

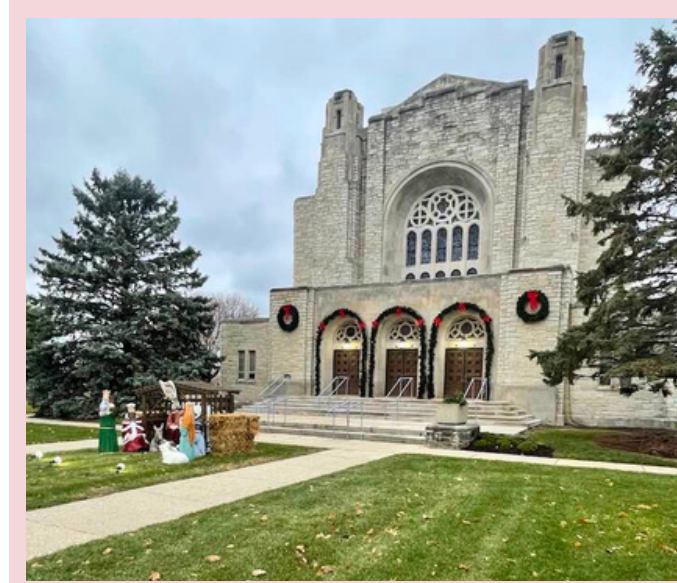
Donor Story - Michael Jordans



Real Stories From Real Donors

We've made numerous trips to Mooseheart. We had our "Ah-Ha" moment upon entering the gates for the first time and on many other occasions. However, one of our favorite annual trips takes place the first weekend in December. The Kentucky Moose Association and Tennessee Moose Association team up to host a pizza party for the kids in the Kentucky & Tennessee homes on the Mooseheart campus.

For as long as we can remember, the Kentucky home has provided residence to 8th through 12th-grade boys. We traditionally accompany the boys to a local mall to go Christmas shopping. Each child received shopping money without rules - they could buy whatever they wanted. We treasure the time we get to spend with our Mooseheart kids.



One year during a trip to the mall, we stayed in the food court and guarded bags during their shopping spree. Some ran off straight to the electronic store for games or controllers. Others would spend every dime to purchase a necklace for their mother for Christmas. Another might want new clothes, and some even bought gifts for their Family Teachers.



Raymond & Julia Lafeuille

*Administrator for Jeffersontown Lodge #2127
Kentucky Moose Association*

The year of the Michael Jordan shoes stands out in our minds when two 8th-grade boys returned to the food court with only one bag. We quickly offered to watch the bag while they continued to shop.

The boys said they were done! With two boys and just one bag, we had similarly confused faces. They explained to us that they have the same shoe size. So, they decided to pool their money together to purchase one single pair of Michael Jordan shoes they both desperately wanted. They were extremely excited that they would be able to share the Michael Jordans and switch off with one another every other day.

Reflecting on this shopping day with the Mooseheart boys brings a lump to our throats. We witnessed two 14-year-old boys from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and families show us precisely what this fraternity is about - Brotherhood. Beyond our "Ah-Ha" moment was THE MOMENT - the one where we knew we would **ALWAYS** be Moose. Always support the children at Mooseheart. ***It's what we do.***

Donor Story - "Aha" Moment



Real Stories From Real Donors

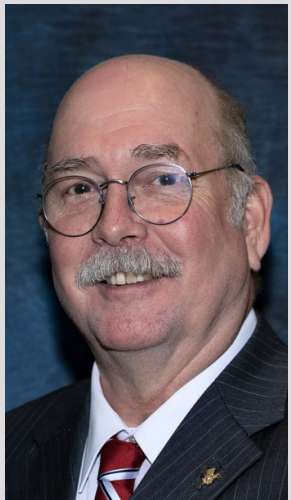
I joined the Moose In 2001 when my friend suggested we try to play there with a band we had. The Governor at the time told me it was required I become a member, so I did. I had no idea what it was all about to be a Moose. Shortly thereafter, Susan helped form the Chapter as a charter member. We both became very involved in Lodge and Chapter operations culminating with me as Governor from 2006-08 and Susan as Chapter Recorder and Lodge administrative assistant during the same period.

I guess my first real "Aha moment" came in 2008 at the International Convention in Las Vegas when I heard Mooseheart valedictorian Jake Stegman speak on the impact our child city had on him. During the "Gimme Five" fundraiser campaign, I went directly out of the meeting and paid my full commitment of \$182.50.



