



ANGEL NEWS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
WWW.LOVEANANGEL.ORG



The Love an Angel Foundation (LAAF) March 2017 Volume VI, Issue I

A Word from our President

Dear Love an Angel friends,



As we take a moment to reflect on the past year and the 2017

“For the Love of an Angel Reverse Raffle”, I can really only sum up by saying WOW! In 2016 the Foundation had a very productive fund raising year capped off by the 2017 Raffle and for that we are grateful. It is because of each of you that we are blessed.

Based on the progress made over the years and the recent procurement of specific grants, financial contributions from local companies and the continued support of all of you, our Love an Angel friends, we are in a position to move forward with the physical improvements (Phase 2) at Halo Farm.

We have met with city personnel to begin the approval process and are working towards groundbreaking in mid to late summer 2017.

With much gratitude we thank you for your support.

Matthew Weber

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Dates to

Keep in mind:

- Garage Sale: early May
- 2017 ASF Walk: Saturday, May 20 Pittsburgh, PA
- Biking for Angels date TBA

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 - 4
Tue, Thurs, Sat & Sun by appointment only
We do close for Holidays, Vacations or in case of illness, so please call first!
234-678-7466

Reverse Raffle Wrap Up



On Saturday, February 11 at 6:25, the tables and hall at St. George’s Fellowship

Centre, Copley, Ohio, stood ready. At 6:30, the doors swung open and guest began filling in.

Many were quick to find their way to the hors d’oeuvres table, Sushi and Open Bar.



Some went straight to the Silent Auction tables to

start their bids for that special item or items among the over 130 presented.



You could hear the chatter of conversations and see the excitement escalating among the over 200 guests as they visited with friends.

President
Matthew Weber

Secretary
Michelle Bisconti

Treasurer
Patricia Weber

Director
Doneita Bucey

Director
Burt Keiper

Director
Joseph Masich

Director
Janice Pajk

Business Advisor
Jamie Schisler

Legal Advisor
Ray Weber

Staff
Susie Bischoff

Reverse Raffle Wrap Up continued



The Sideboard and Bingo tables were busy as “lucky” numbers and bingo cards were being purchased.

MC Burt Keiper asked everyone to be seated and the Foundation president, Matt Weber, shared a few words of Welcome. Our Angels and their families were introduced. We were thrilled to have Charlie Emory, his mother and grandfather with us. Charlie is our first Autistic child to attend our event!

Pastor Ed Peterson gave the invocation, dinner was served, and with bingo cards and all sideboards sold, the Reverse Raffle began. The first number drawn received a certificate to the Sheraton Suites Akron/Falls. Every fifth number out received Bogo cards from Chipotle. Every tenth number out received a \$25 gift card from Rockne’s. We thank both Chipotle and Rockne’s for their generous donations that made this possible.

MC Burt Keiper asked everyone to be seated and the Foundation president, Matt Weber,



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Check out our website:
www.loveanAngel.org

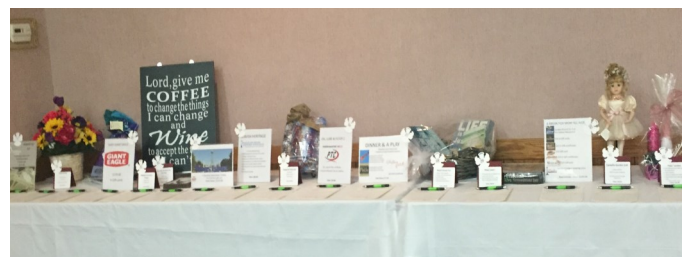
V o l u n t e e r
Opportunities are available. Please call our office at 234-678-7466 if you would like to discuss how you can become more involved.

To Provide Comfort, Assistance, Relief, and Encouragement to those touched by Angelman Syndrome.



With the Burst of Fortune game, the hall turned pink as the \$10 balloons were being purchased. Seventy-five of the one hundred balloons were winners of prizes valued from \$5 to \$75. Two balloons had the top prizes of \$50 and \$100 cash. More fun and surprises came throughout the evening as random dates flashed across the raffle screen and those whose birthdate corresponded received gift certificates from Cupcake Castle or Tiffany’s Bakery.

The Silent Auction came to a close and all the attention shifted to the last numbers drawn for the Reverse Raffle. Our final five decided to split the \$2,000 Raffle prize. As our guests gathered their items purchased and their prizes acquired throughout the evening, the 19th Annual “For the Love of an Angel” Dinner, Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction came to an end.



Reverse Raffle Wrap Up continued



We are excited to share that the event grossed just under \$40,000. Thank you to all that made this year's

fundraiser such a success: Event sponsors, Silent Auction and Prize donors, and everyone that shared in our evening.

Special thanks to Joyce Johnson for featuring our event in the Akron Beacon Journal and to Dan Brubaker for the pictures.



Mark your calendars now for the **Twentieth Year Celebration** on Saturday, February 10, 2018! Plan to invite a friend or better yet, fill a table! See You Then.

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2017 Angelman Syndrome Foundation Walk



Saturday, May 20, 2017 is the ASF Walk in Pittsburgh, PA at North Park, Allison Park, PA.

“Team Love an Angel” will

be traveling again this year to Pittsburgh PA., representing our Angels and their families of Northeast Ohio. The goal of the Walk is to raise money for the research and clinic programs on Angelman Syndrome. There are currently only 3 AS clinics open in the United States and it costs over \$100,000 to launch one of these clinics after it is built. Our goal is to eventually have one of these AS Clinics open in the Cleveland area. This is still only a potential future target city for ASF; however, we at LAAF want to help make this a reality.

