



611 E Adams Street  
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SulzbacherCenter.org

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## Give a Good Night Cards with a Cause

For a small donation, you can give the gift of a warm bed and a hot meal to a homeless man, woman or child by sponsoring a good night in honor of someone special.



### Christmas Card \$15

Inside Message:

*In celebration of the holidays, the gift of a good night at the Sulzbacher Center has been given to a homeless man, woman or child in your honor.*

Artwork by Davionna, age 10

### Christmas Ornament \$10

New this year... We now offer our Christmas art on a 2 1/2" ceramic dated ornament.



### Hanukkah Card \$18

Inside Message:

*The gift of a good night at the Sulzbacher Center has been given to a homeless man, woman or child in your honor. May this festival of lights be filled with joy, warmth and gratefulness for all we have.*

Artwork by Demetrius, age 9

Custom cards are also available

Visit [www.GiveAGoodNight.org](http://www.GiveAGoodNight.org) or call 904.394.8082 to order your cards today!

# The Way Home

Sulzbacher Center  
Fall 2011



## Transformations 2011

The Sulzbacher Center's 13th Annual Transformations event, held on October 6th, went off beautifully. More than 750 community leaders and philanthropists came together at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront to celebrate the critical and transformative work done by the Sulzbacher Center this year.

The Hyatt generously donated the reception for the third year in a row. Featured was a delicious selection of "backyard barbeque" themed favorites. After the reception, guests were treated to a heartwarming tribute show which highlighted real-life testimonials of lives transformed by the Sulzbacher Center. Thanks to the dedication of 5 different local filmmakers, the show featured unique and beautiful videos of truly amazing stories. Please take a look at the "Sulzbacher Center" YouTube channel to view these moving stories of courage.

The Center's biggest fundraising event of the year, Transformations is critical to raising the desperately needed operating dollars to keep the Center running. We wish to offer our sincerest gratitude to our presenting sponsors Vince and Linda Ferrigno and event co-chairs Michael and Anne Santarone and this year's honorary chairs Commander Chris Flaherty and the VP-8 Squadron out of NAS Jax. Together we are making a difference in the lives of homeless men, women, and children.



Transformations 2011 Event Chairs  
Anne and Michael Santarone



## Halloween at Sulzbacher Center

The downtown campus of Sulzbacher Center was taken over Friday, October 28th, by a legion of small ghosts, vampires, pirates, and princesses. To help celebrate Halloween, a group of volunteers from Heinz North America hosted a party for the smallest residents of the Sulzbacher Center and afterward, our own young professionals group the Home Team took the children who live at Sulzbacher Center Trick-or-Treating on campus.


"Every year, the community really comes together to make the holidays special for our kids," said Children's Program Manager Maxine Ingram. "It means so much to them to experience normal childhood activities while living in the shelter." Thanks to the Sulzbacher Center's Children's Program for making sure these children always receive the extra support they need to meet the challenges of academic and social life.

## Letter From the President and CEO

I am so excited to be writing my first newsletter as the President and CEO of the Sulzbacher Center. The Sulzbacher Center is a truly amazing place where people's lives are literally transformed on a daily basis. I feel so blessed to be given the opportunity to lead such a compassionate group of professionals and to work with such a dedicated Board of Directors.

Our challenge is great; the level of need that we are currently seeing in this community is overwhelming. We are turning away 65 single men and women daily in addition to having over 80 families on our waiting list. At the time when the need is the greatest, our donations have been down. This is true across the board with all of the agencies that are trying so hard to help the large influx of newly homeless. The newly homeless are predominantly families with children (the fastest growing segment of the homeless population nationwide). These homeless families are the result of what is known as "crisis poverty" which is directly attributable to the bad economy. They have lost jobs and health insurance and as a result eventually lose their housing. It also has become more difficult to move them out of the shelter and into self-sufficiency as jobs are so very difficult to find.

As the holidays approach, please think of the 346 men, women and children who will be spending the holidays in our shelter and of the more than 1,400 unsheltered individuals on the streets of our community with nowhere to go. If you would like to help these individuals please look further in this newsletter for our holiday "wish list" and our Give a Good Night campaign. At Sulzbacher Center, we will continue to fight to get every homeless person possible off the streets. We recognize that the solution to homelessness is quite simple....it is getting people housed.

