

SERVING THE 'GREATER GOOD' OF LICKING COUNTY

Throughout March and in the first couple of weeks of April, the staff of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities really stepped up to the plate to assist others in our community.

The Operation Feed Campaign to benefit the Food Pantry Network of Licking County took up the better part of last month. In total, our staff collected \$1,747, food items worth 443 points, and 100 points for LICCO's participation in the Supermarket Sweep -- for a grand total of 18,919 points.

Here's how staff managed to raise money and encourage donations of non-perishable food:

- **Caley Boyden** reports that **Service Coordination staff** collected food items and conducted fundraisers such as a doggy day, bake sale and snack/candy sale. They also had a jeans day.

- **The Adult Services staff** raised a whopping 11,052 points by holding "Two-Dollar Tuesdays" and bake sales, among other things. **Laura Kreager** and **Angie Hall** participated in the Supermarket Sweep (sorry about the error in a previous report), and **Krista Davis** and **Laura Kreager** organized the component efforts.

- And as reported last month, the **Admin/Early Intervention staff** held a chili cookoff with "celebrity" judges from the Licking County Commissioners' office. They also had a Spirit Day and collected food items.

Here is the breakdown of collections, as compiled by **Louise Decker** (Administration):

Component	2011 Total Points	2010 Points result	2009 Points result	2008 Points result	2007 Points result
Administration/EI	5431	5000	2407	1162	1197
Transportation		336	1077	1780	769
Service Coordination	2436	4569.3	3408	811	871
Adult Services	11052	9954.6	9357	6416	5358
Early Childhood/EI	Combined with Admin	Combined with Admin	4483	2921.35	7202
Total:	18,919	19,859.9	20,732	13,090.35	15,397

In early April, a team of LCBDD staff members participated in the Bowl for Kids' Sake event on April 9 at Park Lanes in Heath to benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Licking and Perry Counties. According to early estimates, the bowl-a-thon was
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April LCBDD Staff Member of the Month *Heather Odendahl*

Coordinating the complex DD Awareness Day in March, while putting a spotlight on the County Board throughout the year has earned Heather Odendahl the LCBDD Staff Member of the Month designation.

She was nominated by two staff members.

"Although Heather has a great committee to assist with this huge event, ultimately the planning, organizing and follow-through are Heather's responsibilities," explains one anonymous nomination. "Each year this event keeps getting bigger and better."

The other anonymous nomination states: "Her energy, spirit and drive are a motivation to anyone who works with her. She is tireless in her efforts and is very successful in doing so."

Congratulations!



April LICCO Team Member of the Month *Rob Spellman*

Rob Spellman sets a good example for his coworkers. That's why he is the recipient of the April LICCO Team Member of the Month award.

"Rob has a good attitude," explains Adult Services Facilitator Daryl Waterman. "He has been looking forward to being Team

Member of the Month for more than a year. He had frequently mentioned he was trying to achieve this."

Well, Rob, you certainly did it, and we are all very proud.

Rob lives in Newark and has worked at LICCO for 18 years. Congratulations, and keep up the great work!

Nominate a coworker for Staff Member of the Month! Forms can be found in each component.



'Thumbs Up!' to a number of people on our team. In the nick of time, an individual we serve was diagnosed with diabetes and had a very high blood-sugar level. Because three people on the team mentioned that they noticed diabetic symptoms and asked his mother to take him to a physician, we averted a possible

medical emergency for him. Those team members who deserve recognition are: **Dr. Chip Kobe** (Administration); **Daryl Waterman** and **Jan Rice** (Adult Services); and independent provider **Milo White**. Also, 'Thumbs Up!' to our medical educators on staff -- **Barb Luce** (Administration), **Marina Anderson** and **Robin Verkest** (Service Coordination), and MEORC's **Wendy Lovrak** for the work they do to help providers and staff recognize symptoms.

- **Dora Young-Ford** (Service Coordination)

'Thumbs Up!' to **Marina Anderson** (Service Coordination) for continuing to allow me to ask her millions of questions and pick her brain for the past eight years, in addition to all of her job responsibilities and projects she takes on. I can't imagine the type of Service Coordinator I would be without her as a trainer and an ongoing source of support.

