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GUILD 2010-2011
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VOA and Frank Abagnale Turn Stories Around



Frank Abagnale probably would have never gone to prison if he had known about Volunteers of America. Instead, as a 16-year-old runaway, he lived by his wits as best he could, which, for a minor almost always means breaking the law to pay the rent and buy groceries, especially back in the 1960s.

If his name sounds familiar, it's probably because you saw the movie, Catch Me If You Can, with Leonardo DiCaprio portraying Frank as a rather mischievous, thrill-seeking teenage con artist. But if you attended the Volunteers of America 15th Anniversary celebration on June 8, you got to hear a slightly different version of the story - straight from Frank.--- This is an excerpt from an article by M. Darcy, BlackTie Colorado. To see entire article and photos go to: <http://www.blacktie-colorado.com/photos/photoevent.cfm?id=2580>

The Guild's 15th anniversary celebration was a resounding success. Four hundred patrons filled the ballroom for a wonderful dinner and program raising \$85,000 for Volunteers of America's Brandon Center/Theodora House. Our thanks to event chairs, Dianne Eddolls,

Diana Murdy, Mary Rossick Kern and Victoria Frank, the Grand Hyatt Hotel and the generous sponsors listed here.

Master of Disguise Sponsors:

Wayne & Diana Murdy
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From the President of Volunteers of America Colorado Branch



This is the invocation given at the Volunteers of America Guild benefit.

Dear God,

May peace enter the hearts of all who join with us and share the joy of this time together.

For the treasured friendship of those gathered here, we ask your blessings, Lord.

For the special gift of love we share, we ask your blessings, Lord.

For the oneness of heart, that brings us together, we ask your blessings, Lord.

For those whose lives have been brightened by the acts of kindness and love demonstrated by the members of the VOA Guild, we ask your blessings, Lord.

For that person whose face is unknown to us who is lonely, hungry and afraid being honored as the silent guest at each table tonight, we ask your blessings, Lord.

For those who have planned this evening and brought so many together in fellowship, we ask your blessings, Lord.

Help us to be grateful for these and all the many blessings you bestow upon us each day.

In your holy name we pray, AMEN.

Dianna L. Kunz

Dianna L. Kunz, President and CEO
Volunteers of America, Colorado Branch

2011 IMPORTANT DATES

The Guild

Wednesday, October 26 - Membership Brunch
Sunday, December 4 - Mother's Day in December



Tuesday, September 13 - Young Professionals Kickoff Party for Western Fantasy

Thursday, September 15 - Patron Party for Western Fantasy
Saturday, September 17 - The Sweet Life Fashion Show
Wednesday, October 5 - Annual Meeting & Awards Reception
Saturday, October 22 - Western Fantasy



Letter from the VOA Guild President

I hope you were among those attending our wonderful June 8th benefit for Brandon Center & Theodora House. If not, you missed an unforgettable evening. Our chairs, Dianne Eddolls, Victoria Frank, Mary Rossick Kern, and Diana Murdy made sure no ends were left untied.

Eddolls, Victoria Frank, Mary Rossick Kern, and Diana Murdy made sure no ends were left untied.

The Kick-Off Patron Party at the beautiful home of Jim and Karen Kimsey started off the festivities with a fun-filled evening. A big thanks to the Kimsey's for their hospitality. Then on to the evening of June 8th! Our speaker, Frank Abagnale gave such an interesting talk, we all wanted to hear more. The event brought out couples which was a huge plus. We could not have had a better speaker to get and keep the attention of the men, and, of course, all of the ladies were just as entertained. The menu was top shelf, the wine, and the elegant décor made all of us proud to be part of the Volunteers of America Guild. A big thanks to all committee members, attendees, and our Volunteers of America Liaison, Michael James, whom we appreciate for all he does to make all our projects successful.

We are approaching the end of our 2010-2011 year, and what a year it has been with so many successful projects. If you were not a participant in at least one of these events, you missed the excitement of seeing the Brandon Center/Theodora House women and children's expressions of appreciation for all we do. This is a feeling that cannot be explained, you must see and experience it for yourself.

But wait -- you will have a chance! At our upcoming Membership Brunch we will have sign-up forms available for the following committees and more: Mother's Day in December on December 4th, Theodora Dinners, Brandon Closet, Brandon Brigade (this committee provides personal items for the ladies and children at Brandon), Adopt-A-Room—and we join Volunteers of America in distributing Christmas Baskets. We need your help in all of these areas, so please feel free to sign up for one or more committees for the coming year. Don't miss out on all the fun and heart-warming feelings you'll receive by giving to our ladies at a time when they need love and hope the most.

