

A vibrant field of sunflowers with bright yellow petals and dark brown centers, set against a clear blue sky. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others still budding. The overall scene is bright and cheerful.

Peoples Oakland
7th Annual
Gala Benefit

***An evening dedicated to
Celebrating Recovery and
Our Partnerships***

June 7th, 2014

A special THANK YOU to our
Generous Supporters:

UPMC LIFE
CHANGING
MEDICINE



University of Pittsburgh



An EXTRA special thank you to our gracious hosts,
Peg McCormick Barron & Bill Barron for welcoming this event in
their beautiful home.
Thank you!!

Many thanks to the *planning committee* for making this such a
wonderful event:

Peg McCormick Barron, Bill Barron, Suzanne Baker,
Rashawna Chapman, Sabina E. Deitrick, Sandy Phillips,
Valentina Vavasis

All proceeds from the Gala directly support the mission and goals of
People Oakland

~ Putting People First In Recovery ~



Partnerships

UPMC

- ◇ Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinics
- ◇ Center for Public Service Psychiatry

University of Pittsburgh

- ◇ School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
- ◇ School of Nursing
- ◇ School of Pharmacy
- ◇ Department of Psychology
- ◇ School of Social Work
- ◇ Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Duquesne University

- ◇ Department of Counseling, Psychology,
and Special Education
- ◇ School of Nursing

Chatham University

- ◇ Masters of Science and Counseling
- ◇ Psychology Programs

Evening Program

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Cocktail Reception & Music

Music provided by bluegrass band, The Roustabouts

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Welcome & Acknowledgements

Words of Recovery

Special Guest: Karen Hacker MD, Director of the Allegheny County
Health Department

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Buffet Dinner, Music, & Celebration of Recovery!

*Please enjoy the following art and poetry, kindly provided
by our members...*

I

By Patrick Jackson

I never was the strongest soldier
I never flew like Superman
I never ran the fastest race
I never saved a million souls
I never explored into the heavens
I never sailed across the sea

I never played the perfect game
I never was the perfect friend
I never wrote the perfect novel
I never painted the perfect picture
I will never be a perfect person
I fell short a thousand times

I am not the best at anything
I am just the best at being me



Tissue Paper Art



Record Painting Art



Perfection

By Mike Enright

Perfection is a thing we want
Yet never can achieve
And with this dream of flawlessness
Each man will be bereaved
Of sanity and happiness
Much more than he can see
To try and fail and try again
Is certainly a noble deed
But try so much for perfection
And you'll lose your nobility
Men love too little
Their lives always touch
So that this one goal
Is for one man too much
Perfection isn't singular
All men must take part
To make the lives we lead
One great performing art
The scene is set for man right
now
It has been for a while
There is but one thin missing link
And that is called a smile



A smile is made of many things
A feeling deep inside
A friendship strong for all you meet
Your walking at their side
A courtesy received
That is passed along the way
A caring for others
That makes you want to pray
The most important of these parts
Is that feeling deep inside
It increases when you give it away
It's not like hate or pride
A man who feels this way toward men
Who gives this thing away
Will not refuse it back again
To spend another day
In giving it away my friend
You draw perfection near
And in accepting it back to use again
The result is crystal clear
If men would give their love away
They would be perfect each life-filled day
Perfection is here
It just hasn't been tried
Pass love along
All will be at your side



Plaque Painting Art

Hunger

By Morgan Kitchens

A man can hunger for many things. He can hunger for love. He can hunger for intimacy. He can hunger for companionship. He can hunger for food. He can hunger for money and all of the joy that a holiday brings.

A woman can hunger for many things. She can hunger for love. She can hunger for intimacy. She can hunger for companionship. She can hunger for food. She can hunger for money. She can also hunger for fancy clothes and expensive things.

A child can hunger for many things. They can hunger for love. They can hunger for affection. They can hunger for friendship. They can hunger for food. They can hunger for money. They can also hunger for friends and parents who will raise them so that they can live like queens and kings.

An animal can hunger for many things. They can hunger for love. They can hunger for affection. They can hunger for food. They can also hunger for the joy of being one with nature and to hear the lovely songs that nature sings.

What do you hunger for?

Do you hunger for great fortune and fame that will cause your name to live on and on like an eternal flame? Or, do you hunger for something more?

I do not hunger for food because my belly is already full. I do not hunger for excitement and adventure because my life is far from dull. I do not hunger to hear any more government lies that hide the truth and are a lot of bull. I do not hunger for any more stories about smart politicians and the unwilling voters that they are able to pull.

What do you hunger for?

Do you hunger for the power to overcome those who blame you for trying to overcome the obstacles that you meet along the road to fortune and fame? Or, do you hunger for something more?

I do not hunger for a beautiful woman to warm blankets every night. Even though, I know that she would be a lovely sight. I do not hunger to have someone tell me the difference between what is wrong and what is right. If I disagree with them, we could have a big fight. I do not hunger to walk through the dark tunnel of confusion until I finally wake up and see the light. I know that the shadows would suddenly vanish, the sun would shine and the sky would be clear and bright.

What do you hunger for?

I do not hunger for things that only give my life temporary delight. I am a man who hungers for knowledge of God and the afterlife. I hunger to know what will happen to me when I am gone and I leave behind my children and wife. I hunger to know if my spirit will rest peacefully or if it will still be filled with pain and strife. That is what I hunger for.

Recovery
By Carol Sandidge

R-Doing what is Right in love
E-Changing with Expectation
C-Create in me a clean heart
O-Obedience with conviction
V-Victory in doing good
E- Lay aside Every weight
R-Renew a right spirit within me
Y-Yield not to “temptation in the absence of love!”



*Pieces of Heart
By Nellie Fennell*



Origami Art



Collage Puzzle

The Golden Hawks
By Richard Danny Bacon

The Hawks fly through the sky in strength
Touches the sunrise of the morning stars
And they float with the clouds
Soaring high above the heavens
In the crystal blue skies of paradise

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