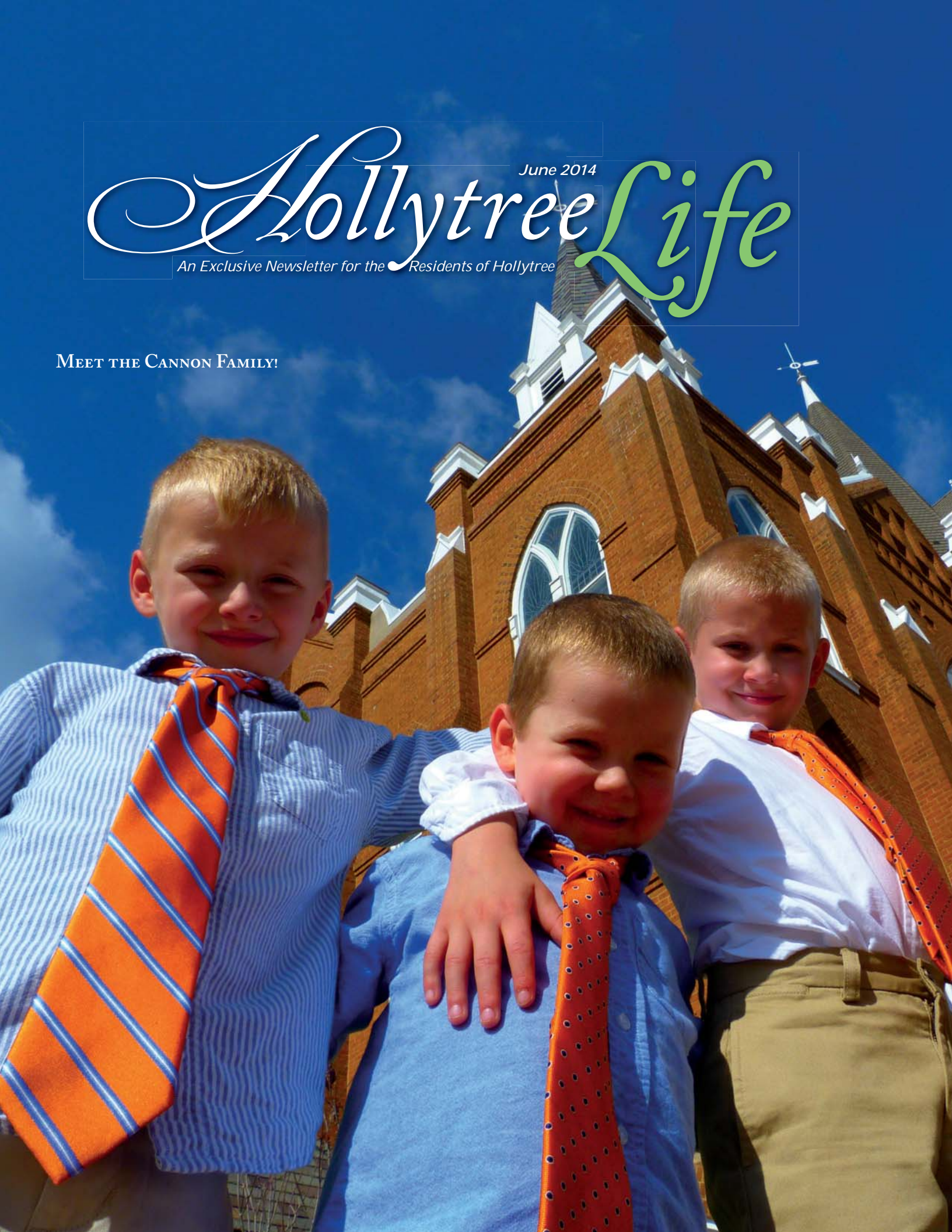


Hollytree Life

June 2014

An Exclusive Newsletter for the Residents of Hollytree

MEET THE CANNON FAMILY!



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to your June issue. This last month has been great as we had our very first *Kids Movie Review*. Please check out what our kids have to say about the new movie *Rio2*. Also this month I had the honor of meeting Arnold and Sharon Sikes who run Angel Layettes. What an amazing couple that love what they do and give back (along with their many volunteers and financial supporters) to families who have just lost their baby. I encourage everyone to read this article and to help in some way if you can.



Your Publisher,

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Left to right Toni Hargis, Joe Hargis, Dr. Paul Powell, Bonnie Tincher, Sharon Sikes, Nancy Hill

BUSINESS *beat* *Angels Among Us*



Mission Statement: Angel Layettes brings comfort to families grieving over the loss of an infant from miscarriage, stillbirth, or death shortly after birth and honor and dignity to the memory of the precious baby by providing, without charge, custom designed burial layettes and keepsakes.

