



Happy Birthday Jesus!

December 2011
Merry Christmas

Savannah Smiles

Our 5th Annual Golf Tournament was a tremendous success

This year's tournament was once again a great success do in part to our fantastic volunteers and our faithful players and sponsors. **Over \$23,000 raised!!!**

Our tournament has become the largest in Pinewood Country Club's history and we are blessed to have the staff take such good care of us. Thank you to Golf Pro James Leitz and "Miss" Terri for always making our event feel like home.

If you've not been able to be a part of the actual day then you are missing out on lots of great food. Thank you again to Mr. Mark for his famous Jambalaya, and Mr. Timmy for his fried fish & hushpuppies (and a few fried oysters if you were lucky enough to spot those). Thank you to Patton's catering for treating us to "Breeses Cheezy Mac." Rodney Senat, manager of Northshore Mall's Chick-fil-a, has been there for us from the

beginning as have the others. Thank you to Blue Bell for the ice cream, and Bad to the Bone for their yummy peach cobbler. Rotolo Martin supermarket for sausage & drinks, and a new vendor for this year, Ed Gardner with Fat Boyz Seafood Restaurant. Ed generously provided pulled pork sandwiches for lunch as our golfers registered. It was a hit! The weather threatened a bit but held off. As usual, God provided a perfect day for us!

Sponsor Recognition

Platinum level \$3000

Crescent Towing

Gold level \$2000

*Emeril's Homebase
Salsbury Holdings*

Silver level \$1000

*Prudential
USES
CTS Mooring*

Bronze level \$500

*NOFFCU
Alphonso & Associates
John Catalanotto
Johnny Scholtens
The Crossing Church
Belle Chase Marine
Ameriprise Financial
Dee Carson Designs
Oak Harbor Family Dentistry*

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Special points of interest:

- Over \$23,000 was raised in the 2011 golf tournament.
- A total of 160 families received a holiday meal bag.
- Northshore Mall has chosen our organization twice this year for events.
- Savannah Manor is now housing it's first family.

Current Ministry Work

Holiday Meal Bags!

One of the side notes to Savannah Smiles main purpose is to provide Holiday Meal Bags to families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we put together 80 bags for families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have partnered with our church, First Baptist of Slidell, to make this successful. Each department of the church was responsible for collecting food items to put in the bags. We had a goal of 200 of each item and I am pleased to say that much of that was reached. First Baptist Christian School was the winner.

The students brought in 200 cans of corn and another 200 cans of peas. Thank you!! A friend shared with us the blessing he received as he delivered one of the bags. He said, "I knocked on the door and the person who answered was so grateful. They had just run out of food and didn't know what they were going to do." We love to hear those stories. As we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ, He continues to bless our efforts and show people how much He loves them.

Christmas Toy Drive!

We are pleased to announce that a local girl scout troop, led by Mrs. Danielle Evans Morrison, has once again collected toys for kids in the hospital this year. They took this project on last year and generously donated a huge box of toys for us to bring to a local hospital.



Looking back...2011

What an eventful year 2011 has been!

This has been a very busy year for Savannah Smiles. We added another fundraising event, an Adult Spelling Bee. It was a great event and helped to get Savannah Smiles' name out to our community. We were selected by Northshore Mall to be the recipients of monies raised in their annual "Giving Back" store. It was a uniform resale shop. For two weekends, we helped to staff and do whatever was asked to make this successful and it was. They raised a little over \$1600.00 for Savannah Smiles.

In December the water fountains at the Northshore Mall have Savannah Smiles name on them. All of the change tossed into the fountains in December will go to us.



The saddest part of 2011 is that, to date, we've helped 45 families bury their children. It has been an overwhelming number but because you say yes to us through your donations, we can say yes to a family who is unprepared for the expenses of their child's funeral. Those words just don't roll off the tongue well. What we do continues to be very hard but very necessary. It is never routine when we take a call from a grieving parent and I hope it never will be. We covet your prayers. Thank you.

Ministry Outreach in 2011 exceeded previous years

Final Expense Totals:: 45 families totaling over \$27,000 disbursed

Holiday Bag Totals:: 160 bags disbursed averaging about \$60 per bag

Christmas Toy Totals: around 30 toys were donated by local girl scouts

Other Ministry Totals: more than \$2,500 was distributed to other local ministry projects

Savannah Manor Totals: PRICE-LESS...hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and thousands of dollars in donated supplies from The Home Depot here in Slidell, from flooring to bathroom and kitchen fixtures.

In total during the year of 2011 Savannah Smiles has donated in excess of \$50,000 to Help Hurting Families.

THANK YOU!!! Without your support this would not be possible.