- **Angie Finck** (Service Coordination)

'Thumbs Up!' to **Diana Shannon** (Service Coordination) for her hard work getting the "Spring Fling" organized for People First. Also, thanks to **Kristen Morris**, **Aleesa Womer**, **Jaime Lawson**, **Chanda Busse** (all of Service Coordination), **Heather Odendahl** (Administration) and the **Good family** (Dale, Emily and Jay) for helping with the People First dance.

- **Tacie Thorne** (Service Coordination)

'Thumbs Up!' to our **Bowl For Kids' Sake team** (please see the opposite side of this page for a complete list of participants). They won't be going on "tour" any time soon, but they sure had fun!

- **Louise Decker** (Administration)

'Thumbs Up!' to **Shelley Hummel** (Administration) for decorating the bulletin board in the Admin hallway at ESW. It looks so nice and springy! Shelley spruced up the bulletin board on a day when many of us were considering building an ark.

- **Barb Luce** (Administration)

'Thumbs Up!' and thanks to our great staff who pitched in to complete the third-annual Community Survey during the evenings of April 11-13. It was a grueling three nights of calling community residents for their opinions and insights. Your help is much appreciated: **Doug Price**, **Gary Wimer** and **Melissa**

Gordon (Adult Services); **Caley Norton**, **Diane Dodson** and **Judy Buehler** (Early Intervention); **Ashley Washburn** (Service Coordination); and **Arletta Hinger** (Administration). 'Thumbs Up!' to **Lorrie Miller** (Service Coordination) who fielded many referral calls as a result of the Community Survey. 'Thumbs Up!' to **Diana Shannon** (Service Coordination), **the Service Coordination staff** and **People First crew** who organized a fantastic Spring Fling on April 8. A final 'Thumbs Up!' to **Denise Rose** and **Linda Hogue** (Adult Services) who joined me at the local Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" for teachers on March 22.

- **Heather Odendahl** (Administration)

'Thumbs Up!' to new secretary **Lori Payne** (Service Coordination). She is jumping right in and catching on very quickly. We're glad you're here, Lori!

- **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination)

'Thumbs Up!' to **Diane Dodson** (Early Intervention) for all of her hard work in organizing the Monday running group in anticipation of the LICCO 5K. She has been a real inspiration. 'Thumbs Up!' also to **Barb Wheeler** (Early Intervention) who is the wind beneath our wings. The EI department could not function without all the behind-the-scenes work that she does.

- **Judy Buehler** (Early Intervention)

Welcome aboard

The offices and hallways at 565 may look a bit different these days with some new faces. Please extended a warm welcome to these new LCBDD staff members:

- **Ashley Foltz** came aboard at the end of March as a Youth Service Coordinator, and she's SCOOP'd on page 5.

- **Beth Boyle** became a Team Leader on April 11. She has an extensive background in human services. We're glad to have Beth with us.

- Secretary **Lori Payne** started at the reception desk in Service Coordination on April 4. Be sure to say "hello" when you call 565, or see her at your component on mail runs.

'GREATER GOOD' (continued from page 1)

reported to have raised more than \$57,000. Our group chipped in a healthy contribution.

Thanks to the LCBDD bowlers: **Laura Kreager**, **Angie Hall** and husband, **Chris Brooks**, **Heather Wolfe**, **Melissa Gordon**, **Denise Linger**, **Lynn Ridenbaugh**, **Carolyn McCallister** and **Gary Wimer** (Adult Services); and **Kristen Morris** (Service Coordination). Also thanks to **Louise Decker** (Administration) for providing moral support.

Wellness and safety notes

New dietary guidelines released

The following article is from the April edition of the Licking County Wellness Coalition newsletter, published in conjunction with the Licking County Health Department:

On January 31, the seventh edition of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dietary Guidelines for Americans was released.

The Dietary Guidelines were first written in 1980 and are reviewed to provide the most current scientific information. They provide advice about how proper dietary habits can promote health and reduce risk for major chronic diseases. This includes the most common chronic disease affecting people of all ages -- obesity.

This new edition includes 23 key recommendations for all Americans as well as six additional recommendations for specific population groups (for example, pregnant women). Many of these can be condensed to a series of helpful tips:

- Enjoy your food, but eat less.
- Avoid oversized portions.
- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Switch to fat-free or low-fat (1-percent) milk.
- Compare sodium in foods like soup, bread and frozen meals -- choose the foods with lower numbers.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.

