



I struggled with several different titles for a new report on F.O.R-C.E.S. I wanted something that recalled the 20th anniversary of generosity and honored our dedicated members' pledges. But weak offerings like *F.O.R-C.E.S. Moves Ahead* and *F.O.R-C.E.S. Continues to Serve* didn't pack the right emotional punch...didn't cite the history and mission.

Then I thought, *"Well, the group's name IS its mission... and its history!"*

Friends Of Re-Creation Extending Service

Talk about your classic palm-to-the-forehead moment!

The "extension" of the service is what caught me anew. In 1987, the aim was to enable the young people who provided the mission, so we could extend the reach of Re-Creation's service to as many hospitalized veterans as possible. That 'extension' was immediate and vital.



The "extension" of today is a celebration of that initial step of service and the chance we have to literally 'extend' ourselves into the future...to persist in a ministry that now receives more than 200 active requests per year for Re-Creation's special call of entertainment and honor.

That's right...200 requests per year! The enthusiasm...and need...for Re-Creation keeps growing! New veteran patients and newly employed staff are seeing first-hand the benefit of the group's work.

We've now served in the VA system long enough that we've seen many change-overs in therapists and clinicians. Each new medical center professional that is introduced to Re-Creation's presence, show and visits is uniquely drawn into the legacy that is our 30+ years of service to America's Heroes.

We had a few such "introductions" on the road this past month. New professionals in the VA who'd never seen us and were not quite sure what they were getting. They were gracious and accommodating, but also a bit wary. After all, we're under their hospitality for the day and they have a keen sense of responsibility for the veterans' welfare. They are protective, caring leaders. We've seen this 'hesitation' before...

The day always ends the same, though! Glowing words of thanks and appreciation for the group's energy, geniality, showmanship and even teamwork...

"...the show put on yesterday in Livermore was excellent. Our Vet's were very much entertained, and some became emotional (tears of joy), during the end portion of the show. They commented on how much they enjoyed the show, as well as the entertainers themselves. I thought it was a nice touch how they came out in the crowd and personally greeted the Vet's. What I observed from the entertainers was Team work, and professionalism. Abigail was great to work with. But, overall, it was amazing to see such a young group of people work together as a Team, and organize a wonderful show. Thank you once again."

Recreation Therapist, Livermore, CA Division.

Stay with us...and let's serve **"EVERY VETERAN, EVERY DAY!"**

EXTEND

Hello Friends,

Each year, the Department of Veterans Affairs sends talented patients to the **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**. This inspiring gathering features a grand show highlighting the winners of arts competitions held in almost every local VA nation-wide. There are artisans of all kinds from sculptors and painters, to writers and singers. Beautiful arts and crafts, gorgeous songs, delightful dances...a professional ensemble featuring the highest caliber performers.

Past shows have been directed by Hugh Brooks and his talented team of Carolyn Brooks, Katie Brooks Clayton and Joani Patterson. And Re-Creation has been on hand a number of times to offer an entertaining break from the participants' heavy rehearsal schedule.



We performed just such a program for 500 veterans, clinicians and administrators at the headquarters of HHV - Help Hospitalized Veterans. HHV catered to the veterans out under the grand California night sky. Dinner was casual and the fellowship, lively. Everyone very much behaved like family. Getting re-acquainted, telling stories old and new, getting excited about the upcoming performance. The scene was delightful! I've never seen so much hugging!



What a glorious evening! Such an atmosphere of positivity and good will! Everyone was in high spirits! We were reunited with wonderful friends from VA's across the country...such wonderfully dedicated, genuine people.

After the final bows, I positioned myself behind the backdrop to watch the cast of Re-Creation weave their special brand of service and joy.

The laughs were plentiful, the hugs were enthusiastic and the tears flowed with blissful ease. Staff and veterans alike were affected by this beautiful evening of fellowship!

The evening's *engagement* was the best possible example of the power of the human spirit...the physical and emotional benefit of personal interaction and tribute.

We all had fun at the show, yes. But it was the in the congratulating of the veterans, in the encouraging of their performances and in the admiration of their arts that true healing took place...personal healing.

I want to thank all of our conscientious friends who enable that healing.

To those of you who give to serve others who have given so much!

Thank you!

Jay

ENGAGE

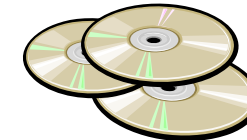
THE VETERANS FUND MEDIA CHALLENGE

Last month we told you the Veterans Fund had pledged to match every donation to the Re-Creation VA Media Fund. So far 15 folks have accepted that challenge and supplied a set of RC CD's and DVD's to VA Medical Centers and State Homes.



