

Sharing God's Love & Joy Through Music

Voices For Charity

Volume 9 Issue 1

Winter - 2004

Voices For Charity, P.O. Box 188, Stanton, New Jersey 08885
<http://www.voicesforcharity.org>

Calendar of Events

March 6, 2004
Sunday at 3:30PM
Hunterdon Youth Choir concert to benefit VFC at Stanton Church

March 28, 2004
Sunday at 5:00PM
TASTING DINNER at La Scala Somerville, NJ

April 5, 2004
VFC Choir Rehearsals start Mondays at the Stanton Church for the Spring Bouquet Concert

May 20, 2004
Thursday at 7:00PM
VFC sings National Anthem at SOMERSET PATRIOTS baseball game against the Long Island Ducks

June 6, 2004
Sunday at 3:30PM
SPRING BOUQUET CONCERT at Stanton Church, Stanton, NJ

August 16, 2004
VFC Choir Rehearsals start Mondays at the Stanton Church for Autumn Potpourri Concert

August 28, 2004
Saturday at 7:00PM
VFC sings National Anthem at TRENTON THUNDER Baseball game against the Binghamton Mets (includes Fireworks!)

October 3, 2004
Sunday at 3:30PM
AUTUMN POTOURRI CONCERT at Stanton Church, Stanton, NJ

Chairside Comments



Happy New Year!

We have a lot to tell you since our last newsletter was published this past summer. At our *Annual Meeting* in December, we distributed \$10,000 to benefit our current *VFC Charities*; we had a terrific *Autumn Potpourri Concert* in October, and VFC sang at a *Somerset Patriots* baseball game that ended in fireworks in September. Review the articles in this issue to catch up on these events.

Although we're sad to say we will not have a NY Cabaret gala in 2004, we do have some new and exciting events to compliment our traditional musical concerts, including a gourmet *Tasting Dinner!*

Our website is undergoing a tremendous over-haul, thanks to the generous donation of Lisa Hall from "Above The Bar Enterprises." Be sure to check in from time to time starting in the late February timeframe.

Our year's concert series starts with the return of the *Hunterdon Youth Choir* (HYC) in March. We are grateful to Donna Cooper and the HYC for continuing this tradition of performing to benefit

VFC. If you have never heard these talented youngsters, you should plan to stop by the Stanton Church on March 6th.

This year will also include our semi-annual VFC variety concerts – the Spring Bouquet Concert on June 6th and Autumn Potpourri Concert on October 3rd – both currently scheduled at 3:30PM at the Stanton Church. Along with the *Voices For Charity* choir, the Hunterdon Radio Theatre will return to perform an original radio play in June, with additional performers to be announced.

A big hit in September was a *Voices For Charity* day at a *Somerset Patriots* baseball game. This was the first time



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Chairside Comments (cont. from page 1)

we tried this, and everyone had so much fun, we've decided to do it again on Thursday, May 20, 2004. In fact we enjoyed it so much, we scheduled an evening with the Trenton Thunder baseball team on Saturday, August 28, 2004 which will include fireworks, so why not join us? Order your Somerset Patriots tickets today by completing the enclosed order form.


New!


Tasting Dinner

In place of our large Cabaret gala, *Voices For Charity* will hold a new "Tasting Dinner" mini-event for 2004. Our first dinner will be held on March 28th at 5pm at *La Scala* restaurant in Somerville, NJ.

Chef Omar will prepare each tasting course, which will be paired with a special wine, and should prove to be a delicious epicurean occasion!

Due to the extremely limited seating, *Tasting Dinner* reservation invitations will be sent by request only, so be sure and act quickly if you want to be part of this! For more information or to request an invitation, call Patty Walker on 908-534-2397.

VFC Executive Board

Interested in joining a committee or know of someone else who wants to help? Please contact anyone from the VFC board. Volunteers welcome!

