000 to furnish two examining rooms at the hospital. In 2005, a wrought iron bench was donated to sit in front of the newly refurbished Kosair Charities building on Eastern Parkway.

Since it began, the Ladies Oriental Club has donated over $170,000 to Kosair Charities to help fulfill their mission of helping children. For the members of the Ladies Oriental Club, their greatest satisfaction comes from helping kids, the most precious gift of all. Kosair Charities and Kosair Kids are extremely thankful to be associated with such wonderful ladies!
Ann Blair Christmas Party

Ann Blair of Jeffersontown decided to put a twist on her 10th annual Christmas Party. Instead of guests bringing food or gifts, they were encouraged to bring toys for Kosair Kids. The party was a huge success: Ann collected more than 100 toys and raised over $250 by raffling off a basketball signed by Rick Pitino. Ann donated all of this to Kosair Charities in honor of her late father-in-law, Carl Blair, who was a Kosair Shriner.

Adair Co. Knife Club

Members of the Adair Co. Knife Club make a gift to help support our Kosair Kids!

Pictured, from left to right, are:
1st row: Jorden Melson, Tony Helms, Joe Flowers, Eric Churchill, Knife Club President Jason Cox, Harrison Mose, Bill Aaron, Jacob Morrison, Andrew Henderson
2nd row: Dalton Coomer, Jimmie Bennett, Philip Cox, Donald Thomerson, Allen Day, David Henderson, Winston Bennett, Richard Chief

Aeropostale

The Aeropostale stores at Green Tree Mall and Jefferson Mall recently donated over 120 new teddy bears to our Bears on Patrol Program. Thank you Aeropostale for continuing to support Kosair Charities year after year!

Avon Fundraiser

Avon Independent Sales Representative and Leadership Recruiter Liz Bernardi sold Avon gift baskets during the holiday season and raised $100 for our Kosair Kids. She also donated tiaras and teddy bears. Liz was so pleased with the outcome of her holiday special that she continued to sell the baskets through Valentine’s Day and donated 15 percent of all of her sales in February.

Bravo! Cucina Italiana

Bravo! Cucina Italiana restaurant in St. Matthews collected toys and stuffed animals during the holiday season. Big thanks to manager Dwayne Henshaw for organizing this toy drive and for supporting Kosair Charities! All of the toys donated will be used as Christmas gifts for our Kosair Kids in 2012.

Cedar Grove Elementary

Cedar Grove Elementary School’s fifth-grade Beta Club held a toy and bear drive for Kosair Charities, collecting more than 150 toys and stuffed animals. These children have been learning about philanthropy by working with charities in the area. Thank you, Beta Club, for supporting our Kosair Kids.

Dian Fossey Manger

Dian Fossey, a zoologist famous for her work in the wild with mountain gorillas, was the Director of Occupational Therapy at Kosair Crippled Children’s Hospital until the mid-1960s. During her time in Louisville, Dian painted the nativity scene pictured here. The nativity scene had been purchased, piece by piece, by Nurse Edna Robinson when she worked with Fossey at the hospital. The nativity scene was recently brought in by Edna’s daughter, Patricia Flatt, to be photographed. Thank you for sharing this treasure with us.

Circuit Court Compassion Committee

Employees at the Jefferson County Clerk’s office collected toys for Kosair Charities in a unique way. Every Friday that they wanted to dress down cost them a toy or stuffed animal for our Kosair Kids! The toy drive was orchestrated by the County Clerk Compassion Committee. They donated more than 50 toys and $315.

Owen Corning & Shelby Pediatrics

Owen Corning and Shelby Pediatrics partnered to collect stuffed animals for the Bears on Patrol Program. They collected over 90 bears!
Michael Payne

Michael Payne is a tremendously giving 10-year-old boy. He had his birthday party at Champs Rollerdrome in early December, and in lieu of gifts, Michael had his friends donate money to Kosair Charities. Michael’s birthday party brought in over $450 for Kosair Charities. What a selfless kid!

First Capital Bank

Jim Tilford and his staff at First Capital Bank of Kentucky on Bardstown Road sold Kosair Kites to their customers to raise money for Kosair Charities. Each time someone bought a kite, they were entered to win a Christmas tree with $250 worth of gift cards on it. The lucky winner of the tree was Fred Scholmer of Salem, Ind. Thank you to everyone who bought a kite. First Capital raised $270 for our Kosair Kids!

