

March 6, 2008

Dear Friend:

People Program is preparing for our 1st Annual Spring Gala Weekend which will be held at Holy Spirit Parish Life Center on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, 2008. Events include a Boutique of handmade items, a Wine & Cheese Soiree with a silent auction and live music, and a Dinner with silent and live auctions along with live music.

One of the best kept secrets in New Orleans, People Program is a non-profit membership organization for persons 50 years and over who are looking for creative ways to spend leisure time. We have grown from our modest beginning in 1974 with 35 members to about 500 current members of diverse backgrounds, ranging from ages 50 to 89. Over 140 varied courses are offered and include exercise, computer, dance, art, needlework, crafts, games, languages, music, and more. Truly offering something for everyone proving that you are never too old to learn something new!

People Program's main campus in Gentilly was flooded and totally destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in August, 2005. We were unable to return to the facility. In November, 2005, we resumed operation at our then one-year-old satellite, People Program Westbank, located at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. We opened a second satellite campus, People Program Metairie, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in September, 2006. We launched a third campus in Mid-City in August, 2007 allowing us to reach out and serve those who have returned home and are rebuilding their lives as we rebuild People Program. Our challenge is to stabilize and grow People Program so that we can continue our vital contribution to the Greater New Orleans senior community.

We fund ourselves through a combination of membership fees, grants, and fundraising events like this Gala. All proceeds will go directly to keeping People Program alive. Community involvement is key to the success of this event. May we count on your support? If you would like to make a donation for our Auctions or become a sponsor, please complete one of the attached forms, or call Charlene Vernotzy or Mary Catherine Lombard.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Charlene Vernotzy
Gala Chairperson
(504) 289-7500

Mary Catherine Lombard
Executive Director
(504) 483-8613