- Chairman: Donna M. Herb** 908-806-3719
- Vice-Chairman: Ann Sauerland** 908-236-2386
- Secretary: Marlyn Reuter** 908-996-2851
- Treasurer: John Benedik** 908-806-2794
- Music: Brent Miller** 908-735-4429
- Charities: Tish Plum** 908-236-6131
- Development: Patty O. Walker** 908-534-2397
- Special Events: Ellen Weiner** 908-304-0167

Annual Meeting



A glorious end-of-the-year celebration!

Voice For Charity held its annual meeting and reception on December 8, 2003 at the Stanton Reformed Church in Stanton, NJ. The Executive Board had the pleasure of presenting \$2,000 to representatives for each of our five benefiting charities, for a total donation of \$10,000. The 2003 distribution was exceptionally rewarding, as it brought the tally of funds dispersed since our founding in 1996 to nearly \$50,000.

Following opening remarks by VFC Chairman Donna Herb, board members Brent Miller and Ann Sauerland presented an inspiring piano and organ duet, playing J. S. Bach's "Sheep May Safely Graze"

as a musical interlude for the evening's program. As each representative came forward to receive their gift, they were invited to share with the audience activities of the past year and any plans for the VFC donation.

Representing *Briteside Adult Day Services* was Ginny Fiess. Parry Adam accepted the gift for *Meals on Wheels* and Lauren Huelsebusch accepted on behalf of *Women's Crisis Services*. Ernestine Winfrey represented *The Good News Home For Women* and Shirley Strassor accepted for *Friend of Teen Arts*.

It was a joy to announce the board's decision to continue our current organizations as beneficiaries for our 2004 charity cycle. A short reception followed in the church's fellowship hall, where light refreshments were accompanied by pleasant conversation.

Autumn Potpourri Concert

Our annual fall concert was presented on October 5, 2003 at the Stanton Reformed Church. The *Voices For Charity* choir was conducted by Ann Sauerland and accompanied by Brent Miller. We were fortunate to have Debra Patchell, mezzo-soprano, as our featured guest soloist for this concert. She performed music which ranged from opera arias to Broadway show tunes. Also featured on the program were two organ/piano duets played by Brent Miller and Ann Sauerland.



Voices For Charity Choir

The *Voices for Charity* choir is a group of singers who give of their time and talents to help raise money for various charities. Two concerts are given each year, one in the fall and one in the late spring. The chorus rehearses for approximately eight Monday evenings, from 7:30pm to 9pm. The music, usually very varied, is rehearsed and presented at the concert. The choral selections chosen for their variety of styles for this concert included music by Billings, Byrd, Rutter, Copland, and Sullivan.

Participation in the chorus is open (without audition) to all singers. Rehearsals begin again on Monday, April 5, 2004 at 7:30 pm at the Stanton Church. Won't you consider donating your time and talents to this wonderful group? Membership is not only rewarding musically, but there is a joy in knowing that we are helping others in the community through our participation.

Hunterdon Youth Choir Concert



Hunterdon Youth Choir Benefit Performance

The Hunterdon Youth Choir, sponsored by Cooper Music, will give a benefit concert for *Voices for Charity* at 3:30PM, Saturday, March 6, 2004 at the Stanton Reformed Church, Stanton NJ located at Stanton Mountain Rd. and Route 629.

This is the 8th year that the choir has performed to benefit *Voices for Charity*.

Through the years, the choir has performed with the Hunterdon Symphony Orchestra, the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the New Jersey Festival of Community Children's Choirs as well as various local organizations.

According to Donna Cooper, director of the music studio, the Youth Choir was established in 1990 to provide children of Hunterdon County an opportunity to sing beautiful choral repertoire and to offer the community a top quality children's chorus.

