

Scenes from "Puttin' on the Ritz"

# BRAVO! 2006



Jody Herrelko, Lori Olthoff, and Don Anderson are all smiles as Bravo! 2006 begins

Guests enjoy social hour on the Club's terrace



Carlos Seise gets vocal backup from some terrific "local talent"

Carlos carries the night



Elegantly laid tables, with flowers arranged by Marney Kloote, await their occupants



# WINDOWS



ON THE LITTLE RED HOUSE  
Vol. I, No. 2  
FALL 2007

## Bravo! is back...and better than ever!



In our inaugural issue last Spring, we told you to "save the date" of Friday, September 14, for Bravo! 2007—and now we tell you why...

## It's All About Love

The theme of our major annual fundraising gala, 2007 edition, says it all. The Little Red House is all about love—the love we have for some very special people who need us, and who need you.

So, dust off your best duds and plan to join us again at The Spring Lake Country Club for a fabulous late summer evening of cocktails on the terrace, a fine, four-course dinner at elegantly laid tables in the ballroom, and a concert of the world's greatest love songs and ballads performed by the incomparable Carlos Seise to make the evening complete—and completely perfect.

Bravo! 2007 Program Chair Sarah McDonald is planning some entertainment surprises in addition to the headline performance by Maestro Seise. Board Members Wendy Creason and Lori Olthoff are collecting donations of fine, rare wines for a Silent Auction, which was such a popular feature in 2005 that guests last year asked for it to return. With assistance from Madonna Kramer, Marney Kloote is dedicating her design skills once again to breathtaking floral arrangements. And the chefs at Spring Lake Country Club are putting their heads together to create a menu even more mouth-watering than before. So...please make your reservations today!

Tickets, at \$150 per person, include cocktails, dinner with wine, and concert. \$100 of each ticket is a tax-deductible donation to the Little Red House.

Proceeds from Bravo! 2006 provided approximately 20 percent of our operating budget for the entire year. Local companies, organizations, and individuals who sponsor tables at Bravo! are critical to our success. Please call Jody Herrelko, Executive Director, if you can sponsor a table for Bravo! 2007. *Because...*

### Bravo! 2007 sponsors (as of August 13):

- Don and Cindy Anderson
- Anlaan Corporation
- Give 'Em A Brake Safety
- Harbor Industries
- Israels' Designs for Living
- North Ottawa Community Health Systems
- Riverside Foundation
- Shape Corporation
- Verplank Dock Co.

It's All About Love! 



## The View from My Window

By Jody Herrelko, Executive Director

Spring and summer at the Little Red House have been a carnival of sight and sound. Looking out my window, I see the bus coming and going, volunteers tending the garden, participants enjoying the sunshine and flowers. Up the staircase float the sounds of piano playing and singing and laughter.

One of the happiest sounds I heard was our nursing director, Chris Schuh, saying to a caller, "We are full that day. May I offer you another day?" Yes, for the first time in its history, The Little Red House is experiencing "capacity" attendance of 12 participants on some days—as more and more people find their way to our door, and we welcome them to our family. With increased attendance, however, come greater financial needs. Not all of our participants are able to pay the full amount of their care, even though our hourly rate has remained low. But we do not turn anyone away. Instead, we turn to our supporters, the "lifeblood" of The Little Red House.

For example, **Dave and Mary Eagin**. Their most recent gift was to co-chair our second annual "On the Green for Little Red" charity golf scramble and golf ball drop raffle, May 21 at Spring Lake Country Club. 18 foursomes took to the links on a picture-perfect day and, when it was all over, three lucky winners went home with prize money from the Golf Ball Drop [see photo]; and the Little Red House earned **\$9,300!** The event was flawless from start to finish. Thank you, Dave and Mary, and all who joined us that day.

Another faithful supporter, **Senior Resources**, awarded us a **\$5,000** mini-grant that helped fund our dance movement therapy program for the summer months. We have added one-on-one sessions for participants who benefit greatly from the additional attention and exercise. Our enduring gratitude goes to the good folks at Senior Resources in Muskegon, our area agency on aging.


