

# the blast

A PUBLICATION OF THE



## THIS MONTH:

CONGRATS!  
FROM THE PREZ  
XMAS SHOPPING FOR  
KIDS RECAP  
CALENDAR  
RESTAURANT WEEK  
MEET THE NEWBIES!  
PAST PREZ DINNER

Have an idea for the  
next Blast?!?

Email Ashley and let  
her know!

[bnjcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bnjcnewsletter@gmail.com)

Bloomington-Normal  
Jaycees  
PO Box 42  
Bloomington, IL 61702  
[bnjaycees@gmail.com](mailto:bnjaycees@gmail.com)  
[www.bnjaycees.org](http://www.bnjaycees.org)

Membership Meetings:  
2nd Wednesday of every  
month at Central Station  
Cafe in Downtown  
Bloomington - 7pm

Congratulations to:



## New Member<sub>s</sub> of the Fourth Quarter: Laura & Sig Enger

Congratulations to our new members Laura and Sig. Since joining, they've become regulars at meetings and socials and have helped with projects. We're happy to have you as new Jaycee members!

## Member of the Fourth Quarter: Seth Carter

Seth is a very active member who has played an integral role in several projects, even stepping up to put together a Jaycees float for our parade. We appreciate his dedication and commitment to the Jaycees.

# January 2011

# From the President



Natalie McKee, 2010 Chapter President



It's hard to believe, but the year has gone by and this is my last newsletter entry. It seems like it was only a few months ago that we were sworn in as the 2010 Executive Board. Over the past year I have written specific entries about how successful our group has been and I still feel that way looking at our final quarter of projects. We have truly succeeded in providing a greater contribution to our community, learning experiences for our members, and built leaders along the way.

There isn't enough space for me to ramble on with personal thank yous, but I would like to put a few in writing. To my Executive Board: thank you for your support, sitting through some of those long board meetings, and working hard to keep things coordinated throughout the year. To the 2010 Chairs or Co-Chairs: we wouldn't have made the contributions we did without you. Thank you for taking the brave step to lead. To the membership: We often say that this organization is voluntary and your commitment level is a personal choice. Thank you for choosing to participate, whether you were there for one project or them all, and serving a community that will always appreciate the extra hand. You have made a difference. To the 2011 Board: Thank you for stepping up to lead this organization through another year.

Without being too cliché, I do have to say that I am a believer in the Jaycee method. The opportunity to provide community service does create leaders. I began my tenure as a member running a project, served on the board for 2 years, and was elected President. I see this trend for other members taking advantage of the opportunity. No matter your level of involvement, I hope you all find that the lessons you learn, skills you develop, and relationships you build are as influential as they have been for me.

In Jaycees,  
Natalie McKee, Au.D.

## Christmas Shopping Spree

The Christmas Shopping Event with Big Brothers Big Sisters was 12/11/10. THANK YOU very much to all that volunteered!! We were able to take 15 children shopping at Wal-Mart to buy gifts for their families. Each child was able to spend \$100 dollars thanks to the following sources: Wal-Mart on Market (\$750 grant), Wal-mart on Greenbriar (\$50 gift card), Meijer (\$100 gift card) and the Jaycee Bowling Fund-raiser which raised \$1500. Each child received hats, gloves and scarves from Santa as well as a Christmas container full of candy and trinkets. Luther Oak's was very generous in allowing us the space to wrap all the gifts and provide a pizza lunch. The event seemed to go off without a hitch, and everyone seemed to have a great time. All the children were so thankful; it was my pleasure to chair this event.



Thanks again!  
Ashley Brennan

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, February 4th.....Past President's Dinner 5:30pm

Wednesday, February 9th.....Membership Meeting, 7pm



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



Twin City Restaurant Week  
Jillian Swan  
760-521-4059  
Jillian@TwinCityRestaurantWeek.com

**WHEN FOOD AND ART COLLIDE**  
**Twin City Restaurant Week**  
**ANNOUNCED FOR FEBRUARY 20-25, 2011**

Come see what happens when Food and Art Collide!! Twin City Restaurant Week is excited to announce The Artistic Chef Challenge! This is the first challenge of this caliber in the area. The Artistic Chef Challenge is open to foodies age 6 to adult in Mclean County that like to cook and are interested in working with a Chef from a local restaurant to compete to be crowned the best of their age category. In the final round, professional chefs and community chefs will have to work together to create a dish from inspiration from artwork by local artists. Participating local artists: Bekah Berry, Dominic Henkelman, Natalie Wetzel, Harold Gregor, James Hejl, Jason Mack, Brad Mosby, Darin Dawdy and K.A. Kattner. Hurry deadline to enter is January 31, 2011. More details: [www.TwinCityRestaurantWeek.com/artistic\\_chef\\_challenge](http://www.TwinCityRestaurantWeek.com/artistic_chef_challenge)

