

## Orange Blossom's End of the Year Report

As our 2007-2008 year comes to an end, I think it is safe to say that Orange Blossom's can look back at our 3<sup>rd</sup> year as nothing more than a successful growing period. We continue to push forward and strive to help our community in the most efficient and productive way possible.

Our membership continues to increase at a steady pace. As you may remember, Orange Blossom's began with 25 charter members and we are proud to say that we are averaging 5 new members a year, making our new membership total 41!! We are confident that our numbers will continue to increase and it was reassuring to see that we had 4 prospective members at our last meeting just 2 days ago...all of which have decided to join!

As many of you know, our main Philanthropic focus has been on Ronald McDonald House, Mariposa Women's Center, YMCA Homework House and Save our Soles. This past year we decided to discontinue our work with Homework House and instead are looking to focus on areas of the community where we can be of better use. This year, our philanthropic projects reached over 600 people. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Orange Blossom Auxiliary completed 3 Ronald McDonald House events, 3 Mariposa events, 1 Save our Soles donation and approximately 5 sessions with the YMCA Homework House. Purchases were made to buy supplies such as food, craft activities, gifts and decorations for the service events that the auxiliary sponsored. We also made a \$6,000 purchase of Payless shoe vouchers, which were donated through the S.O.S. program.

Our future goals for this project are to continue to service the community of Orange with a focus on women and children's programs. We are looking to add 2-3 new programs that offer hands-on interaction and time and material donations to those in need in the community in addition to partnering more closely with the city to impact community projects.

Fortunately, because of our work within the community, we have already been contacted by Colette's House, which is a homeless shelter for single women and homeless mothers with children where they are empowered to become independent and self-sufficient through a mix of programs and services. We are very excited to learn more about what we as an Auxiliary can do to help the women and children of this homeless shelter. Orange Blossom's believe this to be an excellent opportunity to not only provide financial resources to this organization, but it will allow us to potentially have more "hands on" interaction with the lives we are actually touching. I believe it is safe to say that we are all looking forward to growing in our philanthropic projects.

In our 2<sup>nd</sup> year hosting the Boutique Noel kitchen, we spent a lot of time analyzing what sold and what didn't sell from the previous year. We decided to bring back a lot of the same product, but realized that we needed a little bit more variety so as you may have noticed we brought in different kinds of dips, soups and A LOT more deserts!! Boutique Noel proved to be another successful year as we raised \$12,736.75 from the event.

Our final event of the year was A Taste of Orange, which turned out to be another success! We ran things a little differently this time and we received nothing but positive feedback about the event. We had great restaurants from around the city, fantastic entertainment and a wonderful Silent Auction. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Taste of Orange raised over \$9,200! Just as we are doing with Boutique Noel, we are looking at how we can push the envelope and take A Taste of Orange to the next level and continue to grow in a positive direction.

All in all 2007-2008 has been nothing short of a success. We are excited about our new members, our new philanthropic projects and most importantly, how we can continue to grow and make a positive difference in our community.