

2019 NICC CHARITY RUN

CHARITY RUN – Donna Mathews, Leon Gorsch, and Barb Jackson distributed checks on December 11, 2019. Here is a summary of the day's events and sites visited. A special thank-you to Susan Chamberlin for getting the checks ready for distribution.

First stop Hoo Haven. Hoo Haven is a wildlife rehabilitation and education center. Karen Herdkloz (director) was doing an educational program off site. Met several dedicated volunteers. Each year, they receive 1000 referral calls, admit 800+ birds and animals. Also provide 150 educational programs. They have a hospital area with OR suite, several patients have needed big surgeries including a baby pelican. (thank-you note)

Second stop GiGi's Playhouse. We meet with Karen Carlson, executive director. GiGi offers family therapy and educational programs for individuals with Down Syndrome. Such a great organization. Photo op with Karen Carlson. (GiGi picture)

Third stop Don Carters Lane. Met with Brad Sommers, BVL (Brightening Veterans Lives). They provide recreational, therapeutic programs and services, including pet therapy to hospitalized veterans. BVL provides transportation to Rockford Vets to Madison WI. BVL also sends care packages to active military locations. Brad also received check for Vietnam Veterans, Chapter 984. Chapter meetings are held at Don Carters. Funds from Support the Troops (car shows). Photo op and (Thank you note)

Fourth stop Mosaic. Mosaic is a new charity for NICC. We were able to meet with Renee Coughlin, Senior Vice President of Mission Advancement. Mosaic in Rockford has supported people with intellectual disabilities since 2002 and currently serve nearly 80 individuals in home settings and group homes. Our donation is being used for winter wear and coats. Photo op and (thank you note).

Fifth stop Carpenters Place. Carpenters Place is a homeless facility (daytime use) providing tools for rebuilding lives. During November, Homeless Adults in their Case Management program achieved the following: 14 secured employment; 11 full time and 15 obtained housing. In December, all donations were doubled. Photo op and (Thank you note).

Sixth stop Rock House Kids. Met with Dee Lacny, executive director. Evening programming for at risk youth, providing hot meal, warm clothes and a safe place for over 250 children a week. The little building on 7th St., goes on and on, Rock House Kids has purchased the building next door. They are developing a gym and computer lab. It takes more than 100 volunteers to operate Rock House programs each week. Photo op with Dee Lacny and thank-you note.

Seventh stop Rock River Food Pantry. In November, the pantry assists 5,946 clients. Currently 33% of all our clients are children and 10% are over the age of 65. The pantry serves Rockford and Winnebago Country. Monetary donations allow the pantry to purchase food at two to three times the retail rate. Photo op with Kim Adams -Bakke and thank-you note.

Eighth stop. RAMP. Met with Julie Bosma, executive director. RAMP mission is to build an inclusive community that encourages individuals with disabilities to reach full potential. Fast track program to prepare students for life after high school. RAMP offices will be located at Mercy Health, Rockton Ave., during their remodeling. Photo op with Julie Bosma and thank you note.

Mini Charity Run 12/13/19.

First stop Rosecrance. Stopped at the Development Office. NICC has supported this organization many years. They provide in-patient services for first responders and veterans at their Harrison Ave. location, beautiful facility. Funds from Support the Troops (car shows).

Second stop Sgt. P's Lapghans. I took a short drive over to VFW in Belvidere, met with Mr. Kennedy and Kathleen Morr (NICC member). Sgt. P's Lapghans have made over 3,100 blankets in the last 5 years. The volunteers were working away making blankets for veterans. The donation will be used for yarn and shipping cost, at times mailing the lapghans has been very expensive. Funds from Support the Troop (car shows). Photo op Mr. Kennedy, Kathleen Morr, Donna Mathews and thank-you note.

Thanks to All for a Wonderful Charity Run.

Donna Mathews

5657 Lambeth Lane

Rockford, IL, 61107

Email: dmkmathews@aol.com

Cell: (815)997-2618