We had had many other moments since then, including the following year when Susan received her cap & gown and joined the College of Regents on the Mooseheart campus in 2009 at the International Convention in Chicago. Our trip to the Mooseheart campus instilled in us the power of what we do as Moose members.

Other moments include having the Virginia House girls at our **Salem Lodge #2573**, the many conventions we have attended, the people we have met, and the smiles we see on the faces of the children and seniors we support. Those smiles alone are why we will never stop working for the most outstanding fraternity on the planet and why we are proud members of the Moose! We enjoy helping to "**MAKE IT HAPPEN!**"



Don & Susan Ridenhour

Moose Charities Board

Virginia Moose Association

Salem #2573 / Roanoke Chapter #1022

Donor Story - Why I Joined The Moose



Real Stories From Real Donors

I joined the Helena Chapter #906 of the WOTM in November 2016 to cook meals. Carolyn Anderson, a member of the WOTM, came to drop some items off for a fundraiser my sister, Samantha Wells, and I were doing for a Thanksgiving meal. She started to tell us what the WOTM was all about. No one had explained anything to us; we just loved to cook, so we were there. I was amazed when Carolyn told us about helping the children at Mooseheart, the seniors at Moosehaven, and community service. It was right up my alley, as I am a caregiver. I knew I would be an empty nester in a couple of years and wanted to do something I could enjoy.

In the fall of 2019, the Moose Charities co-chair Stefanie Thompson was moving, and I was asked to step in as the Moose Charities co-chair. Now if you could have known me back then, I was stepping out of my comfort zone. But who couldn't stand in front of the group with Gary Coen by your side? Gary Coen is an excellent example of a true Moose Member. I knew I loved to help, and what a great way to help the children and seniors by getting others involved with Moose Charities and the fundraisers.



Amber Smith with Gary Coen



Amber Smith at 2023 Annual Convention featuring Pam Amundsen

I love to set up challenges against our Moose Legion Districts. When we attend Mid-year and Annual Conventions, we usually do something involving guys against the gals. Yes, we gals must be more competitive. We don't want to lose the challenge of raising more money to the guys. It makes my heart smile when I see the money we raise at the conventions for the children, seniors, and the community. I am so glad I was asked to represent Moose Charities.

Another part of being involved with Moose Charities that is so rewarding is when a member signs up for Donor Circle and receives their first pin. The smile on their face says it all.

I am proud to be a member of the Moose Fraternity. It is a family we are not born into, but one we can have as a bonus extension. I love that I can do this with my sisters. Here's a quote: *"Side by side or miles apart, we are sisters connected by the heart."* I feel this also stands for the Moose. We are connected, and I love that!

Amber Smith

Montana Moose Association

Great Falls Lodge #532 / Helena Chapter #906

Donor Story - Making a difference for Moose Charities

My first experience with seeing what the Moose was about was when I took a job at the Leesburg Moose Lodge as Bar Manager, Kitchen Manager, and Social Quarters Manager where I instantly felt a sense of family with the Moose members. In less than six months, I was asked if I would like to join and quickly replied yes.

Getting involved with fundraising and promoting the Moose Fraternity was so easy for me because I truly loved the concept of taking care of the kids at Mooseheart and the seniors at Moosehaven. Fast forward 26 years later and, it still warms my heart to know I am part of what this great Fraternity does to ensure the safety of our children and seniors.



I am blessed to have a wonderful husband who loves the Moose Fraternity as much as I do. We enjoy traveling around to other Moose Lodges to help with their Moose Charity functions.

My husband loves to tease me and says, "Do you ever look at something and not see a way to make it into a raffle to make money for Moose Charities?" I always smile and say, "Nope."

We hope to get to visit Mooseheart shortly to see the children and the campus firsthand, just as we've done at Moosehaven many times throughout the years. One day, we hope to be residing at Moosehaven.

Selina Moore

Florida Moose Association

Moose Charities Chairman

Dunnellon Lodge #2308 and Chapter #1662



"I've known Selina for a number of years and true to the Moose Mission she is a firecracker with talents in cooking at the Dunnellon Lodge raising funds for Moose Charities and of course crafting for our cause. My first memory of personally meeting Selina was at the Moose Intl. Convention in Tampa where she and her husband Joe wore m+m costumes to promote the recurring gift recognition program. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her can-do attitude is exactly what we need for Moose Charities."

– Pam Amundsen, Executive Director, Moose Charities