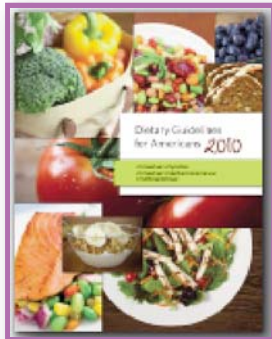
The Wellness Coalition plans to publish a series of articles throughout the next several months to further define the new Dietary Guidelines. We'll copy that information here, in *The Loop*.

Nutrition-related programs, education campaigns and other aspects of the food system could change as a result of this new publication, and we'll keep you posted as to what it contains. In the meantime, if you'd like to read details of these new guidelines, you can download them at www.health.gov.

April is 'Donate Life' month

The Licking County Health Department also reports that it is helping Lifeline of Ohio to promote Donate Life month in April.

About 28,000 Americans received a life-saving organ transplant last year. However, there are more than 110,000 men, women and children waiting to get a second chance at life. One individual's decision to be a donor can save eight lives



through organ donation, and heal up to 50 more through tissue donation. Organs that can be donated include the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, small intestines and pancreas. Tissues include heart valves, bones, tendons, ligaments, veins, skin, nerves and corneas.

To become a donor, please register at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when you renew your driver's license, or visit www.ohiobmv.com. Recent statistics show that 56 percent of Licking County residents have made a commitment to donate through their BMV registration. You can also register at www.lifelineofohio.org.

Healthy Spring Challenge coming to an end

The Healthy Spring Challenge, started in March by the LCBDD's staff Wellness Committee, soon will be coming to an end. Please make sure you total your calendar checklists and turn them in to Human Resources no later than May 5.

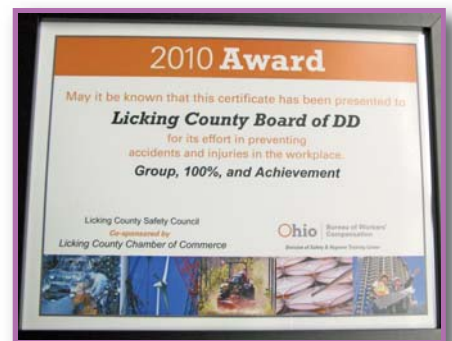
If you have more than 40 points, you'll be entered into a prize drawing. There are some miscellaneous gifts, as well as two \$25 gift cards up for grabs! Watch for a posting of winners' names in the May edition of *The Loop*.

The purpose of the Healthy Spring Challenge was to encourage healthy choices in your everyday lives. Watch your inbox and/or mailbox for more information about the next activity sponsored by the staff Wellness Committee.

Safety record acknowledged

Congratulations to all staff for keeping up with our outstanding safety record.

In April, the Licking County Chamber of Commerce recognized the LCBDD with three awards. These awards are given by the Chamber's Safety Council, which is sponsored by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC).



Pictured is the certificate that is now hanging in the E.S. Weiant Center. The 100-Percent Award recognizes us for completing the calendar year 2010 without a lost-time injury or illness; the Achievement Award is for our efforts to decrease our incident rates by at least 25 percent from the previous year; and the Group Award recognizes the top safety record in a similar risk industry. Way to go!

A hall-of-famer in our midst

Congratulations to **Mary Spain** (Service Coordination) and Kristie Conley, former LCBDD Service Coordination Team Leader.

Their 1992 Bluffton University Softball Team recently was inducted into the school's Athletics Hall of Fame.

According to a university publication, the team batted .331, led by then-senior Mary Spain's .465 average. She posted a .634 slugging percentage, drove in 20 runs and scored 32.

The team also stole 58 bases in 60 attempts and had a .952 fielding percentage -- tied for the best in program history -- and a 3.06 earned run average. Then-senior Kristie Conley posted the best ERA, at 2.29.

Thanks to Mary's coworkers at 565 for alerting us to this, and congratulations once again! You are encouraged to check out the autographed team photo posted on the office door of Melissa Martin, Paige McCorkle and Brenda Colley over at the Service Coordination building.