The launch party and Chef pairing will take place on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7 pm at Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. Chefs and owners of participating restaurants along with fellow foodies will help kick off this event. \$10 at the door will help raise funds for Mulberry School. You will be able to mingle with the finalists of the Artistic Chef Challenge, Chefs from established restaurants and view artwork from local artists. For ticket information: [www.TwinCityRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.TwinCityRestaurantWeek.com)

For the third year, participating Restaurants in Bloomington/Normal are organizing a Twin City Restaurant Week promotion. Diners are given a unique opportunity to enjoy local dishes from all around Bloomington/Normal at a very special price. Seven of the finest dining establishments and restaurants will participate in the third semi-annual event: A. Renee, Baxter's American Grille, Biaggi's, Jesse's Grille in the Marriott, Michael's Restaurant, Mr. Beez inside the Parke Hotel and Swingers Grille.

For six days, February 20-25, diners have a chance to indulge their taste buds and experience the art of dining. Participating establishments will offer amazing special three-course price fixed meals for \$10, \$15, \$20 and \$30 per person (liquor, tax and gratuity not included). Select restaurants will also offer lunch specials for \$5 or \$10 per person (liquor, tax and gratuity not included). There are no tickets or passes required. Food lovers may simply dine out at as many participating restaurants as they like during Twin City Restaurant Week, explore new dining opportunities or enjoy old favorites. Advance reservations are strongly recommended as many restaurants will quickly book up and can be made by calling restaurants directly. Full details are available online at: [www.TwinCityRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.TwinCityRestaurantWeek.com) including each participating restaurant, level of menu participation and actual menus that will be featured for the week and more information about the artistic chef challenge. Diners are encouraged to call ahead to make Twin City Restaurant Week reservations directly with the restaurant.

## Membership Dues

### December renewals

Katie Reeter

Ashley Brennan

### January renewals

Ashley Coontz

George Coontz

David Cate

Joe Brennan

Katy Griesemer

Wendy Bill



Please get your dues to  
Lynn Meuser ASAP.

## **From Katie Reeter, 2010 Membership Director**

First off, thank you to the membership, who elected me to the 2010 Board! I really enjoy getting to know the membership! We have a great group here! There are things I could have done better - but I learned a lot! It was my 1st board position in any organization! I got to see first-hand how organizations are run and how much "behind the scenes" work it takes! Thank you to the 2010 Board who helped me as well! It means a lot!

I have no doubt that Lynn will do a FANTASTIC job in the Membership Position!

Let's go out and make 2011 a great year!!

## December Birthdays

Joellyn Nauman

Jeff Bruck

Brent Lee

Dan Bonomo



## January Birthdays

Katie Reeter

Alicia Whitworth

Alison Hodina

Ashley Brennan

Az Wazeer

Chad Bevers

Mark Oertwig

# Happy Birthday!



*The Bloomington-Normal Jaycees cordially invite  
you and a guest to the  
annual Past Presidents Mixer*

Join us at  
**The Chateau Hotel & Conference Center**  
1601 Jumer Drive, Bloomington, IL  
on **Friday, February 4th,**  
from **5:30 - 7 pm**

*Learn about our history, our accomplishments  
in 2010, and our leaders for 2011.*

Hors d'oeuvres, iced tea and soda will be served.  
Cash bar will be available.

RSVP by January 28:  
[bnjccob@gmail.com](mailto:bnjccob@gmail.com) or 309-319-6107

# From Joellyn: 2011 President

2010 was a memorable year for all our community projects! Jaycees members put forth a ton of effort to make our projects successful, and several new members took the initiative to chair their first project. Sit back, relax, and relive the difference we made for Bloomington-Normal this year.



