



Massage Message

January, 2011

Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season. Things around here have been, well... changing. If you've known me for any length of time, you know I only stay in any given situation long enough to get tired of it, then I move on. Well, I reached a point about six months ago when I realized I needed a change. I still love what I do, but I am getting a little tired of working so much at too many things. It turns out, there really are only 24 hours in a day, and it's time to simplify my life a bit.

This past July marked five years since starting my practice at my South Church location. At the same time, my faithful assistant of two and half years, Kelsiegh Boggs, left the organization to further pursue her education and move on to bigger and better things. The decision was made then to close the office, although it has taken longer than I expected. For the last couple years, I have been seeing physical therapy patients on a pretty full time basis due to the high demand for home health. I also didn't anticipate five years ago that I'd be starting a nonprofit organization. Either way, it no longer makes sense to pay the overhead for a building I can only use part of the time. And it will be nice to have a few more face to face conversations with my husband from time to time.

So, for the last six months, Walt and I have been going through the torturous process of looking for and buying a new house. By the end of February, I will be closing my office on South Church and moving my massage practice to our new home. The house is located on 3 acres off Frank Scott Parkway (in Belleville) on Town Hall Road. The outdoor massage room at this place is going to be awesome!

Other changes I'm making include focusing on only ONE fundraiser a year for Hands to Help. To continue in my tradition of big fall fundraisers, we'll be having a dinner and dance on September 17th at Fischer's Restaurant in Belleville. Terri Mearns is still our quarter auction girl and will continue hosting the annual event in Carlyle on June 25th. And I'm going to stick to short and simple newsletters and try to get them out on a regular basis again.

I'm very excited about what the year has in store for us. The next few pages have more details of what's been going on and what's coming up. I hope everyone is doing well and this new year brings health and happiness to you and all your friends and family!

Til Next Time -

Kelly

Calendar of Events

April 2
Fundraiser
Committee
Meeting

June 10-11
Relay for Life

June 25
Annual
Quarter
Auction

August 6
Hands to Help
Annual
Meeting
And
Board
Elections

September 17
Annual
Fundraiser

Hands to Help NFP

Saving the world one massage at a time.



TAX EXEMPT STATUS

With the help of our new friend, Vicki Borrer, we officially applied for our tax exempt status in October. We received a response in November informing us more information was needed about our organization to process the request. This information was sent back to the IRS just before Thanksgiving and to date, our file has not yet been assigned to a representative. In the most recent phone conversation I had with the original agent, I was given no indication of how much longer the process will take. We welcome ANY suggestions that might help the process along.

FUTURE PLANS

The focus of Hands to Help at the present time is to concentrate on building a dedicated board of directors and prepare for our upcoming events. Once we have received our tax exempt status, we will immediately apply for grant funding. The first priority after receiving funding will be to hire an executive director capable of moving us to the next level. This would be a great opportunity for someone with nonprofit experience to help build an organization from the ground up. Please put the word out and help us find the right person for the job.

ANNUAL MEETING & OFFICER NOMINATIONS

We are now accepting nominations for officer and board member seats. Elections will take place at our annual meeting on August 6th. Please consider offering your time to help us take Hands to Help to the next level.

3rd ANNUAL CLINTON COUNTY QUARTER AUCTION

The 3rd Annual Quarter Auction will be held June 25th at the Microtel in Carlyle.
Details to follow soon.

VENDORS NEEDED

If you would like to participate or have questions, please email me at kellycrocken@yahoo.com or Terri at tmearns70@sbcglobal.net



Relay for Life



17th Annual Marion County Relay for Life

Wizard of Oz - There's No Place Like HOPE

June 10-11, 2011

Relay Opens 4:00

Opening Ceremonies 6:00

Centralia High School - 2100 East Calumet

HELP US BREAK LAST YEAR'S TOTALS!

2010 Relay Raised \$143,000
with 34 teams participating

Goal for 2011
\$145,000

Live Music: Kevin Heim, Bits & Pieces,
more to come

Terri Mearns Team Booth:
Partylite: Transformation for a Cure
*Hands to Help will be available
for massages on a limited basis.*

To join our team or sponsor your own team, please contact
Terri at 618-267-5611 or Jerra at 618-532-6754

NEW LOCATION

Our new home will also be the new home for my massage practice and headquarters for Hands to Help.



In breaking a twenty-some year routine of moving every year or two, I have actually been living in the same location for 8 and a half years now. The thought of moving everything now is a little intimidating. Thankfully we're not trying to sell our current residence right now, so we can take our time deciding what goes to the new house and what gets thrown away. THAT I am looking forward to, I can't believe how much stuff you can accumulate when you're not moving all time.

Walt is currently working on remodeling the space for my office and massage room. It is completely separated from the rest of the house with it's own private entrance. It will, no doubt, take some time to make the house our own, but we're very excited to get started. We hope to have things in nice enough shape to have a small open house in late spring and unveil the new OUTDOOR massage room.

I'm taking appointments at my current location until the last week in February when we'll be finishing moving my office. My phone numbers, email and website addresses will stay the same. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to schedule an appointment.

PO Box 797
Belleville, IL 62222



Kelly Crocken & Associates, LLC
www.kellycrockenfigi.com



Hands to Help NFP
www.handstohelpnfp.org

SAVE THE DATES

April 2
Fundraiser
Committee
Meeting

June 10-11
Relay for Life

June 25
Quarter Auction

August 6th
Hands to Help
Annual Meeting
And
Board Elections

September 17
Annual Fundraiser

CONTACT US

Kelly Crocken Figi
kellycrocken@yahoo.com
Cell: 618-604-2796
Office: 618-235-8853

Terri Mearns
tmearns70@sbcglobal.net
Cell: 618-267-5611

Karen Stewart
mstewart7@charter.net
Cell: 618-972-1811