More congrats

As part of the LCBDD Attendance Incentive Program, the following staff members are eligible to receive a one-half bonus personal day for non-use of sick leave during the first quarter of 2011:

- Early Intervention -- **Courtney Bidwell, Judy Buehler, Caley Norton and Barb Wheeler.**
- Administration -- **Louise Decker, Jennifer Denney, Kathy McLeish, Deb Tehrani and Rena Williams.**
- Service Coordination -- **Caley Boyden, Christine Burkamp, Holly Carr, Lori Crosmer, Angie Finck, Lorrie Miller, Silvia Murrey, Cheree Nelson, Tacie Thorne and Ashley Washburn.**
- Adult Services -- **Heidie Edmonds, Keith Kokensparger, Debbie Neighbarger, Doug Price, Denise Rose, Portia Sparrow, Roy Stutz, Teresa Valentino, Daryl Waterman, Vicki Waterman, Vicki Wilkey and Gary Wimer.**

You have spoken

Thanks to all who offered feedback in February and March for the online survey for *The Loop*.

There were 31 staff members who completed the survey, which was intended to shape the future direction of your staff newsletter. Here are some of the results:

Which topics do you enjoy reading most (check all that apply)?

- The Staff Scoop - 87.1 percent.
- Thumbs Up! -- 87.1 percent.
- Staff Member of the Month - 74.2 percent

- Which topics do you enjoy least (check all that apply)?
 - Safety information - 54.8 percent
 - Lite recipes - 41.9 percent
- Overall, what is your favorite part of *The Loop*? These are a few responses written by staff:
 - "I like the parts that focus on the staff. We're so spread out, it makes me feel more connected when I see Staff Anniversaries, Staff Member of the Month, 'Thumbs Up!,' and especially the Staff SCOOP.
 - "Staff recognition"
 - "I feel *The Loop* is my connection to the other components. I get to read what they are doing or what is happening in their work lives."

Here's what is in the works as a result of your valuable feedback:

- We plan to keep most of the features you already see in *The Loop*, and it will remain a monthly publication. We feel it is imperative to offer staff recognition as the major focal point.
- The healthy recipes already have gone away -- some said they liked them, but the majority were indifferent.
- Even though most respondents weren't crazy about the safety information, it will stay a part of *The Loop* whenever it is warranted because it is important to the organization.
- The Staff SCOOP is very popular. It is winding down, but will be resurrected whenever someone new is hired (as long as they are willing to participate). We have something in the works to replace the SCOOP that, hopefully, will be equally entertaining and informative! Here's part of what one staff member had to say: "I really enjoy reading the Staff SCOOP and getting to know all of my coworkers better. It brings a sense of camaraderie to the office. I would like to see something similar to the SCOOP."

Thanks again to everyone who offered their two cents! And always remember, if you have a comment, suggestion or submission that you'd like to offer for *The Loop*, we're more than happy to oblige. Please address all submissions to **Heather Odendahl** (Administration), or send them over to the E.S. Weiant Center using interoffice mail. You can also call Heather with your information at ext. 6911.

April staff anniversaries

**Lea Bonner (26), Pam Diemoz (4), Kyle Miller (23),
Kristin Moore (10), Jean Neader (22),
Sue Ormiston (2), Doug Price (32),
Beth Tharp (14), Daryl Waterman (20).**

Editor's Note: These listings indicate the staff members' most-recent hire date, although some have prior years of service to the LCBDD or other public/government entities.

The Staff SCOOP

This month, we put four LCBDD staff members in the spotlight. Each staff member was randomly-selected. They were given questionnaires and instructed to answer any of the questions they preferred. Almost all answers appear in their entirety but may be slightly edited, particularly for brevity. Stay tuned in the coming months as we introduce a new “get-to-know-you staff feature.”



Angie Hall

- **Component:** Adult Services
- **Title:** Workshop Specialist
- **How long have you worked for the LCBDD?** 6 months.
- **What do you like best about your job?** I love working with the people at LICCO. They have made me feel so welcome, and they are my family away from home.
- **Where did you grow up?** I lived in Newark until 2nd grade, then I moved

to Hebron and lived there until a year and a half ago.

