The Christmas Gala’s 9th Annual

Winter Woodland Gala

Saturday, December 2, 2017
6 - 11 p.m.

Westaby Hall
Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania
This evening’s itinerary

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Check in
Cash bar. Beer and soda included
Salad bar open
Raffle basket tickets for sale

7:00 p.m.
A word from the founder, Cheryl Campbell

7:15 p.m.
Prayer by Carol Taylor

7:30 p.m.
Dinner
Tables will be called
Raffle available for purchase
50/25/25 available for purchase
Door prizes will be called

8:45 p.m.
Dessert, coffee and tea

9:00 p.m.
Dancing
Raffles available for purchase
Door prizes will be called

10:00 p.m.
Raffle baskets called
50/25/25 called
Special raffle called

10:55 p.m.
Last song of the night
Tonight we are celebrating our ninth annual Gala. Who would believe that we have grown from working out of my living room to working in a real office? Our first year, I remember collecting 67 requests to hand out for our angel program and now nine years later, to this year’s goal of 1,100 to fill. We started out not knowing what to do with funds raised, to developing four programs that help the community. All this in nine years is an amazing accomplishment, not just for me but for all of you who have supported the mission through the years.

Over the year, I have been blessed with some amazing people who have helped me grow the mission to where it is today. The board started out as family and friends and over the years it has had it’s ups and downs but the job gets done. We started out calling those who helped ‘volunteers’ but I have found the word ‘volunteer’ is not a good way to describe all of you. We are a ‘team’ and as a team, we are changing the lives of the elderly one by one. My team and I have become close friends and I would be lost without them. Together we have become an incredible force. Together we can do anything, we can change the world... well at least our little part of it. Without them, none of this would be possible. So, if you see a team member tonight, be sure to thank them for all of their hard work.

Tonight’s event is very special to me in so many ways. We started out friends wanting to make a difference, to helping the community in ways never thought possible. No one ever thought it would grow so large... especially me. My family supports me through my tirelessly working crazy hours, my many different moods and of course, all of my ideas.

Lastly, the community support has been so overwhelming this year. So many of you have stepped up to help in so many ways. Either by showing up at events, donations, spreading the word by social media, voting on contests and so much more. Without the community, none of this would be possible. So tonight, please pat yourselves on the back for a job well done!

The Christmas Gala would not be where it is without all of you! Enjoy the evening and have a great night!

Love and Hugs
Cheryl Campbell, Founder
Tonight’s prayer was written many years ago by a great woman named Marie Campbell. Marie was a family member and friend of Cheryl Campbell. Through the years she supported Cheryl and when The Christmas Gala was formed, Marie was the first to say “Go for it!” Marie read our first dinner prayer and did so every year until she passed. The last time Marie said the prayer, she placed a folded piece of paper in Cheryl’s hand when Cheryl went to thank her. When Marie passed, members of the gala were lost on what to do for the prayer. But alas, a Christmas miracle happened when Cheryl found the folded up piece of paper and opened it with Marie’s prayer. She passed her blessing along to Cheryl and our mission. Marie’s prayer (with some updates) is on the next page.
Lord, so many lives have been touched by the Gala both in the giving and in the receiving. This is the ninth year that hearts have responded with much generosity to bring effective change to the most vulnerable of our citizens, our seniors. We thank you for the inspiration that prompted “The Christmas Gala.” We are grateful for the joyous response of so many individuals that answered the challenge to provide for their needs. It was not just what was provided but the manner in which it was offered. Their kindness set off a chain reaction that continued through the year into this very night of celebration. No request was out of the ordinary for it simply meant finding new creative ways to respond had to be found. From helping the elderly afford shelter, pay for new beds and help comfort those in need of support… These are but a few of the stories generated during this past year by the Gala. Little things, big things, all meant to help our seniors live their days with pride and dignity intact. Thank you Lord, for helping us do this. Bless all those who responded in any way at all. We begin our night of festivities by asking your favor to be upon all we will enjoy and request your blessing on the food prepared for us and our fellowship with one another to follow.

Amen
When the first brochure was developed, Cheryl was worried about the privacy of the elderly, so it was hard to figure a way to express the mission with pictures. It was suggested using generic pictures but that idea was dismissed. She decided to ask her mother in law to pose for a picture. The expression on her face of surprise turned out to be real because we surprised her with a real gift that day. Many years later when she became ill The Christmas Gala had extra gifts that year and gave Rose a blanket, just a regular blanket. Rose loved that blanket to the end. She had to have it on her all the time. Rose was a living example to Cheryl how much the Angel program really meant to someone.
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PHOTOGRAPHER
- April Ridley
It's about shining from the inside.

Brenda Jankowski
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Success Stories

- The Christmas Gala and Bucks County Opportunity council partnered and were able to help supply over 30 special air conditioners during the 2017 summer. These air conditioners cost between $450.00 to $600.00 and most seniors cannot afford them. With the help of social workers, volunteers and BCOC we were able to process the request for all of them.

- A man in his late 60s had been sleeping on an air mattress for years. He reached out to the Christmas Gala after finding out that he had to go in for hip surgery. He asked for a new bed. While we were searching for a new bed, his air mattress popped and he had nothing. We were able to give him a bed.

- A disabled woman in her 70s needed a washer. This washer had to be a special size due to the location. It took us a few months to be able to fill this need but after months of looking and with the help of our team members and their family members, we were able to get the washer on sale, delivered and installed. Now this woman will not have to go to the laundromat anymore.

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If you can imagine it, I can design it!

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Success Stories

- A seventy-year-old woman was hospitalized while her daughter battling brain cancer was home alone. Their home was broken in to during the winter. A broken window was without glass for months. At the request of The Gala, A.J.'s Glass stepped up to repair the window.

- A new couch is often too expensive for our seniors. The team working hard for the EPIC Program purchased several couches this year. One case meant a lot to team members. A woman paralyzed on one side had no bed. She slept on an old couch for a long time. Dedicated team members purchased and delivered a new couch. Our very grateful client also received a new bed.

- A senior in her early 60s is raising her 5-year-old granddaughter. She wanted to return to work to better provide for her. Standing in the way was a disabled car requiring extensive repairs. Time and effort resulted in the Gala providing assistance to get the car back on the road and a senior empowered to take better care of her granddaughter.

- A homeless man in his 70s with no family was referred to the Gala for assistance. Living in his car, he was seeking shelter and food. A plea to the community resulted in a room for the gentleman for 2 weeks. Another organization stepped in and found him housing. The Gala is happy to report that with help from the community he has safe shelter and will also receive an angel gift this year.

In The News

- In the year 2016 the angel program was able to collect enough items to hand out around 1,300 gifts for the entire year. Our goal will be to send out more in 2017. Our expected numbers could reach 1,600.

- Our new ECHIOS program has been able to help a few people this year. We had a women who needed a ride to the hospital for eye surgery. We were able to supply the service to take good care of her: getting her to the hospital, staying with her and making sure she was set up at home.
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2018 Upcoming Events/Programs

January

Launching Pen Pal Program
Operation Keep Warm
(Collecting and handing out coats to those who did not get for Christmas)

February

Thank You Dinner for team members and guests
Hand out care packages

March

Hand out dental packages
Beef and Beer

April

Vendor event

June

Bingo

September

Bingo

December 1, 2018

Celebrate 10 years
10th annual Gala Winter Wonderland

The Christmas Gala
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