The Walk also serves as an opportunity for Angel families to meet and enjoy outdoor fun while sharing experiences and stories about their Angels.

LAAF and Team Love an Angel invite you to join us in our day of fun. The registration fee is \$25 and is free to the Angels and children under the age of 12. Your registration online by April 28th guarantees your Walk t-shirt and swag bag, or you can register that day at the walk.

In spite of the rain last year, we had a fun time together. There were raffle baskets and a concert, as well as a nice luncheon where you could visit with other groups and families. Our group is small, but continues to grow each year.



Cannot join us? Please consider making a donation through the Love an Angel website at: <http://www.loveanangel.org/donate.asp> and mark it for WALK instead of a Spinner/Bikers name or go to the Angelman Syndrome Foundation website for the walk at: <https://www.angelman.org/walk/> and search for Team Love an Angel.

Angel Corner



We are happy to Welcome our newest Angel Family! Here is their story:

I knew something was different about Lucas the day he was born. He didn't want to hold your

finger like most newborns, and he cried for hours and hours. If he wasn't crying, he was eating. Then after every bottle he would throw it all back up and start the process again. It was exhausting and I couldn't get the doctors to listen to me.

Finally when he was 20 months old we saw one of the top neurologists at the Cleveland Clinic and he instantly knew. He sent us to genetics testing and the rest is history.

When I received the phone call confirming Angelman Syndrome the doctor was surprised by my response. Or maybe my lack of response. I simply asked what was next and how can we help him. I called my sister in law whose first response was, "we will love him the same." That has been our motto ever since.

Our family sees Lucas as a typical 5 year old boy, who needs a little extra help to do things. He is very social and loves being around people.

To Provide Comfort, Assistance, Relief, and Encouragement to those touched by Angelman Syndrome.

His smile is infectious and his love of life radiates from his soul into everyone he meets. He is a little boy on a mission to spread love and acceptance and to teach people to see the possibilities, not disabilities.



Like most Angels, swimming and anything water are his favorite! He also enjoys playing in his ball pit, and watching cartoons on his iPad. He loves to cuddle with his Mom and Dad, and wrestle with his big brother Gavin. Just like any typical 5-year old,

you can find him playing with cars and trucks, or hiding from you if he's gotten into something he's not supposed to have. He cheers on his brother, Gavin at his baseball games, and we are looking for a team for Lucas to join this spring.

His strength and determination push him closer every day to achieving his goals. Recently he started walking holding onto one hand. This is a big step for him and shows us just how close he is to taking independent steps and running circles around the rest of us! He has mastered selections on his iPad, and is ready for a communication device. He tells us yes and no and points to things he wants. Lucas shows us every day that he is capable of so many things we were told he may never do. He will do them all, just on his own terms and in his own time.

Angel Corner continued



Because of Lucas, my coworkers at Best Buy donated their time and money to create

Build-a-Bear bears for the middle school kids with multiple disabilities for Christmas. We were thankful to be able to team up with LAAF to make this happen. Some of their faces were priceless as we distributed the bears among the children. This was all because Lucas inspired people to make a difference.



We recently had a fundraiser to purchase a safety sleeper. The support we received far exceeded

anything we could have dreamt.

We were not only able to purchase his bed, but also an adaptive stroller to help him continue to be a social butterfly.

While we are full of hope and optimism about the future, we are not completely unrealistic. We know Angelman

Syndrome is complicated, and very difficult. We have our overwhelming days. We don't sleep. We worry. A lot. We sit up at night to watch when he has a fever. Some of the friends who promised to be there have disappeared, and we have made some new friends we couldn't get through this journey without.

At the end of the day, I can't imagine our lives any other way. Lucas has completely changed my life, and that of everyone he meets. He has made me a better person, friend, and mom. He has opened so many eyes to the possibilities that surround us if we just try.



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Madeline's Great Grandparents Remembered

Our Sunroom was recently rehabbed with the Napoleon and Meda Myers Memorial funds. Great Grandma & Great Grandpa Myers adored all of their grandchildren, but had a special place in their hearts for Maddie.



Planning for a Garage Sale

We are anticipating an early May garage sale, but we need volunteers and items to sell. While you are spring cleaning, keep our garage sale in mind and look for items to donate. Call the office at **234-678-7466** or email us at info@loveanangel.org and we will let you know if we can use those items at our headquarters or sell them in the garage sale. We will also arrange for drop off or pick up times.



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Acme Community Cash Back Update!



Once again, LAAF has benefited from the Acme Fresh Market Community Cash Back Program. The 2016 program brought LAAF its largest return.

As in the past four years, the funds have gone directly into our office operating expenses.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who saved their Acme Fresh Market receipts during the 2016 program.

Please continue shopping Acme Fresh Market and participate in the 2017 Community Cash Back Program which should start sometime in August. Look for the exact start date in our next newsletter.



\$\$\$ Grants, Gifts, & Donations \$\$\$

Love an Angel Foundation is pleased to announce that this quarter we have received grants from:

- The Sandra L. and Dennis B. Haslinger Family Foundation
- The JAH Foundation
- The Akron Junior Women's Civic Club
- The Lloyd L. & Louise K. Smith Foundation
- The Verna E. McKibben Memorial Foundation
- Schwab Charitable Fund.

We have also received a very generous donation from the Marshall Construction Company.