From the moment we became members of the **Chamber of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg**, the benefits began to roll in. Many people learned about The Little Red House for the first time when I spoke at an early bird breakfast in April and when we hosted a visit by the Chamber's "Leadership Connect" group. Then, Chamber Director Joy Gaasch recommended us for a grant from WalMart available to community nonprofits. On August 1 board member Wendy Creason attended a pre-opening reception at the new **WalMart store in Grand Haven Township**, where she gratefully accepted a check in the amount of **\$5,650**. Thank you, Joy Gaasch and Walmart.

Board Chair Don Anderson joined me in hosting a site visit by the **United Way of Greater Ottawa County**, who toured our facility, viewed our agency DVD, and asked lots of questions. Recently we received a generous grant for our participant scholarship and transportation program. A thousand thanks to our partners at the United Way.

Grateful thanks, as well, to **Mark Kelley of the VFW** (Sgt. Alvin Jonker Post) in Grand Haven, who invited me to speak at their meeting on July 24. Thanks also to Ruth Kelly and the American Legion Auxiliary in Grand Haven for inviting me to speak there on April 24. I appreciate the opportunity to tell The Little Red House story whenever I can. If you'd like me to speak to your group, please call me at **616-638-6554**.

For the second year in a row, Kerry Davis and her team from Herman Miller of Holland have donated their time and green thumbs to spruce up our garden, which brings so much pleasure to our participants. A big red ♥ from The Little Red House to Kerry and crew!

On Thursday, June 14—Senior Day of the Spring Lake Heritage Festival—The Little Red House hosted a free **ice-cream social for seniors**. Joan Wills-Birch worked tirelessly to plan, promote, and present that successful event. Thanks and praise go to: **Sweet Temptations**, who donated the ice cream, **The Weideman Family Band**, who provided musical entertainment, and our wonderful "**Laker**" teen volunteers who showed up in red shirts and big smiles to serve and socialize with our many guests.

Now, we are on to the "Big Event" of the year—**Bravo! 2007**—on Friday, September 14. In the past two years, this benefit has raised almost \$90,000 for our operations. It is truly the one night that makes all our days here possible. On behalf of everyone at The Little Red House, I hope to see you there. 

## 2nd Annual "On the Green for Little Red" Golf Ball Drop



Little Red House treasurer Dan Babcock (left) and Board President Don Anderson (right) present the \$1,000 first place prize in the 2nd Annual "On the Green for Little Red" Golf Ball Drop to Glenn Bukowski of Okemos, Michigan.



The view from the aerial bucket before the balls were dropped shows a crowd of Little Red House supporters enjoying a great day of golf for a good cause

## Senior Ice Cream Social – June 14

Stefanie Pellegrom and Ellyse Birch serve up ice cream and smiles



Paula Tapanila (left) and Joan Wills-Birch (right) with our "Laker" teen volunteers



To view more photos from these fun events, go to [www.thelittleredhouse.org](http://www.thelittleredhouse.org) and click on "News and Events"



**Wise Counsel for Caregivers**

Not all of the services provided by The Little Red House take place here at the house. On Thursday mornings—a block to our west, in a sunny, comfortable lounge at Christ Community Church—Jim Powers, ACSW offers a listening ear and seasoned advice to anyone in the community who is caring for a friend or loved one with physical, cognitive, or psychosocial limitations.



*Jim Powers*


The Caregiver Support Group begins at 11:00 a.m. every Thursday and is open to all, regardless of whether they have a participant at The Little Red House. And, to make it even easier on caregivers, The Little Red House will provide complimentary care for a friend or relative during that time on a space available basis. This service is made possible through a grant from Senior Resources of Muskegon.

Jim Powers earned his master’s degree in social work from Michigan State University and has practiced counseling and social work in clinical outpatient settings since 1976. He has been working with The Little Red House since 2006.

“There’s a story that each person has to tell,” says Jim. And he is there to listen to their stories and help them find ways to alleviate the stress of caregiving. Most people need guidance with such issues as isolation and depression that often accompany the burdens of caregiving, he offers. He also makes caregivers aware of all local resources and how to access them. (From 2000-2005, Jim worked as a clinical social work therapist with Veterans Affairs, so he is especially helpful in guiding people through the qualification process for Veterans’ benefits. Once approved, Veterans receive up to six hours of care at The Little Red House, three days a week, plus transportation and personal care services.)

The support group helps caregivers to connect with each other, which often leads to friendships and greater community support. “Particularly with the disease process of Alzheimer’s and senile dementia, I can help caregivers understand what is taking place, what to expect, and how to respond.”