Thanks to all for your participation and contributions this past year, and I look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming Membership Brunch on October 26th. Bring a friend or two!

Emily Tarleton

Emily Tarleton, VOA Guild President

Red Wine & Seafood



Mardi Gras was in full Dixieland swing at the 16th annual Red Wine & Seafood event February 24th at the Oxford Ballroom. Co-Chairs Monica Owens and Quinn Washington called on Grand Marshalls Pat Cortez, Jean Galloway, Susan Kiely, Sharon Magness Blake and their committee to present a chic evening of jazz, wine and fabulous seafood.



The innovative menu for this event has delighted fans of both red wine and seafood for 16 years, serving fabulous seafood samplings paired with a variety of red wines to challenge the notion that fish must be served with white wine. Also to delight attendees was a silent auction and jazz by Andrew Hudson and Friends.

\$20,000 was raised for Volunteers of America's Brandon Center thanks to major sponsors McCormick's Fish House & Bar and Southern Wine & Spirits. Special thanks to Chef Stephen Vice, Mikel Sasik and Amy Evans of McCormick's, and the wonderful committee who made everything look Big Easy: Vincent Abrue, Emma Keyser, Lauren Lamb, Frances Owens, Elizabeth Ryan, Kate Sutton and Faye Washington.

Photos: top, Quinn Washington and committee members Kate Sutton, Lauren Lamb and Jennifer Daurio; bottom: Grand Marshalls Jean Galloway and Susan Kiely; right: Monica Owens, Sharon Magness Blake and Frances Owens.

Memorials & Tributes

Nancy Livingston donated in honor of Kathy Klugman and Susan Barnhill and Dr. Mati Melnick's 85th birthday

Make a meaningful gift (birthday, anniversary, etc.) to someone in your life who does not need another *thing*. Give a gift that also benefits others by donating to the "Memorials and Tributes" fund of the VOA Guild. A card will be mailed to your honoree telling them that a contribution has been made in their name. Your gift is tax-deductible.

Memorials & Tributes donations may be sent to VOA Guild c/o Michael James, Volunteers of America, 2660 Larimer St., Denver, Colorado 80205.

For more information on VOA or Guild programs and events, contact Michael James, VOA Guild liaison, 720-264-3322 or visit www.voacolorado.org



OCTOBER 22, 2011
NATIONAL WESTERN EVENTS CENTER

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purchase tables & tickets online
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BRANDON BACK-TO SCHOOL BARBEQUE



Sunday, August 14 was the date of The Guild's annual Brandon Back-to-School Barbeque -- chaired by Barb Goettelman and her committee. It was a summer celebration to put a smile on every face! From the festive island decorations, barbeque with all the fixin's and crowd-pleasin' magician to the distribution of new backpacks and school supplies --- this party is a highlight of The Guild's year. Added to all the usual elements, this year the star of the day was the Bronco's mascot "Thunder" - in person, up close and personal!

It takes the efforts and generosity and dozens of people to make this day successful! First and foremost, thank you the generous donors of food items and our intrepid grill masters.

Food:
Jo & Dewey Dutton
Shamrock Foods
King Soopers

Chefs:
Michael James
Ron Nefzger
Melly Kinnard



(2)



Top: Michael James plies his cooking skills; left: many volunteers make set out a delicious buffet; right: Tracy Hans, Barb Goettelman & Larry The Magician.



Backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to all of the school-age children. Younger children also received a gift of an outfit and toys.

More thanks are due to the following people who made this such a special day for all:

Decorators and Servers:
Melly & Kerry Kinnard
Herminia Vigil
Connie Smith
Mary Bock Zarlengo
Diane Zarlengo
Barb & Abby Goettelman
Myrna, Pete & Tenlie Mourning
Savannah Brown
Dorothy Deadwiler
Carol Haycock & Mateo Aguirre
Cathey Herren
Carolyn Hayes
Suann O'Connor
Emily Tarleton

Entertainment:
"Thunder" courtesy of Sharon Magness Blake, Ernie Blake and the Thurder Foundation
Larry The Magician, Sonshine Entertainment

Photographer:
Margaret Boland

Brandon Staff:
Natasha Raabe, Ron Nefzger and Tracy Hans

Underwriters:
Kathy Klugman, Emily Tarleton, Cathey Herron, Deb Smith

Backpacks donated by Dianne Zarlengo
School Supplies purchased by The Guild

Shoppers & Suffers of Backpacks:
Carolyn Hayes
Mary Bock Zarlengo
Ann De Groat
Carol Haycock
Scott & Barb Goettelman
Carol James



BRANDON CENTER ADOPT-A-ROOM

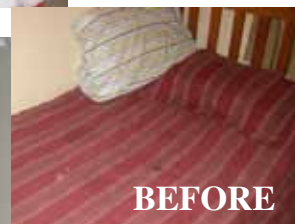
Adopt-a-Room and a new view of my son
By Dawn Nakamura Kessler



Spending the last Saturday before high school graduation cleaning, painting and decorating a room at a women's shelter—with his mother, yet—was not exactly what my son David had on his Top Ten list of things to do that day. But that's what we did, and neither one of us would want it any other way.