- **First job:** I was a waitress at Williams Restaurant.
- **When you were a child, what did you want to be when you “grew up?”** I wanted to be a nurse and a police officer.
- **Who was/is an influential person in your life?** My father. He always taught me the value of work and making sacrifices for your family.
- **Favorite inspirational quote/word of advice:** “Live each day as if it were your last.”
- **If you could meet any person (past/present), who would it be?** My grandfather. I met him one time when I was little and I can only remember a little about him. I would love the chance to meet him and get to know him.
- **Pet peeve:** People who drive slow in the fast lane.
- **Family/pets:** I recently got married, this past July, to the most wonderful man in the world and the true love of my life, Jim. I have two children. My daughter’s name is Jescika (21), and my son’s name is Jensen (15). I am blessed to have a great and loving family. We also have two dogs, Beowolf and Jasper.
- **Hobbies/interests:** I enjoy camping, fishing, boating, softball and working out in our yard.
- **Favorite movie(s):** “Due Date”
- **Favorite TV show(s):** “Deadliest Catch,” and “Two-and-a-Half Men.”
- **Favorite musical genre and/or artist:** Bad Company and Boston
- **Favorite food(s):** Mexican
- **Worst food(s):** Tomatoes
- **Favorite vacation spot:** Myrtle Beach – it is where we spent our honeymoon.
- **If I won the lottery, I would...** not say a word to anyone and continue working. I would pay off all of our bills and, of course, take care of my family. I also would build a home that is accessible for my mother-in-law, and move her out of the nursing home. I would hire someone to stay with her 24/7 so she could enjoy the rest of her life.



Gary Wimer

- **Component:** Adult Services
- **Title:** Job Developer
- **How long have you worked for the LCBDD?** 3 1/2 years
- **Have you worked in other LCBDD positions besides your current one?** Job coach
- **What do you like best about your job?** Working with individuals who desire to obtain community employment.

- **Where did you grow up?** Heath
- **First job:** Delivering the Newark Advocate.
- **When you were a child, what did you want to be when you “grew up?”** A lawyer.
- **Who is/was an influential person in your life?** My father Richard Wimer, a WWII veteran, a businessman, a hard worker and a great father.
- **Biggest pet peeve:** Individuals who waste their precious lives.
- **If you could meet any person (living in the past or present) who would it be?** General George Patton.
- **Family/pets:** Wife, Dana; daughter Kari; son Garrett; grandsons Storm and Steele; and a couple of canines.
- **Hobbies/interests:** Exercise and reading.
- **Favorite book and/or author:** The Bible and military history.
- **Favorite musical genre/artist:** Some Country, some Christian, and anything inspirational!
- **Favorite food(s):** Oriental
- **Worst food(s):** Peas
- **Favorite vacation spot:** I would love to travel to the Orient.
- **If I won the lottery, I would ...** I choose not to play.

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR 'THUMBS UP!' ITEMS AND OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION FOR THE MAY ISSUE!

MORE SCOOPS ON PAGE 6!



Ashley Foltz

- **Component:** Service Coordination
- **Title:** Youth Service Coordinator
- **How long have you worked for the LCBDD?** My first day was March 21.
- **What do you like best about your job?** Being a support for families and children who need it most.
- **Where did you grow up?** Thornville
- **First job:** I worked as a lifeguard at the Thornville Pool.
- **When you were a child, what did**

you want to be when you “grew up?” It changed often, but always in the field of service – pediatrician, teacher, etc. I have always loved helping others.