Savannah Manor

We are happy to say that Savannah Manor has its first residents. That's kind of weird to say because of the kind of ministry it is, but we are happy that the vision of helping families who just need support to get back on their feet is being realized. Currently we have a Mom and Dad and four beautiful little girls (all under the age of 3) staying in the first apartment. They moved in towards the end of October and we know without a doubt that this is one of the families we've been praying for.

Our volunteer staff has been meeting with them consistently to set goals for their family both physical and spiritual. We love this family and are so excited to watch God work.

We are also currently seeking a seminary couple or a ministry/mission family for the position of resident manager. It has been a difficult search because it is not a salary paid position but it is free housing. If you know someone who may be interested in this "mission" work, please call Jody at 504-450-3306.

Construction update:

Currently we are finishing work on a storage shed built on site. Its purpose is to house donated items for the manor and it includes three stalls, one for each family should they have any belongings as the apartments are already furnished.

Apartment #3 still needs to be remodeled. Work on that will start in the early spring.

Looking Ahead...2012

Spelling Bee: A date has not yet been set for next years spelling bee. Look for more information in the next newsletter and make plans to be there. If nothing else, it is a night of big laughs!!

Golf Tournament: Mark your calendar for the end of October 2012. More details to come!

Other Events: Only God knows what the future holds for Savannah Smiles. A 5K has been suggested by one of our board members...

Something still very close to Jennifer's heart is to sponsor a weekend grief camp for children. She has been in contact with a program that may be willing to partner with Savannah Smiles to fund this event. It would require many volunteers though. We'll keep you posted.

Spelling Bee

Golf Tournament

5K walk/run

Grief Camp

There are many ways you can help support us

Monthly Giving: Thank you to the families who already do this. You can make a donation through our website

Annual Giving: The end of the year is a great time to donate to a favorite charity if you don't want to donate to "Uncle Sam". Because we are a 501(c)(3), all of your donations are tax deductible.

Employer Matching: Some larger companies will match your donation. Thank you to those who have doubled their gift in this way.

Donations: Not all giving is monetary. You can contribute to the food bags, toys, or help at Savannah Manor. You could also give of your time and write notes of encouragement to grieving families. Please call Jennifer, 985-690-7444, if this is something you wish to do.

Savannah Smiles

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▶ *Helping Hurting Families*

Donations can be made on our web site.

We are a Christian Non-profit (501c3) organization founded by the friends & family of Savannah Scharfenstein. We strive to glorify Jesus and to honor Savannah's life through her death.

Our primary mission is to reach out to families who have experienced the untimely death of a child. Our organization provides both financial and emotional support to these families.

This is not our only mission. We also provide toys to children in local hospitals, families with children who have fallen on difficult times, and food baskets during the holidays to families in need.

2011 Board of Directors

Jody Scharfenstein (president)	Jennifer Scharfenstein	Brett Groom
Kelly Singletary (secretary/treasurer)	Andy Glasgow	Maggie Fredericks
Danielle Evans Morrison	Pam Seale	



Savannah's Smile



Another year in Heaven. It's been five years since Savannah left this home to go to her real Home. We still miss her very much, I don't think that will ever change nor do we want it to but God continues to be so good to us in reminding us that we are doing what He's asked us to do. I've shared the story of the toys we bring to the hospital at Christmas being Savannah's idea.

Just recently, a mom stopped me after church and told me that her daughter received a toy while in the hospital three years ago. With tears in her eyes she shared that her daughter was 9 months old at the time and very sick, they were not sure if she was going to make it. It was already hard for this family but on top of all of the uncertainty, it was Christmas. This was exactly Savannah's heart. In 2005, when she came to me on Christmas Eve and

asked if her toys could go to kids who would have to spend Christmas in the hospital, this is what her sweet compassionate heart envisioned. Some child, somewhere having to spend the most anticipated day of the year, in a hospital room.

This mom, whom I spoke of earlier, said the most beautiful things to me, "You don't know me but I know you and I just want you to know that Savannah has touched my family's heart and we will never forget her. She is still making a difference in people's lives."



WOW!!!! I cup my hands in my face and cry just retyping those words. If I could just confess something to you, I get weary sometimes. We work with hurting people and that is not something I can do in my own strength but then again I am not suppose to.

"I can do ALL things Through Christ who gives me strength." Phil. 4:13

The key word is THROUGH. Jesus has asked a lot of us. A lot that I don't feel qualified to do never the less it's what's been assigned.

"We run the race that's been marked out for us." Hebrew 12:2

A dear friend pointed out that we don't get to choose our race, it's been "marked out" for us. This is not the life Jody and I would have chosen but our God, The One True God goes before and leads us.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and "Happy Birthday Jesus!"