

## Father's Day Event: Poppa-Palooza!

On Sunday, June 20, at Aurora's Roundhouse restaurant, over 300 people turned out for the first-ever Poppa-Palooza. Proceeds from this special Father's Day event totalled \$2,900!

Doors opened at 5 pm and the host was **Mark DeCarlo** from the Travel Channel. Entertainment began at 7 pm with blues music from **Old Blues Eyes**. The band was followed by comedians **Patti Vasquez** and WGN's **Steve Cochran** and **Mike Toomey**.

In addition, **Golfsmith** held a putting contest from 6-8 pm in which every participant received a \$10 gift card. The contest winner went home with custom-fitted MacGregor irons, a driver and a golf bag donated by Golfsmith.

Raffle and live auction prizes included Cubs field box tickets; a round of golf and lunch with Steve Cochran at the Bolingbrook Golf Club; a Weber Genesis S-310 grill and accessories; Roundhouse/Comfort Suites Weekend Package; Palmer House Hilton Bed & Breakfast Package; Best Buy merchandise; golf equipment from Golfsmith; and a Fender Stratocaster from Guitar Center signed by Buddy Guy.

Almost Home Kids would like to thank **Roundhouse Restaurant**, **Johnsonville Sausages**, and everyone else who contributed to make the event a success- we appreciate your generosity!



## Board Member Spotlight



A father, lawyer, coach and Cubs fan, **Rob Muriel** added AHK Board of Directors to his repertoire just over a year ago. He is currently serving as one of the Co-Vice Presidents on the Board of Directors.

Rob grew up in the Edgebrook neighborhood of Chicago, where he attended Loyola Academy. The

Jesuit high school instilled in him the drive to do all he could to help others and give back to the community. Rob decided to pursue his law degree at Loyola University because he felt it would provide a good position and training to be able to go out and help other people.

Seven years ago, Rob decided to leave the large firms and began his own firm, Muriel Law Offices. By having the ability to choose his clients and his cases, he has built his firm to reflect his values, focusing on the treatment of clients and opposing counsel; and giving back to the community.

When he's not in the courtroom, Rob serves on the Loyola Law School alumni board of governors and coaches his daughter's soccer team and his son's soccer and baseball teams.

"I'm always impressed by the passion and the enthusiasm from the Almost Home Kids board members and the staff," said Rob. "You get energized by it and come away being totally revved up about it, feeling really glad to be a part of it."

## Volunteer Spotlight



**Karen Warrick** is one of the many individuals that we rely on at Almost Home Kids to make our children's time here the best it can be. By day she works for a suburban marketing company, but come Monday night she can be found at AHK spending time with

the children reading, playing games, walking around the grounds, or simply holding them or standing by their beds.

Nearly three years ago, Karen found out about Almost Home Kids through a website called VolunteerMatch.org. She thought it sounded like a great opportunity to spend time with kids who deserve some extra special attention.

"I love that every night and every child is unique – I never know what to expect. The only 'given' is that I always leave AHK with a fuller heart," she said. "The nurses and staff are so helpful and friendly—they really make it feel like a home away from home, for the kids and the volunteers!"

Before she came to Almost Home Kids, Karen served as a volunteer childcare coordinator for an organization that provided supportive services to pregnant and parenting teenagers. When she is not working or volunteering, Karen spends most of her free time walking outdoors and looking at trail maps in preparation for a rim-to-rim hike of the Grand Canyon that she and her friends have planned for October.



## Get Ready “Fore” This Year’s Golf Outing!

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On Thursday, August 19, we will return to Bolingbrook Golf Club for our 8th annual Putt for a Purpose golf outing to raise funds and awareness in support of the Almost Home Kids mission. Registration and lunch are scheduled at 11:30 am, followed by a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. At 6:00 pm there will be a cocktail and hors d’oeuvres reception, and radio personality, **Steve Cochran**, will return as the emcee to kick off the dinner program.

“I am thrilled to have **Bill Wolz**, CFO of Pabst Blue Ribbon as Chairman of this year’s golf outing. Under Bill’s leadership, and with the support of the Board of Directors, Advisory Board and friends of AHK, this year’s event is sure to be a huge success,” said Debbie Grisko, President and CEO of Almost Home Kids. “We have two very distinguished awardees this year who will be honored at the golf outing dinner, **Pete Flowers** and **Gary Lee**. AHK is forever indebted to these two men for all of the time, talent and treasures they have given to the children at Almost Home Kids.”

The first award is the **Making a Difference Award**, which will be presented to Pete Flowers. The Making a Difference Award was established for an individual who selflessly gives of one’s time and talent to benefit our children as well as our center.

The second award is the **Dorothea Haaning Partnership Award**, which will be presented to Gary Lee Partners. Dorothea Haaning happened upon an article in the Tribune about Almost Home Kids on the very day her trust was being written and was so moved by our mission that she named AHK a beneficiary to her trust. In honor of Ms. Haaning, we have established this annual award for a corporation or foundation that consistently supports the mission of Almost Home Kids through monetary means and the bridging of relationships.

At the Annual Board Dinner, Bill Wolz presented us with a \$5,000 sponsorship from Pabst Blue Ribbon, making them our first gold-level sponsor for this year’s outing. We greatly appreciate their generosity and contribution to help make this event a success.

We are gladly accepting items for the silent and live auctions, especially prizes such as travel getaways or tickets to sporting events. Additionally, we are seeking support from the local business community to make this event a success; there are still many sponsorship opportunities available at the platinum, gold, and silver levels. Our goal is to increase awareness of Almost Home Kids in the west suburbs and to raise at least \$50,000 to help support the mission of AHK. If you would like to donate an item for the auctions, become a corporate sponsor, or if you have questions, please contact Tiffany Crowe at [tcrowe@almosthomekids.org](mailto:tcrowe@almosthomekids.org).