

In This Issue

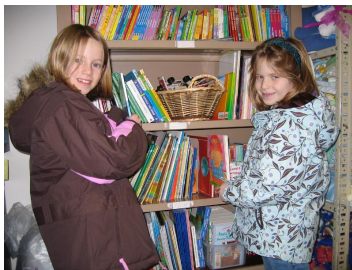
Volunteer Highlight

A Recipe for Hope

April Shower & Silent Auction

Volunteer Highlight

Books...Books...Books!



Kris Kulevsky, a community donor, acted on her dismay. She learned, through our electronic volunteer listing, of MVNA's need for children's board books. In a conversation during her inquiry, she was saddened to learn that 95% of the Family Health households served by MVNA do not have a single book in their homes.

Kris and her young daughters, Lily and Greta wanted to share their love of books with our clients. "Collecting books for people who don't have ANY was something we could do together and it would be fun," Kris explained.

Kris sent a letter to friends, neighbors and relatives and asked them to consider collecting books during Thanksgiving. She cleared off several shelves in a bookcase

(over)

A RECIPE FOR HOPE:

Start with a need, add generosity and caring!

"Loving and bright," describes young Lila's* personality, according to her MVNA Nurse Lee*--and recovering from effects of malnourishment and parasites describes her medical condition. Five-year old Lila weighs 29 pounds, but the average weight for her age is 40 to 50 pounds.

On a medical visa from Somalia, and in the care of her Aunt Ann*, Lila suffered from parasites and malnourishment. Her first two months in this country were spent in the hospital. Lila's condition has compromised her digestive system and she must follow a special gluten-free diet. Her aunt has two children, nine months and two years old and does not have the resources to pay for the special foods. Lee explained, "Auntie is a 'can do' person and wants to learn as much as she can to follow a proper diet for her niece."

Lila is adjusting to her new life, considering the upheaval she left in Somalia. Lila's parents, who are unlikely to join her anytime soon, previously owned a farm and a lovely home now live in a lean-to hovel.

Based on a request from the MVNA nurse, *Community of Caring: Club 100* is seeking donors to support the cost for a special diet for about six months. Even though she has only been in the US (Minneapolis) for a few months, the nurse reports some improvement in Lila's health. Lee shared that Lila is still quite fragile, but she is developmentally on track and there is a potential for full recovery.

To date, through generous donors, we have been able to secure three months of funding to support Lila's nutritional situation. As one donor said, "we are stirring in our ingredient of love in the hope that Lila recovers."

If you or a group of donors would like help Lila regain her health by supporting her dietary needs, please contact Michelle Lichtig, *Community Caring: Club 100* at lichtigm@mvna.org (612-617-4658).

*Names are changed to protect privacy.

“THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF GIVING”

We would like to thank the following companies or groups for recent grants or donations:

- American Sewing Guild · Christ Lutheran Church - Maple Plain · Church of St. Joan of Arc · Knotty Quilters · Lutheran Church of the Master
- Medtronic Foundation · MVNA Teams 6 and 11 · New Hope Women of Today · St. Frances Cabrini Church · Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church · Smiths Medical · Twin Cities Medical Society · Wells Fargo Technology & Operations (Finance & Accounting) · Women of the West Quilters ·

* Thank you note from Cheri, MVNA client

and included a photo of the empty shelves.

"I wanted to share with friends and family the sense of what it was like not to have any books," Kris said. A book party was held - along with friends dropping off books over a period of several weeks. As the books came in, they were placed on the once emptied shelves - with updated photos shared with the donors.

Through their efforts, 100 beautiful board books, read and carefully packed by Lily and Greta, were donated to MVNA. Thanks to their love of reading our bookshelves went from empty to full.

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Donors' Corner

We are in short supply of these items (which cost \$10 or less).

Cub Food Cards (\$10)

Diapers - sizes 4 & 5

Board Books

If you would like to donate the above items or are interested in receiving a complete list of \$10 or less items, please contact Michelle Lichtig (lichtigm@mvna.org) 612-617-4658

For our clients, these items make a difference that is priceless.

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Visit our website:

www.mvna.org



2010 Annual April Shower & Silent Auction

Thursday, April 29, 2010

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Location: The Regency
1300 Hidden Lakes Parkway, Golden Valley
(on the shores of Hidden Lake)
Dinner - Silent Auction - Dinner - Fun**

Our volunteers are busy planning the 2010 Annual April Shower and Silent Auction, which will be held at a new venue, the Regency in Golden Valley on the shores of Hidden Lakes.

Meet MVNA nurses, staff, volunteers and supporters. Find that special item at the Silent Auction-- and enjoy the evening.

Watch for the invitation, which will be sent out in March!

Funds raised at the April Shower support the purchase of items, such as cribs, highchairs and formula.

Admission: New baby "Shower gifts" of diapers, baby clothes or adult items. Items collected will be distributed to our clients.

Needed: Silent Auction Items

Do you have an item, service, or gift certificate you would like donate to our Silent Auction? Please contact Peggy Custard (custardp@mvna.org)

Save the Dates!

April Shower & Silent Auction

The Regency in Golden Valley
April 29, 2010

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

"No Place Like Home"

MVNA Annual Fundraising Breakfast
June 8, 2010
Nicollet Island Pavilion
7:30-8:30 a.m.

Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency

Michelle Lichtig, Community Relations Director
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