

From Inside Connections: News and Information from across Cengage Learning

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Thorndike Press Raises \$5,000+ for Local Hospice

The employees of Thorndike Press, an imprint of Gale, recently presented the Hospice Volunteers of the Waterville Area (HVWA) with a donation of \$5,162.37. The donation was raised through fundraising events such as book sales, raffles and silent auctions.

In 2008, the employees of Thorndike Press in Waterville, Maine, voted for the Hospice Volunteers of the Waterville Area (HVWA) to be the recipient of their annual fundraising efforts. Several of Thorndike Press' employees have used Hospice's services in the past to help in caring for their loved ones during their illnesses and death or for their grief support after losing a loved one.

Mary Smith, Editorial Director, said, "With the aid of the local Hospice in Florida where my parents lived, we were able to bring my mother home from the hospital after her surgery for bladder cancer in March 2005. Because of their help, our whole family was able to spend my mother's last weekend together at my mother and father's home in Florida. And, after my mother died, both my father and I used Hospice's grief support services to help us through our grieving process. My Dad used the Hospice in Florida and I used HVWA's services upon my return to Maine."

Thorndike Press employees held many fundraising events throughout the year. Mark Feeley, an Acquisitions Editor, helped organize "Change Month." "This was a lot of fun to organize and it all went to a worthy cause," said Feeley. Employees brought pennies in the first week, nickels, the second, then dimes, and quarters the final week. Over \$250 was raised during Change Month.

Employees also held two book sales during the year: one in July and one in November. Several employees helped run the book sale, including Julie Stevens, Associate Editor, Hazel Rumney, Acquisitions Editor, Ginny Raye, Marketing Specialist, and Sandy Gamage, Account Manager. The sale is a community-wide event. Local newspapers and radio stations were notified of the events and helped with the publicity. Both book sales brought in a total of \$3,400. Raffle tickets were sold at the book sale as well. Some local businesses donated raffle items, including a \$50 WalMart gift card, a car detailing, and an oil change. A set of Harry Potter books was also raffled off and a \$100 Home Depot card. The sale of the raffle tickets netted \$206.

Barb Littlefield helped organize two events. Barb's grandmother-in-law died early in 2008 and benefitted from the services of Hospice while she was ill. Barb's mother-in-law and her sisters and friends got together and hand-made a beautiful quilt that Barb raffled off to benefit Hospice. \$320 was raised from the sale of these raffle tickets. "We were going to put the quilt in an upcoming Silent Auction, but thought we'd be able to raise more money if we sold raffle tickets. We sold tickets to employees and friends and I was thrilled with the amount of money the quilt gathered."

In addition, Barb organized a Silent Auction that was held at Thorndike Press just before Christmas. It was a Maine-Made auction—employees hand-made items. There were many beautiful items to choose from: a beautiful hand-knit baby sweater, hand-made baby hats with fleece blankets, a grape-vine wreath, photographs, a knitted scarf, crocheted doilies, a horseshoes scoreboard, and many home-made pickles and preserves from the kitchens of employees. "My family experienced a great loss several years ago and HVWA was such a savior to me," said Donna White, Account Manager. "Dale Marie Clark, the Executive Director of HVWA, helped me so much with my family's grief and anger—she's still there for me even today. It's wonderful to see all the nice items that people have brought in for this auction; it's such a special organization to raise money for." Over \$700 was raised from the Silent Auction and employees ended up with some wonderful Christmas presents to give to family and friends.

In addition to raising money, employees helped with painting the inside of Hope's Place, a separate building that Hospice has that is especially for children. The inside of the building is painted in bright colors—children work through their grief creating art, playing music, and just being together. Several employees also attended one of Hospice's biggest fundraisers for the year—the BingSol Barbecue and Silent Auction. Mary Smith, Hazel Rumney, Ginny Raye, and Judy Gagnon all helped volunteer at the event in October. In addition to helping set up and clean up after the event, they also participated in the silent auction and helped drive the prices up on some items! Judy Gagnon says, "My sister's husband became very ill and Hospice helped her while she was caring for him. They were very supportive after his death as well. I've seen the good that Hospice can do and it's such a special organization. I was so happy that we were able to raise so much money for Hospice this year!"

Totaling up all the year's fundraising efforts, Thorndike Press presented HVWA with checks and cash totaling \$5,162.37 by the end of 2008.