With The Veterans Fund match...and our previous drive...that brings our total to 75 VA's.

We know this uncertain economy can squelch our desire to help. But consider your civic group or church. Perhaps they'd like to provide our hospitalized veterans with these unique and valued gifts.



"Here at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, our Recreation Therapists use the CD's to enhance their recreation programs. They also show the DVD's during non scheduled recreation activity times for their entertainment. Our residents look forward to Re-Creation coming to the home. It is always a special and exciting time for them. They enjoy the professional and entertaining shows that are provided for them as well as the personal visits from the performers. Having the CD's and DVD's carry that experience on for them throughout the year."

We'd still like to secure donations for all VA's. Contact the office if you'd like to help. www.Re-Creationusa.com for quickest contact information.

RC 34 DVD'S ARE IN!

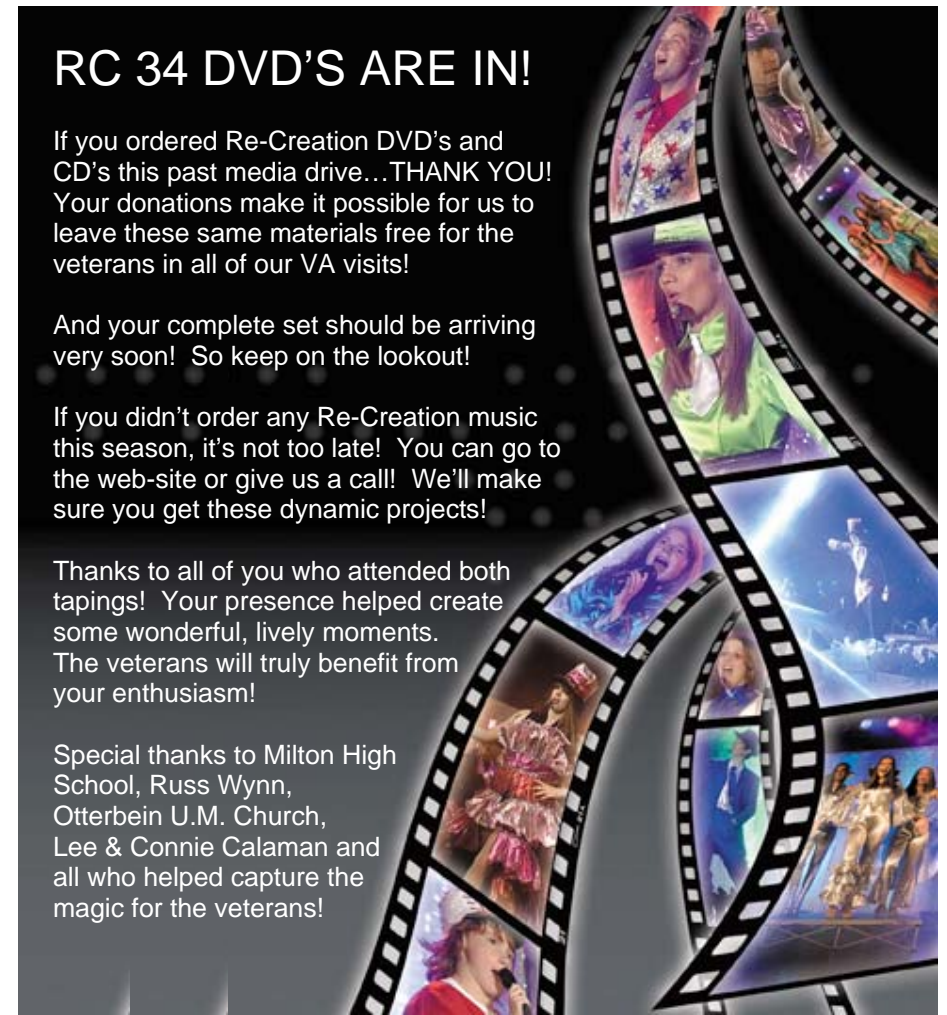
If you ordered Re-Creation DVD's and CD's this past media drive...THANK YOU! Your donations make it possible for us to leave these same materials free for the veterans in all of our VA visits!

And your complete set should be arriving very soon! So keep on the lookout!

If you didn't order any Re-Creation music this season, it's not too late! You can go to the web-site or give us a call! We'll make sure you get these dynamic projects!