Jim does not limit his services to the support group schedule. He is available anytime by telephone to speak with caregivers and work through problems and

issues. For more information about Little Red House caregiver support group services, call 846-5720. 

*Jim Powers provides a listening ear and practical guidance for anyone caring for others.*



**Generations Help Each Other**

Youth volunteers are not unusual at The Little Red House. Many high-schoolers are regular helpers here. But our youngest volunteer, Alex Brower, is just ten years old. He began volunteering when he was nine.



*Alex handing out beanbags*

Alex knew about the Little Red House because his grandmother had been a participant. But he never thought about how he could make a difference in the lives of participants until a chance card game with an elderly friend caused him to comment to his mother, Shelly Brower, how much he enjoyed spending time with seniors. His mother suggested he might like to volunteer at the Little Red House, and he’s been riding his bicycle to volunteer here every Wednesday during the summer months for the past two years.

On a recent rainy Wednesday, his mother dropped him off fresh from Boy Scout camp. Twelve participants were seated in a circle eagerly awaiting him, and twelve faces smiled in greeting when he arrived. He played a variety of games, including beanbag toss and a sticky-ball target toss, encouraging each player and celebrating with them.

When asked what he gets from his volunteer role, Alex answered simply, “Courage.” He mused a while longer and then added, “And I think I give them a little courage, too.”

**To learn about other volunteer opportunities at The Little Red House, call Joan Wills-Birch at 846-5720. **

*Wish List*

The Little Red House is in need of the following items:



Photocopier

(with two-sided copying, collating and sorting capability)



Lateral (or upright) locking file cabinets

We are happy with good, used items; if you’re redecorating your office or replacing your old copier—and it still works—we would be delighted to receive your tax deductible donation.

Please contact Jody Herrelko on her private line, 616-638-6554, to discuss a donation.

## Board of Directors

Don Anderson, *President*  
Bruce Baker, *Vice-President*  
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Wendy Creason  
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Jody Herrelko, *Executive Director*  
Joan Wills-Birch, *CNA, Activity Director,  
Volunteer Coordinator, Office Manager*  
Chris Schuh, *RN, Nursing Director*  
Paula Tapanila, *CNA, Transportation Coordinator*  
Jim Powers, *ACSW, Caregiver Support Group*  
Cathy Weideman, *Movement Therapist*  
Carrie Huyser, *Care Assistant*  
Amber Ross, *CNA*

## THE LITTLE RED HOUSE INC. ADULT DAY CARE SERVICES

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Our mission is to provide adult day care services in a welcoming, home-like environment that offers genuine and caring engagement.

## Caregiver Corner

*"Dad could never be left home alone."*




**Sue Strait**, of Spring Lake, received a phone call in 2005 that every adult child of an elderly parent dreads. It was from her sister, telling her that the fire department had responded to a report of a gas leak in her father's house, and they recommended that her dad no longer live alone. Sue knew it was time to make a radical change in her life—and her father's.

Sue, husband Larry Strait, and teenage son Anthony Barber made room in their lives and home for her father, George Barber, 81. "He was so thin," Sue commented. Indeed, her father had wasted to under 100 lbs. The first thing she did was "fatten him up." Anthony enjoyed the time with his grandfather. They had not been able to spend that kind of time together since he was a baby and Grandpa had cared for him while Sue worked.

But there were hardships, too. Anthony played on the Spring Lake High School varsity baseball team and, while George loved to attend the games, he could not manage staying for the whole game, so either Sue or Larry would have to leave before the game was over to take Dad home. They also could never attend meetings, award banquets, or other

activities together because Dad could not be left home alone. Caregiving was becoming a full-time job for Sue...until she contacted The Little Red House.

"I was not ready to put him in a facility full time," she offered. "When I visited The Little Red House and spoke with Chris [Schuh, RN, nursing director] it just felt right. And then I saw the pool table, and that clinched it for me."

Now George enjoys pool and other games on the days he spends at The Little Red House. It wasn't a hard sell, according to Sue. "I just told him he was 'going to school,' and he loves it," she said, adding, "He's more talkative, and he's even recovering some of his memory of things he did in the past. They make it come alive for him. I am grateful they are there for him, and for us." 



*Sue Strait and her father, George Barber, get ready to head home after a full day at The Little Red House.*