Saint Simeon’s Celebrates Successes of Western Days:

TAKE ME BACK TO TULSA!

Saint Simeon’s Foundation is thrilled to announce that Western Days 2013: Take Me Back to Tulsa! was an huge success, with early totals indicating more than $550,000 raised. The event, held on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at Central Park Hall at EXPO Square, marked the 17th annual milestone of the fundraising event. Funds raised through Western Days directly support capital improvements at Saint Simeon’s.

“The gracious support of Saint Simeon’s patrons means a great deal to us,” said Blake Atkins, who chaired the event with his wife Mandy. “Each gift will be put to good use at Saint Simeon’s.”

Approximately 700 people attended Western Days 2013: Take Me Back to Tulsa!, which featured a marvelous Silent Auction with well over 100 items, as well as the always entertaining Live Auction, led by volunteer auctioneer Tommy Williams. The evening also featured the traditional General Store stocked with handmade items from residents and employees, and a delicious dinner. In addition, Western Days attendees were entertained by a musical performance by Shelby Eicher and his full 12-person band, The Tulsa Playboys.

Mandy and Blake Atkins served as Event Chairs, and Phyllis and George Dotson served as Patron Committee Chairs. Rev. Irv Cutter once again served as emcee for the event. William S. Smith was selected as Honorary Chair, and celebrated for his long-time leadership, friendship, guidance and support of Saint Simeon’s.

This year, the Pioneer Spirit Award was presented to Saint Simeon’s Resident Marie Millar in appreciation of her dedication over the last 10 years to crafting thousands of beautiful items to sell as Western Days auction and General Store items.

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“Tanisha has many outstanding qualities – integrity, dedication, compassion, accountability, humility, respect, and patience. She used her knowledge from years of experience, her gifts of kindness, the right amount of firmness, along with a great smile, wonderful sense of humor and a world of patience to give my mother the stability she desperately needed. Her visits gave me much peace, knowing that my mother had an angel on earth, making a very special home for her during a time of great need. I will be forever grateful for all that Tanisha did to help make this possible and for all the outstanding staff in the Memory Center.”

— Julie Mayfield, Leslie’s Campbell’s Daughter

“When we need someone for overtime, Tanisha frequently volunteers. She also volunteers to fill in when we need a Unit Secretary. She volunteers to make sure residents get to the Pool. She delivers supplies to other Homes when she is able. She is just a wonderful employee!”

— Pam Gourd, Charge Nurse/LPN/Memory Center

“My main job is to provide the best possible care for the eight Residents who live in Home 3 in the Memory Center (MC). I pretty much do everything except cook their meals. I also help wherever else I am needed and represent the MC on the Employee Council. I first worked at Saint Simeon’s as an agency (Interim) employee. Carla Stokesberry, then the Director of Nursing, asked me if I would like to come and work here, and that is just what I did in January of 1999.

I was born in Tulsa and have lived here all my life. My mom, Faye King, and my dad, Charles Bibbs, are from Stillwater. My mom has always worked in Child Care and works at Osage Day Care. My dad was the cook for several fraternities at Oklahoma State University. I attended Alcott Elementary School, Hamilton Middle School, and graduated from Rogers High School. I have two sisters. My older sister, Dedondra, is a juvenile probation officer, and my younger sister, Jaquel, is a medical assistant and phlebotomist.

Derrick Edwards was my date at the Prom when I was in the 11th grade, and we have been together ever since (18 years). Shortly after I graduated from high school, we had our son, De’Mari, and 18 months later our daughter, Tasia. They are both students at Memorial High
School, where he is a senior and she is a junior. De’Mari plays varsity basketball and Tasia used to play basketball, but now is focusing on classes in Health Science at Tulsa Tech. As a senior, she will be in their CNA Program. I also have seven nephews but no nieces!

When I am not working, I enjoy going to movies and attending my kids’ games, including the AAU Summer Basketball League. My favorite magazine is Sister’s Sister and the last really good movie I saw was The Butler. My favorite TV show is The First 48, and I watch all the Housewives shows. I collect dolphins - they seem like such peaceful animals. We enjoy going to family reunions and visit Texas a lot since we both have family there. I attend Greater Grace Apostolic Church, which is a large non-denominational church. We have two pit bulls, Jo Jo and Caine, who are wonderful pets. Even the mailman knows them by name and pets them whenever he comes.

I am grateful that I work with a wonderful group of employees in the MC. We know that we can depend on each other to help whenever there is a need. I love my job, but one thing I aspire to do someday is become a Physical Therapist Assistant.”