Sincerely,  
  
 Cindy Funkhouser, MSW  
 President and CEO



Pictured from left to right: Tiffany Holbrook, Foundation Treasurer, Nancy Neviaser Baker, Foundation Vice-President, Bill Scheu, Sulzbacher Center Board Chair, Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center President and CEO, and Michael Neviaser, Foundation President.

## Focus on Families

At 10:00 am on Thursday, October 13th, The Neviaser Charitable Foundation, Inc., presented the Sulzbacher Center staff and board of directors with a generous gift of \$100,000 that will provide critically needed funding for the center's Women and Families programs. Families are the fastest growing segment in the homeless population and earlier this year the Sulzbacher Center had over 100 families on the waiting list for safe shelter.

"A gift of this magnitude could not have come at a better time," Sulzbacher President and CEO Cindy Funkhouser said. "More and more people are turning to the Sulzbacher Center for help and hope every day. The Neviaser Charitable Foundation gift will help to make sure that we can provide critically needed services and a pathway home to families in crisis from our community."

## One Mission Many Faiths

While the Sulzbacher Center is a secular organization, we are very fortunate to receive the support of hundreds of local communities of faith. In August, we were very excited to receive a donation from a young couple in honor of Ramadan, which then inspired a very generous donation from the Islamic Center of Northeast Florida. Last year's Give a Good Night holiday card campaign was bolstered by the addition of Hanukkah cards, which were extremely popular among the local Jewish community.

More than 20 Christian congregations send meal groups to the Sulzbacher Center on a weekly or monthly basis to cook, serve, and sponsor meals in our kitchen. "We also have a Hindu meal group that serves vegetarian meals every month," says Director of Food Services Kevin Nacke. The Sulzbacher Center's mission is simple: showing homeless men, women, and children the way home. People of many faiths work together to make this one mission possible.



Members of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church presenting a check for \$2,000 to the Sulzbacher Center.



The Islamic Center of Northeast Florida presents a \$5,000 check to the Sulzbacher Center.



Sulzbacher Center Children's Program Attends Sukkot at Jacksonville Jewish Center.

## Sulzbacher Holiday Wish List

### Children

- Silly Putty
- Mini Play Dough
- Colored Pencils, 8-Pack
- Coloring Books and Crayons
- Uno Cards
- Kids Playing Cards (Old Maid, Crazy Eights, Go Fish, etc.)
- Multiplication / Educational Flashcards
- New Pairs of Socks
- Skull Caps

### Adults

- 2012 Pocket Calendar
- Small Journal
- Chapstick / Lip Balm
- New Gloves
- Mini Radios and Head Sets
- Uno Cards
- Pocket-Sized Sudoku or Puzzles
- Coloring Books and Crayons
- New Pairs of Socks
- Skull Caps
- Pocket Calculator

Stockings are distributed Christmas morning to both adults and children: If you are interested in donating any of these items, please contact Taylor Strasser at (904) 394-8084.

## Holiday Happenings

### October

- Sukkot for families with Jacksonville Jewish Center
- Children's Halloween Party with Heinz North America
- Adults' Halloween Party • Scary Movie Night
- Trick-or-Treating with the Home Team

### November

- Thanksgiving Dinner

### December

- Stellar Christmas Party
- Making Gingerbread Houses with Robert Slama and Family
- Christmas Pictures with the Watkins Family
- Children's Christmas Caroling at Cathedral Towers Nursing Home
- Christmas Morning Stockings for All Residents
- Gifts for Resident Children, Aftercare Children, and Housing Program Children
- PAL / Wal-Mart Christmas Shopping Trip

## Board of Directors

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## Save the date for The Sulzbacher Center 8K!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday February 18, 2012**. After the holidays and Super Bowl parties have passed, we'll be ready to help you get back in shape and clock your best time yet!

This year's event is being held earlier. A challenging downtown bridges racecourse will be fantastic preparation for those participating in the River Run. The race will be followed by a refreshing Jacksonville Landing party the whole family will love. We can't wait to see you there. Stay tuned for further details.