

# Heart Matters

Presented for you by  
Hearts of Harvest Foundation

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Hearts were on fire to help children with heart disease at our bi-annual Hearts of Harvest Event. Visit our website to see more great pictures at [www.heartsofharvest.org](http://www.heartsofharvest.org).

## Hearts of Harvest 2010

by Pam McCain

Hearts of Harvest Foundation has had a great 2010 thanks to the support of our many volunteers, sponsors, contributors, and donors! All of us at HOHF feel our organization continues to be blessed by each of you. On September 11, 2010 we held our 7th Hearts of Harvest event on the beautiful grounds of Robert and Becki Brown. This setting in Mount Oso Vineyards could not be any more breath taking and the weather, I have to comment on, was the best we have ever had. There was a wonderful selection of wineries pouring for approximately 250 guests and volunteers in attendance. Those in attendance were able to enjoy the wine, delectable appetizers by Children's Home Society, a nice silent auction and dinner by Karin's Exquisite Catering. We were so pleased to have five of our very own heart children speak at the event this year. I know this brought a tear of joy to my eyes. On the next page you can take in a few quotes from our young, I can no longer say little, miracles. Next on the evening agenda was our live auction entitled, "Hearts on Fire" for a child. This is where we inserted a little surprise in the Brown pool - an actual Heart of Fire. It was a great kick off to an exciting auction. Our auctioneer this year was David Soban who did a wonderful job and helped us raise approximately \$63,000 from our event. Since Hearts of Harvest Foundation is a 100% volunteer organization, we were able to keep our expenses to a minimum. With the net earnings from our event, a past JP Matters of the Heart gift, and donations received throughout this year, we have been able to gift approximately \$54,000 this year.

Here is a summary of where we have put your donations to work:



Camp Taylor, Inc. \$15,000  
Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland \$14,000  
American Heart Association \$ 5,000  
Plus local partnerships with:  
Sutter Tracy Community Hospital for Healthy Connections \$11,000  
Children's Home Society \$ 6,375  
Pregnancy Resource Center of Tracy \$ 1,500  
Tracy Hospital Foundation \$ 1,000

The balance of our fund-raising efforts will go toward supporting two newsletters next year and the planning of our 2012 Hearts of Harvest event. We feel so honored to run this organization and are committed to the fiscal responsibilities that it involves. Once again **thank you** for all your support in 2010; it has been wonderful! We wish you and your families peace during the upcoming holiday season and a blessed new year.

### *Fruits of our Harvest to date:*

***\$342,000 gifted to organizations and individuals. Supporting families and their children with heart disease and/or in health crisis.***

## OUR KIDS SPEAK FROM THEIR HEARTS

By Becki Brown



The children pictured on the left were 4-7 years old when Hearts of Harvest began nine years ago...and they are the inspiration behind Hearts of Harvest Foundation. Today they are young adults, each living with their own heart condition. Guests at September's event listened to them share their thoughts about what it is like to have a special heart and how it has impacted them and the lives of other children who may be faced with a similar challenge.

Here is a sampling of some of their answers when interviewed by Mr. Andy Froiland.

**Kevin Murphy (age 14)** Has had a Heart Transplant at the age of 12

*What is it like to have a chest scar? And what is it like to have someone else's heart beating inside you?*

**"I refer to my scar as the Beast! (For the older generation that means cool!) I am very grateful for what Doctors can do today and for the donor family and for the people that I have met and for kids I can help."**



**Samantha McCain (age 13)** Lives with Hypoplastic Left Syndrome

*Tell me one good thing about having a heart condition:*

**"I get to get out of school for Doctor's appointments!"**

*What is it like to have a scar? Do you have any future worries?*

**"Having a scar is a little reminder telling you that you're different from everyone else... when people in my class say they got hurt or say I almost died I say, well I almost died three times... what next? I wonder if I would ever be able to do sports as well as other people and I also wonder if I might need to have another surgery when I'm older. I worry about what will happen if I have a stroke or a heart attack because I wouldn't want to die when I am only 20 years old or so."**



**Jake Smith (age 16)** Lives with Severe Aortic Stenosis

*What is it like to have a chest scar?*

**"Once when we got back from a trip to Mexico I had fun with it and told my friends I got kidnapped and was tortured. (ha ha) but I really don't like to make a big deal about it and my restrictions."**

*What are your thoughts about reaching out to other children that have heart defects?*

**"I know all that has been accomplished through HOHF is a really good thing and it feels good to give to the hospital where I had my surgery and to Camp Taylor because of the positive impact it has on the kids and their families."**



**Erikson Brown (age 15)** Lives with a Left Ventricular Aneurysm

*If you have limitations or restrictions, what do you do to deal with that?*

**"It's kind of a bummer because I am a big kid and the doctors say no to football. But I want to encourage my friends who do get to play football. There are other important things I can do on the sidelines...God has a plan."**

*What are your thoughts about reaching out to other children who have heart defects?*

**"I have watched this Foundation grow since I was 6 and I am grateful for the help that it offers to kids in need. Giving back to others gives me a great feeling inside and I am hopeful that people will continue to support the Foundation for years to come."**



**Taylor Gamino (age 16)** Lives with Hypoplastic Right Syndrome

*How has your heart condition impacted your life and the lives of others?*

**"I live with half of a heart. (Taylor isn't known for doing things half-heartedly. His mother named a camp after him called Camp Taylor, Inc. They have been a beneficiary of HOHF for many years. The camp is run by volunteers and is free to families and kids with heart disease/conditions.) I want to become a Pediatric Cardiac Nurse so I can continue to help kids with heart problems."**

## A Heartfelt *Thank You* to Our 2010 Donors

*These gifts were received between November 1, 2009 and November 30, 2010.*

*Our sincere apologies to anyone we may have omitted.*

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### *\*\*Gifts received "In Honor Of"*

Samantha McCain  
Carol Reiss



***Pam McCain presenting a donation to Kimberlie Gamino of Camp Taylor, Inc.***

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# Hearts of Harvest Foundation

## Motto:

*"The Giving of one  
Heart to Another"*

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## Heart Matters Contributors

Diana Schmidt-Editor  
Pam McCain  
Becki Brown

*Merry Christmas*



*Wishing you peace, joy, and good health in this season of giving. Thank you for giving to HOHF.*

[www.heartsofharvest.org](http://www.heartsofharvest.org)