The choir is composed of two groups: the Training Choir for grades 2 and 3, and the Advanced Choir for grades 4 through 7. The goal for each choir is to focus on developing the voice by providing

&
The *Hunterdon Youth Choir*
led by
Becky Berkenstock
will sing on
March 6, 2004
at Stanton Church
to benefit
Voices For Charity

ensemble singing experiences as well as an understanding of proper vocal technique, musical interpretation, sight singing, diction and vocal production.

Becky Berkenstock, the director, holds a degree in Music Education, cum laud, with emphasis in voice and piano from West Chester University, teaches all four levels of the "Kindermusik" curriculum and semi-private keyboard and also directs the summer camp music programs at Cooper Music.

Jeanine Roberts, the choir accompanist, has a degree in Music Education and Music Theory with a minor in clarinet performance from the University of Kansas. She is a member of the Hunterdon Symphony Orchestra and very involved with the music at the Cherryville Baptist Church, where her husband is the minister.

Admission is \$5.00 and tickets are available at Cooper Music Studio on Route 31 north, Clinton Township. For more information, call 908-782-4943.

VFC MEMBERSHIPS for 2004
Thanks to all of you who responded to our call for membership. We really appreciate your support!
Still time for those who haven't joined us yet to send in your form!

Somerset Patriots 2003 Atlantic League Champion... - can they do it again?

If you weren't at the Somerset Patriots-Camden Riversharks game on Wednesday, September 10, 2003, you missed a really fun evening.

What made the game so much fun?

1. VFC choir members sang a beautiful rendition of 'God Bless America'
2. The Patriots won 8-6
3. The fireworks were spectacular !!!
4. 120 VFC supporters got to enjoy #1, 2 & 3
5. VFC raised some money for its worthy charities (what it's all about!)

We all had so much fun that...

We are planning to go again in 2004 !



We hope to have an even greater turnout, so won't you join us on **Thursday, May 20, 2004 at 7pm** for another *Somerset Patriots* game? Order your *Somerset Patriots* tickets today by completing the enclosed order form.

But wait, there's more!

We had such a great time that we've also scheduled an evening with the *Trenton Thunder* baseball team on Saturday, August 28, 2004 which will include Fireworks! VFC will sing the national anthem to kick off the game and ***one lucky VFC participant will get to throw the first pitch!*** Our next Newsletter will include an order form for our Trenton Thunder game - stay tuned!

We're on the web!
voicesforcharity.org

Mission Statement
Voices For Charity is a group of ecumenical volunteers dedicated to making a difference in the world by sharing God's love and joy through music. All proceeds of *Voices For Charity* projects benefit a diversity of charities.

P.O. Box 188
Stanton, New Jersey 08885



VFC CHARITIES for 2004

Briteside Adult Day Services has a mission to provide social adult day care services to frail, elderly citizens in need of socialization and/or supervision. 908-782-8080

Friends of Teen Arts has a mission to provide New Jersey teenagers with innovative learning and performance opportunities in the creative, fine and performing arts. 908-806-3689

Good News Home for Women operates a Christian long-term residential program offering a holistic, non-sectarian approach to overcoming addiction to alcohol and other drugs with emphasis on providing healing for the mind, soul/heart and body. 908-806-7913

Meals on Wheels provides sustenance and comfort to many homebound recipients who have no other source of meals. 908-735-8332

Women's Crisis Services is dedicated to providing crisis and support services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims and their family members.

Upcoming Events... (see inside for more!)

March 6, 2004

Hunterdon Youth Choir concert

March 28, 2004

TASTING DINNER at La Scala restaurant

May 20, 2004

SOMERSET PATRIOTS baseball game against the Long Island Ducks

June 6, 2004

SPRING BOUQUET CONCERT

VFC Volunteer of the YEAR!

Voices for Charity would like to acknowledge Peggy DeRossett for her continued dedication as a VFC volunteer. Peggy has donated her time and talent for several years now, and is the perpetual keeper of our membership and mailing list information. She also gives of her time for special events, including creating seating charts, tracking finances and printing out mailing labels.

THANK YOU, Peggy for all that you do!