Article by Patrick Schmeier

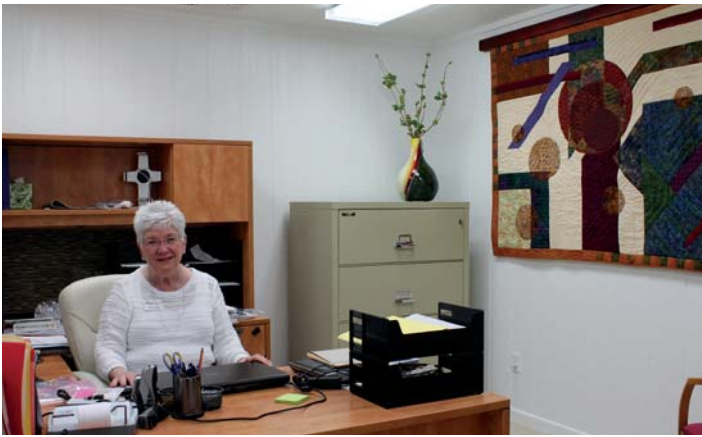
Angel Layettes is a non-profit corporation whose sole purpose is to make burial layettes and keepsakes for grieving families who experience the death of their baby at birth or shortly thereafter.

Back in 2004, Sharon Sikes, who loves to sew, heard that there was a need for burial layettes for grieving families. She soon began sewing layettes as a ministry for Trinity Mother Frances Hospital. Soon she had volunteers in her home. One thing led to another and quickly the second story of their home became filled with sewing machines and fabric. Sharon, along with her husband Arnold, soon started running this non-profit corporation out of their second story home. Little did they know that they would soon outgrow their home office and work space. In 2009 they moved into what is now called "The Angel House," located in Gresham. What started out by just helping a few

grieving families here in Tyler at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, soon became a business in which over 50 hospitals across the country now regularly order products.

An Angel Layette consists of a custom sewn gown, cap, blanket, and a keepsake heart. The keepsake heart incorporates all of the fabrics used in the gown and blanket. The keepsake heart can be placed in a Bible, framed or stored along with other keepsakes the parents maintain in memory of their lost child. Volunteers who have an amazing heart for this ministry make all of the layettes.

Currently, Angel Layette's volunteers meet every Tuesday and Thursday to cut and sew these amazing gifts of love for families all across the country. Everything is set up in large batches to streamline the process and to get as many sewn as possible. They



Sharon Sikes in her office with one of her many quilts that she and Arnold collect

have machines to cut out patterns while others are sewing or ironing and packaging finished product to be shipped. While all of the volunteers I saw this day were women, I am told they do get men helping as well. There are many steps to the process that can be done by both men and women. Last year alone over 2,500 layettes were shipped.

As I toured this amazing facility, I noticed how organized and relaxing it was just to be here. The facility sits on three acres of beautiful landscaped property and sits off the road about 75 yards. The entire property was re-done and is very welcoming and relaxing inside and out. Large windows open up all of the rooms to the beautiful outdoors while every room is also well lit for their volunteers to have exceptional lighting to manufacture the layettes. This property also has two more buildings on it. An outdoor storage facility, which houses all of the inventory of fabrics and supplies, and a large garage that was recently renovated into an Annex for offices for staff and volunteer administrative work. It is the understanding of the Board that Angel Layettes is the first and only charitable sewing facility in America.

Angel Layettes survives solely on donations. All of the labor is voluntary, but it does cost to buy materials, machines, service, overhead, and to ship product all over the country. The hospitals are not charged for their product and it is free to the families as well. So you can see that this truly is a labor of love. Angel Layettes is always looking for more volunteers. Donations are also needed in order to fund Angel Layettes.

Do you need to buy any trees this year? Petty's Irrigation and Landscape has promised to donate a portion to Angel Layettes for every tree that is purchased in 2014. Petty's donated to Angel Layettes on a similar basis in 2013.

I would like to thank Sharon and Arnold for what they do. I would highly recommend anyone who is looking to volunteer some time to please consider helping out at Angel Layettes.



Making the Caps



Left side (front to back) Patricia Owen, Ann Stack, Mary Newman, Vivian Evrage. (Back right corner forward) Cindy Tillery, Nancy Hill. (round table left to right) Sandy Wheeler, Jan McLarty, Sharon Sikes



One of many examples of Layette sets that are sent out. Each set contains a gown, cap, blanket and a keepsake heart

Maybe you would like to just stop by and see what they do. I am sure Sharon, one of the volunteers, or a board member would love to show you around. Angel Layettes is located in Gresham not far from Tyler.

To find out more about Angel Layettes please visit www.angellayettes.org

...continued

BUSINESS beat



Left to right (volunteers at the ribbon cutting) Sharon Sikes, Vivian Everage, Cindy Tillery, Nancy Hill, Mary Louise Davis, Mary Horn, Jan McLarty, Paula Freeman, Sandy Wheeler



Making Caps