- Canathon -- Jaycees worked together canvassing streets for donations and sorting food items. We collected nearly 1,000 bags with over 15,000 pounds of food to stock the shelves of local food pantries. Alicia Whitworth and Dan Bonomo did an awesome job with this event!
- Tulip 5K – Katy Griesemer ran the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tulip 5K Walk/Run. More than 130 participated, raising \$4,000! The money was donated to the Siteman Cancer Research Center to find a cure for pancreatic cancer.
- Wheelchair Basketball – Several Jaycees volunteered with concessions at the Life Center for Independent Living's Wheelchair Basketball event. It was our first year selling concessions, and we raised more than \$500 for the Life Center.
- Sandbox Days -- Dan Kelley and Craig Bryce took Sandbox Days to new levels by custom building sandboxes, selling sand toy kits and delivering sand for volleyball leagues. Way to go Dan and Craig!
- Children's Book Drive -- Lisa Boehm and Nicole Williams set a record leading the Children's Book Drive! This successful event smashed its goal by collecting a record 2,850 books (1,500 was the goal). State Farm employees contributed books this year, meaning more children got to experience the joy of reading. State Farm also contributed to our projects this year through its Good Neighbor Grants program.
- Boys and Girls Club Toy Box Auction -- The Jaycees turned a toy box into a "movie box" with hand-made artwork and a shelf for DVDs for the Boys and Girls Club Toy Box Auction. Our toy box sold for more than \$300!
- Thanksgiving Baskets -- Megan Carter and Katie Reeter were in charge of the Thanksgiving Baskets project where Jaycees delivered all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner to needy families. Working with the Center for Hope food pantry, we helped provide Thanksgiving dinner for 50 families.
- Christmas Shopping with Kids – Ashley Brennan headed up the Christmas Shopping with Kids event, which allowed 15 underprivileged children to buy Christmas gifts for their families. The day included breakfast, lunch, surprise gifts from Santa, and lots of smiles!
- Christmas Parade – Katy Griesmer had the pleasure of organizing the annual parade not once, but twice. Winter Fantasyland was cancelled for weather conditions the first time, but she was able to pull it together for another weekend. The community was very happy to have their annual parade.
- Other events – Members also donated lots of goodies for two Stockings for Soldiers drives. Jaycees also volunteered to help at the Special Olympic Summer Games, Lion's Club Candy Days, Purse of Hope 5K and the Haunted Trail. Way to go Jaycees!

We did amazing things for our community this past year, and it makes me proud to tell others that I am a member of the Jaycees. The success of these projects would not happen without teamwork and of course, our project chairs. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who chaired a project this year. I know it's not without challenges, but you all got the job done. We appreciate your hard work. Being on the Board is not only fun, but a great learning experience. I would like to thank Natalie for her leadership as President in 2010 and everyone who served on the Board. I won't claim to have all of the answers for 2011, but I know there are a lot of people I can go to for support, including several past presidents. Although we all have our own individual strengths, we come together well to make a difference in the community and represent the Jaycees. **I can't wait to be your 2011 President!**

# Welcome to

# the Jaycees!

Name: Alex Hickman

Age/Birthday: 07/30/1987

Occupation: COUNTRY Financial,  
Financial Representative

Married? No

Children? No

Pets? No

Where are you from originally? Bloomington

Where did you attend college? University of Illinois

What was your major? Actuarial Science

Why did you join the Jaycees? I wanted to get  
more involved in the community.

What are you hoping to learn/experience while  
you're a member of the Jaycees? I would like to  
meet some new people and help as much as I can.

Hobbies: Running and spending time with  
my good friends.

Favorite movie? Inception

Favorite music/artist? Hip Hop / Rap

Favorite restaurant/type of food? Buffalo Style  
Anything.

Favorite sport/game? College Basketball



## **From Ashley Brennan, 2011 Community Vice President**

I am very excited to accept the community vice president position on the Jaycee Board in 2011. I enjoy being involved in the community and have loved my first year as a Jaycee. I plan to work hard to make sure 2011 is as fun and exciting as 2010 has been.

## 2010 BN Jaycees Executive Board

Chairman of the Board.....Natalie McKee  
bnjccob@gmail.com

President.....Joellyn Nauman  
bnjaycees@gmail.com

Administrative VP.....Sara Bowman  
bnjcadminvp@gmail.com

Management VP.....Eric England  
bnjcmanagementvp@gmail.com

Community Development VP.....Ashley Brennan  
bnjccommunityvp@gmail.com

Membership VP.....Lynn Meuser  
bnjcmembershipvp@gmail.com

Individual Development VP.....Seth Carter  
bnjcidvp@gmail.com

Secretary.....Megan Carter  
bnjcsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Jeff Bruck  
bnjctreasurer@gmail.com

Social Director.....Jeremy Kelley  
bnjcsocialchair@gmail.com

PR Director.....TBD  
bnjcprdirector@gmail.com

Newsletter Director.....Ashley Coontz  
bnjcnewsletter@gmail.com

## We Believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;  
That the brotherhood of man transcends the Sovereignty of Nations;  
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;  
That government should be of laws rather than of men;  
That Earth's great treasure lies in human personality;  
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL JAYCEES**

**The Blast is an official publication of the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees.**

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