We arrived at Target at 8 a.m. to get the last of the items for our Guild Adopt-a-Room. Both of our cars were filled with everything from cleaning solution and paint to bedding, rugs and curtains. We met Brandon Center's staff member Crystal at 9:30, who introduced us to the occupants of the room, a beautiful young woman, her 2-month old son and 4-year old daughter.

Then we started painting and realized that neither one of us knew what we were doing! By the end of the day we had just as much paint in our hair, clothing and hands as there was on the wall. We worked side-by-side till 5:30 p.m. Please note: if you want to Adopt-a-Room and you know what you are doing, it should take you about half of this amount of time.



BEFORE

Periodically my son would ask questions like, "How do people end up living here?" or "Where do you think that little girl's Dad is?" And my personal favorite, which created much discussion: "Where would these people be if Volunteers of America didn't have a place like this?"

Shortly before the resident and children returned, David was putting the finishing touches on the room and I tried to give my opinion on where he should hang the mirrors. He reminded me that it was "his room" and that I could start putting the extras back in our cars so that he could finish up. I wish I could capture the look on his face as he witnessed how excited the little girl was with her "new room."



AFTER

Ten days later, he left the country to work with the Peace Corp in Senegal for two weeks. The opportunity to see homelessness and poverty within our own country first really opened his eyes. David has spent the last few summers of his life bicycle racing around Europe, Canada and the US. Summer of 2011 was to be the summer-of-giving but I truly feel we were the ones who received so much from this experience. Spending the day together re-designing a room was a wonderful opportunity to show my son first-hand one of the several projects led by the women of the Guild Board.

Last week, shopping at the new IKEA store for his dorm room items, he said, "Mom, wouldn't it be cool to decorate a few rooms at Brandon Center with IKEA stuff?" I assured him that once I catch up on lack of sleep from the last eighteen years and get him settled in at Western Washington University, I'd follow up on his suggestion. Please consider adopting a room with your young adult children, friends, church groups and civic organizations. It's a wonderful—and rewarding—way for high school students to fulfill community service hours.

For more information on Adopt-a-Room, contact Terri Fontenot at 303 - 984-1039 or email to tfontenot@gmail.com



Volunteers of America Brandon Center receives *Nature Explore Classroom* as a gift from cosmetics company Mary Kay - Dedication July 8, 2011



The *Nature Explore Classroom* is a unique outdoor learning environment that is specially designed to help children develop a profound connection with nature while healing from the trauma experienced from witnessing abuse in their homes.

Nature Explore Classrooms are traditionally constructed in areas where children can normally access including schools, parks and child care centers. However, children who are currently residing at a women's shelter with their mothers, rarely have access to these locations because of the precarious nature of protecting a mother and a child from a potential abuser.



Volunteers of America Brandon Center is one of only nine domestic violence shelters in the United States to have a *Nature Explore Classroom* and the first women's shelter to receive one in the state of Colorado. The Nature Explore Classroom is funded by Mary Kay Inc. and The Mary Kay FoundationSM in conjunction with a partnership with The Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation.

2011-2012 VOA GUILD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please address formal invitations as follows (circle one)
Miss Mrs. Ms. Mr. Dr. Mr. and Mrs. Dr. and Mrs. Other _____

Name: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I am interested in volunteering for the following:

- Benefit Committee
- Career Closet and Children's Closet
- Brandon Adopt-A-Room
- Mothers' Day in December
- Theodora House Dinners
- Telephone Committee
- Back To School Barbeque
- Addressing & Mailing
- Support only at this time

Membership Levels: Individual \$25 Patron \$50 Century Patron \$100 Life \$1000
 New Member Renewal Member
 I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

Please make check payable to VOAG. Mail completed form and your check to:
Cathey Herren, VP of Membership 14390 E. Marina Drive, #502 Aurora, CO 80014
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Volunteers of America

Colorado Branch

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The Guild

Save the Date for The Guild's Annual Membership Brunch
and Election of Officers

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

10:30 a.m.

at the beautiful home of Arlene Mohler Johnson

41 Sunset Drive

Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

Informal modeling from Mariel

Complimentary Parking

Look for your invitation end of September