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Saint Simeon’s is grateful for the contributions of the many sponsors and donors of the event, as well as the hard work invested from the Western Days Committee Members and other volunteers. Serving as Patron Committee Members were Phyllis and Steve Anderson, Lucy and John Barker, Kristin and Jim Bender, Sarah and Paul Dougherty, Jane and Lowell Faulkenberry, Helen Jo and Jim Hardwick, Mary Ann Hille, David Hogan, Kelly and Tony Jezeck, Leslie and Stephen Lake, Pat and Kip Leikam, Rob B. Lyon, Jr., Lee Lobeck-Marks and David Marks, Annette and Kevin Murry, Lisa and Tom Schooley, and Margaret and Ross Swimmer.

Advisory Committee members were Ellen and Don Atkins, Anne and Bob Burlingame, Janice and Jay Cline, Liz and Charlie Cohlmia, Mary Deisenroth, Pat Deisenroth, Jim Dempster, Anne Evans, Donna and Will Farrior, Toni Garner, Nancy and Jim Gustine, Brenda Haesloop, Elaine and Ted Hanner, Jana and George Harrington, Marlo and The Rev. Bill Holly, Debbie and Bishop Ed Konieczny, Deborah and Dorian Kurin, Judy Lawson, Debbie and Dean Luthey, Marcia and Ron MacLeod, Lindsey and Fr. Stephen McKee, Millie Millsapugh, Dona and Judge Joe Morris, The Rev. Canon John C. Powers, Ann and Britt Radford, Peggy and Tom Schroeder, and Becky and David York.

Steering Committee Members were Debbie Baker, Revelle Clausing, Sheri and Chuck Colpitt, Andrea and Fr. Irv Cutter, Mary Dotson, Karen and Rick Garren, Marilyn Morris, and Trudy and Tommy Williams.

Be sure to save the date for Western Days 2014, which will be held Tuesday, Sept. 9.
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s,

I remember as a child, October meant only one thing – Halloween! The build-up began early in the month and you had to wait until the very end for Halloween to arrive. Classrooms would be decorated with black cats, witches on broomsticks flying across full moons, ghosts, and of course, jack-o’-lanterns. Music time had Halloween-themed songs and we might have even sung them in a school assembly. There was always the Halloween party just before the day where decorated cookies and cupcakes would be passed around.

I remember my first trick-or-treat outing. We didn’t go to a store and get costumes. In 1960, my mother put together our costumes with whatever was available. I, of course, was draped in the classic white sheet with eyes and nose cut out with scissors. Hey – ghosts were an easy fix for parents on a budget, and children didn’t know any difference! There was never any sense of scariness, or fearfulness associated with Halloween. The ghosts and witches of Halloween were just kids dressed up funny. All of this, of course, was capped off with paper grocery sacks with handles glued on to collect goodies in the neighborhood. This was a typical American celebration of Halloween.

However, Halloween has been celebrated in many cultures and in many different ways. We get the name from All Hallows Eve which was the evening before All Hallows Day, typically known today as All Saints Day. That’s what “hallows” meant – “holy ones” or saints. It was a Christian make-over of pagan celebrations of their ancestors. Yes, it was believed in some places that on that particular night, the spirits of those who had died might walk the earth again. The Christian form was always to draw our attention to the fact that we have been the recipients of our faith from those who have gone before. With reverence, we remember those wonderful champions of our faith, known and unknown, whose witness gave strength and courage to many in times of persecution as well as times of peace. We might do well to remember that we are those “champions” for others who come after us.

Yes, we who are people of faith have a responsibility to be a witness to others; not so much by what we say, but by how we live. How do we deal with adversity in our lives and in the lives of others? How do we treat other people? How do our lives strengthen and give courage to others as an example?

Perhaps the scariest part of All Hallows Eve has nothing to do with witches or goblins, or ghosts or devils. Perhaps the scariest part is the fact that, whether we want to be or not, in our everyday lives we are an example to others of something. Will it be a hallowed example, or a harrowing one?

Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
IT’S ALL ABOUT THE BIRDS

Saint Simeon’s has pigeons. Boy, do we have pigeons. First there are the small flocks of wild pigeons that swoop down into the courtyards to see what “we’re serving.” They are especially fond of the battery-operated Peacock Feeder and seem to know just when to arrive for mealtime. Then there are our domesticated Fan-tailed Pigeons that we have raised for a number of years in the Reflection Courtyard. This is a variety of bird that enjoys walking around on the ground or patio more than flying so Residents can enjoy watching them.