Thanks to all of you who attended both tapings! Your presence helped create some wonderful, lively moments. The veterans will truly benefit from your enthusiasm!

Special thanks to Milton High School, Russ Wynn, Otterbein U.M. Church, Lee & Connie Calaman and all who helped capture the magic for the veterans!



This year's program
"A FASHIONABLE CHRISTMAS"
 is a bountiful holiday feast for the eyes and ears! Not only will all your beloved carols, hymns and seasonal favorites enliven the stage, but they'll be punctuated with the authentic costumes of the great eras of American music!

Traditional Carolers will delight you in Classic Dicken's Fashion!

Sacred songs get musical makeovers from all the great eras of American Music! From the 50's through today!

Sequin Jumpsuits and poodle skirts take the runway in a perennial favorite of Elvis' Christmas Classics!

Hi-energy holiday faire gift wrapped in Latin style! *Feliz Navidad*, indeed!

Christmas Rhythms beat it "eight-to-the-bar" in a salute to the Zoot Styles of the 1930's and 40's!

Plus a re-telling of the Christmas story complete with spotlight solo performances, audience sing-alongs and Biblical texts!

A marvelous evening of celebration and worship!

An Evening of Christmas

CHECK SCHEDULE
 for DATES & TIMES!



HAVE YOUR FAMILY
 JOIN OURS!
 Let's Celebrate
 Christmas!



RE-CREATION

Nov-Dec 2008 Appearances

All performances listed are open to the public.

- | | | |
|-------|--|----------------|
| 11/28 | Susquehanna Mall
Selinsgrove, PA 17870 570-374-8222 | 11am, 3pm, 7pm |
| 11/29 | 4 th UM Church
York, PA 17403 717-854-6984 | 7 pm |
| 11/30 | 4 th UM Church
York, PA 17403 717-854-6984 | 10 am |
| 11/30 | Parkesburg UM Church
Parkesburg, PA 19365 610-857-9422 | 6 pm |
| 12/1 | Tri Valley High School
Hegins, PA 17938 717-682-3171 | 7:15 pm |
| 12/3 | Faith UM Church
Stroudsburg, PA 18360 570-424-0712 | 7 pm |
| 12/4 | St. Paul's UCC
Selinsgrove, PA 17870 570-374-8749 | 6:30 pm |
| 12/5 | St. Luke's UM Church
Denton, MD 21629 410-479-2171 | 7:30 pm |
| 12/6 | Union UMC (sponsored by Tri Gas & Oil)
Federalsburg, MD 21632 410-754-9210 | 7 pm |
| 12/7 | Union UMC
Federalsburg, MD 21632 410-754-9210 | 10:30 am |
| 12/7 | Grace UM Church @ Millsboro Middle School
Millsboro, DE 19966 302-934-7969 | 7 pm |
| 12/9 | Coatesville, PA VAMC | 2 pm |
| 12/10 | St. Joseph Church
York, PA 17402 717-755-7503 | 7 pm |
| 12/12 | Otterbein UM Church
Boiling Springs, PA 17013 717-258-6704 | 7 pm |
| 12/13 | Selinsgrove High School (sponsored by St. Monica's School)
Selinsgrove, PA 17870 570-286-5983 | 7 pm |
| 12/14 | Wesley UM Church
Selinsgrove, PA 17870 570-374-8015 | 10 am |
| 12/14 | McConnellsburg UM Charge @ Cito UM Church
McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-485-9020 | 7 pm |
| 12/16 | Wilkes Barre, PA VAMC | 2 pm |
| 12/17 | St. Paul's UM Church
State College, PA 16801 814-237-2163 | 7 pm |
| 12/18 | Salem E & R Church
Reamstown, PA 17567 717-336-7378 | 7 pm |
| 12/19 | First Baptist Church
Milton, PA 17847 570-742-9125 | 7 pm |
| 12/20 | Cedarville UM Church
Pottstown, PA 19464 610-326-4173 | 7:30 pm |
| 12/21 | Idaville United Brethren Church
Idaville, PA 17337 717-677-8076 | 10 am |
| 12/21 | Hummel's Church
Middleburg, PA 17842 570-837-9956 | 7 pm |

HIS CALL religious program VAMC show Christmas presentation
 For current performance information, please access the RC ON TOUR link at
www.Re-CreationUSA.com

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P.O. BOX 220
 PORT TREVORTON, PA 17864-0220