

Ten Years of "There's No Place Like Home" Fundraiser

By Marsha Henry Goff

JAAA is proud to present Elvis (aka Bob Lockwood) and the 1950's Secrets Band in an encore performance of "Blue Hawaii" on Saturday, May 27. Also performing is Dr. Lanny Snodgrass, who flies in each year from his home in Washington. As it has for a decade, the event will be held at Great Overland Station and catered by Aboud's Catering, whose delicious and beautifully presented food always enhances our theme.

This year's honorary chairs are Lana Renae and Dereck Hood of Topeka. Honored guests from Douglas County are Joann and Ron Hurst. Honored guests from Jefferson County have not yet been selected.

On a personal note, this year marks my last as chair of the event. Jocelyn Lyons is retiring and it seems a good time for me to retire from fundraising. It has been a gratifying ten years because I have had the opportunity to work with amazing people who have been dedicated to raising money for our Guardian Angel Fund. We have consistently operated with a very small committee. Current committee members are Kathy Green, Jocelyn Lyons, Carol Sook and Diane McDermed. All of them have been a joy to work with and Kathy has done an excellent job by helping to procure items for our silent auction.

The committee is assisted by many JAAA staff members — too many to mention — but those who merit special mention are Nyree Green-Brooks, Amanda Sellers (and their respective husbands Brian and James),

Susan Harris, April Maddox, Jean Stueve and Sharon Wright. We could not do it without their significant efforts.

Many committee members over the years have served nearly as long as I. Among them are the late Shirley Biller, as hard a worker as I ever encountered; Martha Skeet, another worker and my friend since junior high school; Beverly Thompson, a powerhouse at securing many of our honorary chairs; and Carol Sook, a busy woman always willing to take on one more job. Others who have served on the committee and done commendable jobs are the late Marion Brown, Cyrene Holt, Connie Michaelis, Karen Peterson, Annette Thornburgh and Lori Yocum.

Bette Allen and her staff at Great Overland Station have been great to work with as has Aboud's Catering. Deborah and Brad Aboud are Topeka treasures and their staff members are competent and friendly. Becky and Rodney Johansen of Eileen's Colossal Cookies in Lawrence have been very generous in donating their delicious cookies for the past several years.

For the first five years, Topeka's Kings of Swing served as the event's band. They provided marvelous music for listening and dancing. Since then Bob Lockwood (aka Elvis) and the 1950's Secrets Band have shaken things up with rock-n-roll interspersed with lovely ballads.

I cannot think of a better way to bow out than with a reprise of Bob and the band's 2015 "Elvis in Blue Hawaii" performance. It also gives you a chance, if you wish, to break out your Hawaiian shirts



Bob shows off his cape in front of the photo booth.

and island clothes. Come prepared to eat delicious food, listen to great music, check out our amazing silent item auction items and just have a fantastic time.

This could be a sellout so

please get your tickets (\$20 each or two for \$35) early. You may order tickets online at www.jhawkaaa.org or call JAAA at 235-1367 (in Topeka) or 1-800-798-1366.

JAAA is looking for a few good Volunteers!

Would you like to use your skills — or learn new ones — in a busy, friendly environment to help people in your community?

We need SHICK (Medicare Counseling Assistance) volunteers for whom we will provide training.

Also, office/clerical help, CHAMPSS volunteers, friendly visitors and phone reassurance volunteers.

We'll gladly find a volunteer position to suit your interest and skills.

Please contact
Diane McDermed, JAAA SHICK Coordinator
235-1367 or 1-800-798-1366