

Catalyst

BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS IN THE NORTHWEST METRO

September 2012

Inside: Teacher Bag Report	Page 2
Chamber News	Page 3-4
Taste of Northwest	page 5
Community News	page 6 - 7
Member News	page 8-11
Calendar of Events	page 12

August Highlights

Chamber readies for Party of the Year

TASTE of NORTHWEST 2012

Thursday, September 25 from 6 - 9 PM
Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St in Oklahoma City

Taste of Northwest, the Chamber's biggest party of the year, is just days away. Prepare to "Unleash your Creative Beast" at the 2012 Auction and Food Fest. The event is the Northwest Chamber's largest fundraiser of the year, with proceeds supporting chamber projects ranging from **high school scholarships to government affairs programming to business building workshops and much more.**

The Chamber is dedicated to highlighting local businesses through Taste of Northwest. Where else can you sample from so many local restaurants in one place? Don't miss out on this evening of delicious food, live music from the Mystery Dates band, exciting Auction items, caricature artist, wine pull and more!

Find ticket information on Page 5...

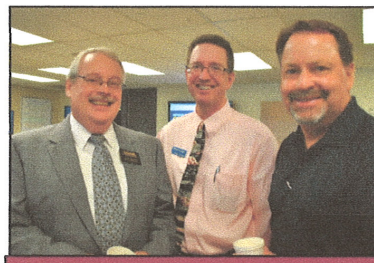
Build Your Network at our first "Lunch Meet-Up"

Thursday, September 20, 11:30 AM - 1 PM
Bella Italia, 6400 NW 39 Expressway in Bethany

The network of people you are linked to as a Chamber member is a key component in growing your business. Meeting new people, learning more about different businesses needs and helping to connect people you know with referrals is an ongoing process that leads to receiving referrals for your business too. The Chamber offers many formal networking opportunities each month, but this month we decided to introduce a new concept to the spectrum.

You're invited to join us for our first "Lunch Meet-Up" on Thursday, September 20 from 11:30 AM - 1 PM at Bella Italia Restaurant in Bethany. Bring your business cards, order and pay from the menu (lots of \$6.95 lunch specials) and introduce yourself to other chamber members. No RSVP required. No speakers or agenda. Just an opportunity for you to Meet-Up and dine with people who are also interested in growing their business. Listen for ways you can help them. Share your story. Increase your referral potential.

You never know who you might meet!



Gary Mercer, Quentin Sawatzky, and Rick Jones at Community Coffee
 Hosted by Sandler Training



Mary Gillock and Marisa Viestenz at Speed Networking Luncheon
 Hosted by Brown Mackie College



Nancy Morgan is surprised as members sing her "Happy Birthday" at the Skate Galaxy Ribbon Cutting

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NORTHWEST MEMBER NEWS

Francis Tuttle 30 Year Celebration

Rockwell Campus, 12777 N. Rockwell
Saturday, October 6, 10 AM- 4 PM



Francis Tuttle Technology Center will launch the beginning of a year-long celebration of 30 years of educating Oklahomans on their campuses with a family-friendly event for the entire Northwest community on Saturday, October 6th. The celebration will be highlighted by the new School of Culinary Arts with demonstrations of a variety of dishes you could create at home, along with sample appetizers. Some of the other activities include free health screenings, KJ-103 live remote, face painting, OKC Fire Department display and information, OK County Sheriff's Office fingerprinting and iris scanning, OK Blood institute blood drive, voter registration, and Northwest Chamber display and information. For more information, contact Jeff Knapp, 717-4108.

Volunteers Needed for "Challenge Days" at Putnam City Schools

PC West: Sep. 10-14th
PC High: Sep. 24-27
PC North: Oct. 22-26

The Putnam City Schools Foundation is looking for volunteers who would like to impact the lives of local high school students at a program call "Challenge Day". Challenge Day is a day-long exercise in team building and soul searching that focuses on building positive student relationships and creating productive learning environments. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate group activities among students for a day. Choose which day you would like to volunteer and contact Caroline Gist for more information, cgist@putnamcityschools.org or call 495-5200 Ext. 1205

Chamber Ambassador Changing the World

My Heart's Appeal launches New Programs in Liberia

Lovetie Major, Northwest Chamber Ambassador, founded My Heart's Appeal 16 years ago with the dream of bringing Special Education to West Africa. Lovetie, who grew up in Liberia, saw the lack of programs for mentally challenged children and adults as a serious problem and she dedicated her life to creating a solution. Despite many obstacles, including a civil war in Liberia, in July My Heart's Appeal reached a significant milestone as the organization began services in Liberia. Lovetie joined forces with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Liberia to host the Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the launch of My Heart's Appeal programming. During her trip, Lovetie was able to meet with several crucial decision makers including the **President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, the minister of labor, Varbah Gayflor, and Ministry of Education Special Education director, Mayaedeh Kemeh-Gama.



The first program to launch was "Bigma's Care Place", which began services on July 21st. This program offers six hour day, once a month child care for children with special needs and their siblings. The purpose of the program is to provide a respite to parents of children with mental disabilities. My heart's appeal offers educational activities for the children in a safe and friendly environment. If you are interested in learning more about My Hearts Appeal, visit <http://myheart appeal.org/>