

# Clubhouse Corner



Volume 2 | Issue 1 | Mar 2009

## Doors Swing Wide at KC Clubhouse Opening

Scores of volunteers, donors, top fundraisers and community partners experienced the magic of Kate's Club Feb. 19 during the Grand Opening for the new Clubhouse. The vibrant evening featured ribbon-cutting ceremonies and guided tours of the Clubhouse that showed off the expansive living room, media, game and art rooms, as well as a resource library and gathering place for parents.



Remarks by Kate's Club founder Kate Atwood and board chair LeighAnn Costley underscored the momentous occasion celebrating how Kate's Club has grown to serve 200 children and teens with year-round programming. Special recognition went to the incredibly generous donors who sponsored individual Clubhouse rooms and offices.

"The new Clubhouse is a like a dream come true," said Kate Atwood, founder of Kate's Club. "The new Clubhouse is bright, comforting and the kids love it. We can do so many activities here, plus we are close to MARTA and many of the kids' favorite Atlanta attractions."

Kate's Club would like to send a special thank you to Nicole Ingram for her Clubhouse design assistance and participation during the Open House, as well as Susan Sappington, Kara Stanley and Shellie Hammock for volunteering the week of the event.

Kate's Club also thanks Whole Foods for donating food during the Open House and Atlanta's Junior League for its support and participation during the evening by serving refreshments and checking-in guests.

## DINNER OF CHAMPIONS - 3/25 AT IL MULINO!

Kate's Club supporters will say a collective "Salut!" Wed. March 25th at 7 p.m. during the Fourth Annual Kate's Club Dinner of Champions at Il Mulino. The hot new Atlanta outpost of the famed New York eatery is located at the 191 Peachtree building, adjacent to the Ritz-Carlton downtown.

Each year, Dinner of Champions honors an outstanding community supporter and dedicated volunteer as well as a Kate's Club member who is considered a role model among hers or his peers. This year's honored champions: Marc Taylor, Susan Sappington and Clay Cooper.

**Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at [www.katesclub.org](http://www.katesclub.org) or by calling (404) 347-7619.**

Making the Fourth Annual Dinner of Champions possible are: Champion Sponsor: Taylor, English, Duma LLP. Host Sponsors: Bennett Thrasher, Lisa Loften and Cousins Properties. Friend Sponsors: Lelia Pratt Interiors and Halpern Enterprises. In-Kind Sponsors: Jezebel, One Ninety One Club, Tailfin and Jeffrey Bloom.

## Calendar

March/April 2009

Club Outing - Sunday, March 29th  
from 2:30 to 5:30pm, sponsored by the  
Connor Caracappa Fund

ING Marathon - Run for Kate's Club  
March 29th

Volunteer Orientation  
Wednesday, April 1st from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Clubhouse Saturday - Saturday, April  
11th from 1:00 to 4:00pm

Holiday HUGS: National Sibling's Day  
Saturday, April 11th from 11:00am to  
12:30pm

Spring Support Groups begin Sunday,  
April 19th from 4:00 to 5:30pm

Camp Good Mourning Registration  
begins April 20th

April Outing - Sunday, April 26,  
sponsored by Complete Retail  
Services

**DINNER OF  
CHAMPIONS  
TICKETS STILL  
AVAILABLE!**

**Eat, Drink  
and Support  
Kate's Club  
at Il Mulino  
March 25  
visit [katesclub.org](http://katesclub.org)  
to order tickets!**

*Did you know?*

*More than 40,000 children in the Atlanta area will lose a parent by the time they are 18.*

## KC Forms Advisory Board

Kate's Club is excited to announce its inaugural Advisory Board. Consisting of 12 leaders from the Atlanta community, the Advisory Board will assist the organization's Board of Directors with strategic matters, serve as an ambassador for Kate's Club in the Atlanta community, and help further the mission and vision of the organization in each of their respected areas of expertise.

2009 Advisory Board members consist of individuals who have exhibited great leadership in the community and have continuously endorsed Kate's Club in its first five years of service. Says Executive Director Carmen Giles, "We wanted to bring together a high-level group of individuals who have impacted our organization over the years, whether in fundraising, programming, or media and strategically aim for their collective efforts to strengthen that impact."

The chair of the Advisory Board is Kate's Club founder, Kate Atwood. "We have assembled a great team of leaders and influential professionals from the Atlanta community. To have such individuals associated with our mission and invested in the strategic success of our programs is a huge testament to where Kate's Club stands today and where we are heading tomorrow. We're excited," says Atwood.

### 2009 Kate's Club Advisory Board Members

Kate Atwood – (Chairperson) Founder, Kate's Club  
 Rachel Alterman-Wallack, MSW – Executive Director, VOX Teen Communications  
 Rick Bennett – Founder, Bennett Thrasher LLC  
 Ryan Cameron – Radio Personality and Host, V-103  
 Adam Klein – Former Kate's Club Board Member  
 Tad Leithead – SVP, Development, Cousins Properties  
 Stu Levy – Partner, Bain and Company  
 Joyce Morley-Ball, Ed.D – Morley-Ball & Associates, Inc.  
 Polly Simpson – Community Volunteer  
 Janet A. Tharp – Program Director, The Salvation Army  
 Bert Weiss – Radio Personality and Host, All the Hits Q100  
 Brenda Wood – Anchor, WXIA 11-Alive News

## Appreciation, Celebration of Volunteers and Buddies

At Kate's Club, our volunteers and buddies are the core that keeps our organization running smoothly. This past December, we celebrated this impressive collection of individuals at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner at TAP in midtown. "The party was a small gesture to honor the people who show up at Kate's Club week after week, year after year and make a genuine commitment to our



program. We are so thankful to have each and everyone one of them helping with our vision to create a world where it is OK to grieve," says Eryn Wade, program manager. We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteers, from the ones who attend programs or provide administrative support, to those who help us raise money through our special events. We thank you for the gift of your time, your financial support, and your enthusiasm towards our mission. It is because of people like you that Kate's Club is here.



