

SPRING 2011

A Helping Hand

News from Human Resources of the Hamptons



Local Woman Gives Back to HRH - In 2005, a local woman who lived in Hampton Bays was having a long run of bad luck. She had had a serious accident at work, and while recovering from her injuries, her income dwindled to the point where she could not pay her rent.

She visited Mary Ann Tupper, HRH Director, looking for help, and was given rent support, which enabled her to keep her family together in their home. She was very appreciative and promised Mary Ann, "When my case is settled, I'll pay you back."

In February 2011, this woman walked into Mary Ann's office to say that her injury suit had finally been settled. She gave Mary Ann a check for the entire amount she had received in 2005.

How exceptional it is for someone to honor a promise to repay a gift given to them by HRH. It is really quite something to keep the promise in mind for six years. This gift will support HRH's emergency fund and will help another local person who is in similar circumstances.

Local Business Surprises HRH with a Gift in Kind - Mary Ann Tupper, Director of HRH, will tell anyone who will listen that the best thing about her job is seeing the positive results that help from HRH can bring about.

She was rewarded this past December, when a local man visited her office, presented her with a generous check, and introduced himself. He told her that ten years ago, when he was a child, his family of seven had, for a variety of reasons, become very poor. HRH became aware of their situation, and in December 2001, delivered gifts for all of the children, food, a Christmas tree and the trimmings to their house.

Things got better for this family, and as they improved, this man never forgot the help HRH had given and what it had meant to him and his family.

This man is now running a successful local business. So he took himself to HRH in December 2010 to deliver a generous check and express his gratitude in person for the gifts he received in 2001. Mary Ann remembered him.

4 Stories of Thanks

Thanks for Making our Holiday Happy - Every December, HRH gives out thousands of gifts and hundreds of boxes of food, so that 350 needy families will have something under the tree and the makings for a holiday meal. Hundreds of local volunteers work year-round on this effort, and work all day at the annual Holiday Giving Day, which runs like clockwork on the 3rd Friday in December. HRH Director Mary Ann Tupper received this thank you from one family this year- "I don't know how to thank you and HRH for giving us the Christmas gifts this year. I am speechless at the generosity of your organization. I know there are people in much more dire circumstances than us, but it just feels like the world is crashing in on us from every direction, and you are helping to lead us through the 'maze' we're in, so we're not hitting every dead end. When we are able we'll be making a generous contribution back."

You Helped Me. Now it's My Turn - Four years ago, a Hampton Bays family had serious and continuing medical problems. Their 10 year old daughter had a brain condition which required multiple surgeries and hospital stays. At the same time, the girl's father had a serious injury at work and could not keep his job while he was recuperating. When they came to HRH for help, they did not know how they were going to pay their living expenses, because the daughter's medical expenses were enormous. HRH provided immediate assistance in a variety of ways, and after a few months, everyone was better.

The daughter, who is now back in school full-time, and walking without assistance, decided to give back to HRH. In December 2010, she held a craft sale at her school, where she sold holiday pins and ornaments she had made. With the money she made at the sale, she purchased toys and brought them to Mary Ann Tupper to be given away at HRH's annual Holiday Giving Day on December 17th.

www.hrhamptons.org

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE 2010

HRH held the 7th Annual Polar Bear Plunge on December 11, 2010 at Cooper's Beach in Southampton. There was more of everything this time: more Plungers (640), more plungers in costume, more spectators, more prizes (a costume contest and a free trip to see polar bears in the wild).

We raised \$86,000.00. Nearly all of the money (94%) goes directly to local people who depend on HRH for: food, clothing, rental and heat assistance, emergency medicine, and transportation.

The winner of the Costume Contest is **Kevin Bodkin, of Sag Harbor**, who has shown up five years in a row in a felt Christmas tree ensemble with twinkling lights and wrapped presents on his feet. Local perennial plunger **Jimmy Mack won the trip for two to Manitoba, Canada** to see polar bears in the wild.