Pictured with Theola Stanridge is our pigeon chick that hatched here this summer and has really grown up fast – almost as big as his parents. Mom and Dad are already sitting on two more eggs in their dovecote near the pond in Reflections Courtyard. Patricia Bartlett named the chick Woody Tucker and her daughter, Barbara, has been bringing Woody Tucker inside to entertain her mom and the other Residents before he even had all his feathers. Frankly, at the beginning, he looked like a little buzzard.

One of our peahens has hatched another batch of peachicks! This has never happened before. In the past, we have allowed our chicks to grow up over the summer and go to their new homes in September. By then they are flying and hard to catch and even harder to take care of at a new location short of clipping their wings. Folks want to buy them when they are still chicks and very cute. This year, we sold our chicks when they were just a month old. Mother Nature didn’t know they all went to good homes, so she triggered a second nesting cycle.

Pictured is one of the peahens on her nest in a Raised Planter on the Valley View Terrace. We also have a hen nesting in a Raised Bed in the Gazebo Courtyard.

FLORA & FAUNA FRIENDS COMMITTEE

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 12
Common Room
10:15 a.m. (Catch-up time), 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Auxiliary Revives an Old Tradition

By Auxiliary President ELAINE HANNER

The Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary is delighted to revive an old tradition this year: The Harvest Moon Festival. During the ‘60s, the Auxiliary hosted an annual event with the same name, which was held at the Blue Moon (then located at 3600 N. Cincinnati). This year, thanks to a generous grant, the Auxiliary was able to do something extra special in lieu of the celebration we normally have each fall, Oktoberfest.

The Harvest Moon Festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. on the Saint Simeon’s grounds. Shelby Eicher and a few of his band members from The Tulsa Playboys will be performing their classic country tunes. We will have games available for both Residents and children to enjoy. The kids will also love activities like face painting, pumpkin painting, balloon animals. Complimentary snacks such as cotton candy and popcorn will be available. Perhaps most exciting of all, the Harvest Moon Festival will also feature horse-drawn hayride tours of Saint Simeon’s campus.

The Harvest Moon Festival will be an event you won’t want to miss! We welcome all Residents, family of Residents, Trustees, Auxiliary members, and members of the local Episcopal community. Please RSVP with Debbie Reif at dreif@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1977 by Oct. 21.

You are your pet are invited to

The Blessing of the Animals

Saint Simeon’s Gazebo Courtyard | Friday, Oct. 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Bring your animals for a special blessing presented by Father Bill Holly, Chaplain of Saint Simeon’s. Simone, the Golden Retriever “mascot” of Saint Simeon’s, will be present to receive her blessing. The Tulsa area community is welcomed to join us for this special service conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures.
Experience Saint Simeon’s Fine Dining Experience

BY STEPHANIE FINK, Director of Morrison’s Senior Dining at Saint Simeon’s

Everyone enjoys a relaxing dinner in an elegant setting every once in a while. Picture the atmosphere: a white cotton table cloth, a nice glass of red or white wine sparkling in the dim light, and light music playing in the background; and the food: a colorful salad followed by a hors d’oeuvres to stimulate your taste buds. A well-prepared main entrée with only the finest accompaniments and sweet dish to fulfill your taste buds. Can you picture this at Saint Simeon’s? Several of our residents do not have many opportunities to experience the finer restaurants around Tulsa, so we are bringing it to them here at Saint Simeon’s on Thursday, October 24th. The dinner will be in the warm and cozy atmosphere of Deisenroth Bistro, accompanied by fresh ingredients and textures that challenge and soothe your taste palette. The warm setting and the care taken by Chef Fuad Baitari will leave you satisfied. Residents and their family and friends are welcomed to enjoy this relaxing atmosphere of a fine dining restaurant in the comfort and intimacy of our Resident’s own home.

WHEN: Thursday, October 24 at 5:00 p.m.
WHAT: A fine dining 4 course menu and wine
COST: $25 per person (Must be accompanied by a resident). Space is limited.
RESERVE YOUR TABLE AT THE DOTSON ASSISTED LIVING FRONT DESK.
Simone’s BIGGEST FAN

This summer, Simone’s Facebook friends had the opportunity to submit pictures posing with Simone, for the chance to be heralded as “Simone’s Biggest Fan.” The winner was Piper Struttman, granddaughter of Resident Jerry Lasater. Piper came to have her picture taken with Simone the day before an OSU game, and both Piper and Simone were appropriately dressed in orange!

We received several other wonderful submissions, including the adorable Audrey Blair (daughter of Foundation Executive Director Carolyn Blair), Resident Jeanette Chucker and her daughter Sandy Vice, and Resident Elizabeth Turnbull.