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### SPECIAL THANKS TO CLUBHOUSE ROOM SPONSORS:

Family Reception and Resource Room – Quest Foundation

Polly's Game Room – Long and Gelb Families in honor and memory of Polly Long Denton

Lelia's Art Room – The Nelson Schwab Family Foundation in honor of Lelia Schwab Pratt

Shelley's Music Room – Hilary and Stuart Nelson and Family in honor and memory of Shelley S. Pepper

Offices:  
Cushman & Wakefield of Georgia, Inc. in honor of Allison Griffin Bittel

Melanie Zairis in memory of Greg Zairis

The Hall Family in memory of Sharon Hall

Richard and Lily Heimbürger in memory of Elizabeth "Bubba" Morgan Whitaker

## 2008 - An Exciting Year for Kate's Club

Kate's Club celebrated its 5th Anniversary last year. In 2003, Kate's Club implemented its first program with our founder, Kate, and six children participating. Today, we are serving over two hundred children with the support of more volunteers, staff and board members than ever before. As we have grown, we have remained committed to the belief that no one, especially a child, should grieve alone.

Did you know that there are an estimated 40,000 children in metropolitan Atlanta who will lose a parent or sibling before age 18? Based on newly released 2007 census data, that number is even higher – check out your county's estimated number of children who will have a loss\*:

- Fulton – an estimated 12,451 will lose a parent or sibling by age 18
- DeKalb – an estimated 8,919 will lose a parent or sibling by age 18
- Gwinnett – an estimated 11,296 will lose a parent or sibling by age 18
- Cobb – an estimated 9,064 will lose a parent or sibling by age 18

\*Based on the formula recommended by the National Alliance for Grieving Children that 1 in 20 children will lose a parent by the age of 18.

If you've had a chance to visit our new Clubhouse, you know how bright, fun and uplifting our space is – we've worked hard and had the support of so many of you to make this space a special one for our children. But it isn't simply the color of our walls or the way we arrange our furniture that provide our children with the hope and inspiration necessary to take a tragic loss and turn it into an opportunity to grow and help someone else on their grief journey. The true spirit and inspiration of Kate's Club lies with the people who give in so many ways as volunteers, donors, board members, staff and referral sources. You, our supporters, make it possible for us to provide quality programs and services necessary to empower our members to be survivors – we truly believe that ensuring that children have not only emotional support, but a strong social network of friends and adults who share their experience makes a significant difference and sets Kate's Club apart from most grief-support organizations.

We offer children a place to come for as long as they need us. We understand that grief is a long term issue and not resolved in a 5-week support group. Did you know that children who lose a parent are at greater risk for behavioral issues two years following the loss than they were immediately after the loss and they are three times more likely to develop depression than children who don't have a loss? Based on our 2008 survey results, over 50% of our current members have participated in Kate's Club programs for over one year. That's an amazing retention rate and one we are very proud of. Eighty percent (80%) of parent and caregiver respondents said because of their child's participation at Kate's Club, their child was more willing to talk about their grief – that's empowerment. We've seen over time that a child's ability to share their personal story is increased after a cycle of support groups. Our children inspire us to continue our work and whether you have given your time or financial resources to support Kate's Club, we hope you feel proud of your contribution and know that it's making a difference. As we reflect on 2008, we are planning for an exciting 2009, which promises to be another year of growth.

We hope all of you will continue your support of Kate's Club in 2009. This year, we have already begun the intake process for 23 new Kate's Club members and we are still in the first quarter, a sign that the growth of our services can not be affected by the current economic climate and difficult fundraising environment. We respect and understand that your offering financial support to Kate's Club may be hard at this time, so we hope you will think about volunteering your time and/or skills. If you are able to make a donation, know that every gift, of any amount, makes a huge difference in the lives of the children we serve and those who will need us in the coming months.



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### Meet Our Newest Face: Angi Pietzak

The newest member to the Kate's Club team is Angi Pietzak, responsible for organizing and executing special events at Kate's Club, including our Annual Cabaret. Angi is already busy on the job with the Dinner of Champions, scheduled on March 25th. Prior to joining Kate's Club, Angi served three years as the Member Events Director at the Buckhead Club. Prior to moving to Atlanta, she worked in production and casting in Los Angeles, CA. She brings over six years experience in the event planning/production industry. Born in Indiana, Angi is a graduate of Ball State University. She and her husband, Matt recently got married and currently live in Brookhaven with their dog, Wilbur. To welcome Angi to Kate's Club or if you are interested in volunteering at or attending an upcoming special event, please contact Angi at [angi@katesclub.org](mailto:angi@katesclub.org) or call her at (404) 347-7916.