Luckily, we were once again blessed with relatively mild temperatures and a nice sunny morning, so the spectators did not mind (too much) standing on the beach to watch their friends and family members jump into the ocean.

Bonnie Grice from local radio station **WPPB Peconic Public Broadcasting** was Master of Ceremonies, and revved up the crowd as only she can. **Southampton Village Mayor Mark Epley** (or was it The King?) jumped in, wig, gold chains and all. Six elected local officials jumped in and were sponsored by a local donor at \$200 each.

Farrell Building Co. of Bridgehampton sponsored 63 local students who plunged.

Wright & Co. Construction sponsored 22 of their

employees; **Old Town Lodge #908** sponsored 14 of their Lodge members; and the Tomorrow Foundation sponsored 119 local teachers and school district employees. A local donor sponsored 12 local ambulance volunteers, 43 firefighters, and 6 elected officials. These wonderful sponsorships totaled \$30,000.00.

How did Plunge 2010 compare to past Plunges?

First, let's acknowledge the real champions... **58 hardy souls have participated in the Plunge every year from 2006 to 2010.**

In 2006 there were 638 plungers; 481 in 2007, 518 in 2008, 322 in 2009, 410 in 2010.

How much money has the Plunge raised? A **Grand Total of \$530,576.23 from Plunges 2005-2010.**

In 2005- \$56,642.12; -in 2006 \$87,720.08; - in 2007 \$114,22.57; - in 2008 \$103,476.15; - in 2009 \$82,472.76; and in 2010 \$86,042.55

In 2007, 246 of the 481 people who plunged were first-time plungers (51%). In 2008, 232 of 518 (45%) were first-time plungers; in 2009 154 (54%) of 322 were first-timers, and in 2010 of the 640 plungers, 294 (46%) were first-time in.



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Giving in Honor and Memory

An especially thoughtful way to help HRH is to send a donation in memory of a loved one, or to acknowledge a birthday or anniversary by making a donation in lieu of a gift.

There are quite a few local people who do this, and to make this wonderful gesture more convenient for them, HRH has an attractive, tasteful card and mailing envelope which we are happy to give to you for the next time such an occasion occurs.

To request a supply of cards to keep on hand, call Carol Gilbert - 283-3969 or email carolgilbert2@aol.com

Giving Times Two

Last summer, a couple who live in Bridgehampton in the summer devised a creative and thoughtful way to help two groups of local people. They gave HRH a generous donation, and specified that it was to be used to purchase fresh produce from local South Fork farmers.

HRH Board member Gary Beeber, who lives year round in Southampton, has a special interest in finding locally-made or grown food that can be donated to HRH's Food Pantry. So he and other volunteers went to five local farm stands every week from mid-June through October, and purchased whatever was available in abundance.

Halsey's Green Thumb, Halsey Farm, and The Milk Pail in Water Mill, Country Garden and Fairview Farm in Bridgehampton participated in this arrangement. They all donated an additional amount of produce to what we purchased. Often, \$50.00 spent got \$100.00 worth of produce, because the farmers were all interested in contributing extra.

Our Food Pantry clients were so delighted and so grateful! Their faces lit up when they got fresh corn, potatoes, summer squash, peaches melons, peppers, eggplant, and apples. The Food Pantry volunteers were also proud to be giving out nutritious fresh food to feed people so well.

HRH appreciates how meaningful and helpful this kind of giving is. To double the value of a gift by purchasing food from local farmers to give to local needy people is the best, most direct philanthropy we can imagine.

Yes, I Want to Make a Difference!

With this gift to Human Resources of the Hamptons, I would like to help people in need.

I am enclosing a gift of \$ _____

_____ I wish it to be in memory of _____
_____ or for this special occasion _____

FROM:

Name _____

Address _____

City/Date/Zip _____

Please send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

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Please make check payable to Human Resources of the Hamptons.
Mail to HRH 168 Hill St. Southampton NY 11968. All donations fully tax deductible.