- **Who is/was an influential person in your life?** My parents. They always were great role models for me. They taught me how to work hard, enjoy life and love. One of the greatest gifts a parent can give their child is to see their parents in love.
- **Favorite inspirational quote:** “The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” - Dr. Seuss.
- **Biggest pet peeve:** Cell phones around a dinner table!
- **If you could meet any person (living in the past or present), who would it be?** My grandfathers. They both died before I was born, and I hear so many amazing stories about them from people in the town. I named my daughter after one of them, so I think they would enjoy knowing that!
- **Family/pets:** My husband and I were married July 18, 2009. Adam teaches and coaches at West Muskingum High School. We just welcomed our first child on Dec. 21, 2010. Her name is Anderson Nicole, and we call her “Andie.” She is the center of our world and we stay pretty active with her. Our families are very close and we are blessed with an amazing support system.
- **Hobbies/interests:** I love to write poetry. When I have the time and money, I like to scrapbook photos. My husband and I like to spend summers boating, as well.
- **Favorite book and/or author:** *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry.
- **Favorite movie(s):** “Forest Gump”
- **Favorite TV show(s):** “Modern Family,” and “The Big Bang Theory.”
- **Favorite musical genre and/or artist:** I listen to whatever fits my mood at the moment, but I love George Strait. I have seen him five times in concert.
- **Favorite food(s):** Green olives and green beans – obviously not together.
- **Worst food(s):** I hate Mexican food! I also don’t care for sweets.
- **Favorite vacation spot:** My husband and I vacationed in Hawaii. We cruised to each island. It is truly paradise! We hope to go back for our 25th wedding anniversary.
- **If I won the lottery, I would...** set aside a small portion for a nice family vacation. I would build a modest home, but one we could grow into and live in forever. The majority of the money would go to future planning for our children and be invested. I would love to be able to help my children achieve their goals and dreams, like my parents did for me.
- **Is there anything else you’d like to add?** I am super-excited to be a part of the LCBDD. Special thanks to the Youth Team for taking me under their wing and being so positive and welcoming. It means a lot!



Kyle Miller

- **Component:** Adult Services
- **Title:** Director of Adult Services
- **How long have you worked for the LCBDD?** 23 years
- **Have you worked in other LCBDD positions?** Workshop Specialist for 7 years; CES Manager for 7 years; and Director since 2002.
- **What do you like best about your job?** I have the best job in the world – I get to do so many different things.

- **Where did you grow up?** Perryton, the garden spot of the world.
- **First job:** I can’t remember when I haven’t been cutting grass.
- **When you were a child, what did you want to be when you “grew up?”** Still not sure.
- **Who is/was an influential person in your life?** My grandfather (mother’s father). He found the good in every situation and everyone he ever met. He always was quick to compliment and the most patient person ever.
- **Favorite inspirational quote:** “Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least;” “Treat someone as they are and they will remain as they are. Treat them as they should be and could be and they will become as they should be and could be;” and “Life is only 10 percent of what happens to you, and 90 percent how you reach to what happens to you.”
- **Biggest pet peeve:** Lack of character or unethical behavior.
- **If you could meet any person (living in the past or present), who would it be?** My dad’s father. Everyone who knew him tells me he was very much like my other grandfather, but was gone before I arrived.
- **Tell us about your family/pets:** Wife of almost 22 years is Lorrie, who works for the best County Board of DD program in the world; daughters Kylie (14) and Shae (12); a dog, Abby, who has mental health issues (probably because she lives with me); and Grady, the cat.
- **Hobbies/interests:** Does working at LICCO count? If not, being involved with the activities my girls are participating in.
- **Favorite book(s):** Covey’s *Seven Habits of Highly-Effective People* should be read by everyone. *The 5000-Year Leap* should be read by every American before they can register to vote. Anything from Ravi Zacharias is eye-opening. *The Bible* is pretty popular, too.
- **Favorite movie(s):** “The Lord of the Rings” series; “White Christmas” is a family tradition; “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington;” and old Westerns are hard to beat.
- **Favorite musical genre/artist:** Music calms the savage beast, but Rock, Classic Rock and Jazz are favorites. Classical has it’s moments, but LOUD Rush, Stones, Beatles, Zeppelin, Allman Brothers, Skynyrd, Genesis, The Who, Pink Floyd, Steely Dan, The Doors, and Fleadwood Mac would top the list.
- **Worst food(s):** Meat, chocolate, sugar, Italian, Mexican, Chinese, American classics, pastries.
- **Worst food(s):** Vegetables, unless they are mixed with meat, sugar, Italian, Mexican, Chinese or American classics.
- **Favorite vacation spot:** Have you ever visited Perryton?
- **If I won the lottery, I would...** donate 10 percent to my girls’ school (with instructions how to spend it), 10 percent to my alma mater (with instructions how to spend it), 10 percent to the LCB, and then pay off bills and save the rest for the girls’ future.
- **Is there anything else you’d like to add?** Sorry, I ran out of space.