Sinister Tombs Donation

Thank you very much to Marvin Slaggs and Sue Parrish of Sinister Tombs Haunted House in Eastview, Ky., for donating children’s Halloween costumes. Our Kosair Kids will look extra spooky this Halloween!

C Beyond Services

Cheyond, a leading provider of IT and communications services to 60,000 small businesses in the U.S., hosted a stuffed-animal drive at their Louisville office the two weeks before Christmas as part of their Season of Giving initiative. Jerome Pascua, who coordinated the bear drive and his daughter, Sofi, delivered the dozens of bears to our office and helped to restock our bear room. Great work, Cheyond Services!

Kentucky Hospital Association

Judith Lee and her staff at the Kentucky Hospital Association collected stuffed animals for our Bears on Patrol Program during the holiday season. They collected over 100 bears. Great work, KHA!

Police & Firefighters Bash

The 8th annual Kentuckiana Police and Firefighter Summer Bash was held on June 18, 2011. The soirée, which hosted celebrities such as Ken Osmond (Eddie Haskell from Leave it to Beaver), contestants from Survivor and The Amazing Race, and local sports legends, raised $5,000 for Kosair Charities. A very special thank you to Capt. Matthew Keith, of the Jeffersontown Fire Department and Maj. Kelly Jones, of the Louisville Metro Police Department, who started this event and have continued to support Kosair Charities through the years.

Stopher Elementary

The RAKt (Random Acts of Kindness and Thoughtfulness) Club from Stopher Elementary School came to tour Kosair Charities and bring us some homemade cards and lots of stuffed animals. The children learned more about our Bears on Patrol Program and the history of Kosair Charities. Thank you very much for supporting Kosair Charities and coming to visit us!

Miranda The Panda

A large national company that has asked to remain anonymous donated over 4,000 Miranda the Panda teddy bears. Most of these toys were given to the agencies we support like Brooklawn, Spina Biffa, Bellewood, and St. Joseph, and the rest were given to Kosair Kids at our annual Kosair Charities Holiday Party. All of the stuffed animals are now in the arms of children, where they belong!
Zeta Phi Beta
The leaders of Zeta Phi Beta sorority from all over the state met in Louisville in late November to present Kosair Charities with more than 100 stuffed animals for our Bears on Patrol Program. Thanks for thinking of our Kosair Kids!

Voortman Cookies
Duane Ruff, a Voortman Cookies Sales Representative, graciously donated 30 cases of leftover Voortman Christmas cookies that could not be sold in stores after the holidays. These cookies were given to some of our supported agencies, like Brooklawn and Spina Bifida, so that the children they work with could have a sweet treat!

St. Matthews Mall & General Growth Properties
Do you ever ask yourself “Where does all the change people throw in the fountain at the St. Matthews Mall go?” The answer “Kosair Charities!” Thank you St. Matthews Mall and General Growth Properties for thinking of our Kosair Kids!

Roustabouts
If it weren’t for this group of guys, there wouldn’t have been any toys or bikes at our annual Kosair Charities Holiday Party. The Kosair Shrine Roustabout unit packed and moved all 900 gifts, 80 bicycles, 400 coloring books, and 600 stuffed animals to the Crowne Plaza Hotel for our party. They even rented a box truck for us to make the move easier. Thank you, Roustabouts; we couldn’t have done it without you!

VW Club
Members of the Classic VW Club of Louisville held a fundraiser to benefit the kids of Kosair Charities! Thanks to all who supported their efforts!

Voortman
EURO ALMONETTE

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Randy Coe, President
Kosair Charities
Jerry Ward, Chairman of the Board

Kosair Charities Goes Mobile...
Protecting the Most Precious Gift of All

Since 1923, Kosair Charities has had one primary mission – helping children in need. Kosair Charities knows that the quality of a child’s tomorrow depends largely on the quality of health, medical treatment, and support a child receives today. That’s why over the years, Kosair Charities has given more than $295 million to serve thousands of children and provide them a second chance at life.

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