



Charmaign Nichols was honored, as well for her work and contributions.

## **KSC - Benefactor of the year - 2008**





(LEFT TO RIGHT) Clara Ginn, KSC Goodwill/Easter Seal Chairman; Delgene Sealey-Moore; Jerry Taylor; Joy Thornbrugh, KSC President; and Sue Gosselen stop for a Kodak moment at the Goodwill Industries/Easter Seal dinner.

Good will and Easter Seal in Kansas joined forces in 1986-1987. They will decide to separate their organizations in 2010-2011 and operate separately.

The KSC will vote to make Goodwill Industries a second state philanthropic project in 2013.



## **ESA News Release September 24, 2008**

### **ESA Named Benefactor of the Year by Goodwill Industries Easter Seals of Kansas.**

Approximately 27 Kansas ESA members attended the Goodwill Industries Easter Seals of Kansas Annual Meeting at the Marriott in Wichita, Ks on September 23. "Supporting Branches of Opportunity" was the banquet theme. A delicious prime rib dinner was enjoyed. A video of activities that had been held at Goodwill/Easter Seals was shown during the dinner hour, including the Festival of Trees, the Client Birthday Party, and the work areas of the employees.

During the Award Presentations, Epsilon Sigma Alpha was named Benefactors of the Year. Joy Thornbrugh, Kansas State President accepted the award on behalf of the Kansas Membership. Charmaine Nichols and her committee were recognized for their participation in the Festival of Trees.

Following the presentations, Jerry Traylor was the guest speaker. Traylor was born with cerebral palsy and even though he had a disability, he did not let it slow him down. He was fitted with leg braces to aid him when a child and walks now with two arm crutches. He has finished 28 marathons, climbed 14,110 to the top of Pikes Peak, jogged 3528 miles across American from San Francisco to New York, and parachuted from 12,500 feet. He gave a very inspiring and humorous talk about the possibilities that each of us possess.

According to Goodwill Industries Easter Seals, "It is hard to imagine Goodwill Industries Easter Seals of Kansas without the support of Epsilon Sigma Alpha. Our 2008 Benefactors of the Year have been involved with our organization for more than three decades. Epsilon Sigma Alpha [ESA] is a premier leadership and service organization for women. Their purpose is to inspire leadership and service by bringing people together to pursue programs and projects that make a positive difference in the local, national and global communities.

One focus of ESA's charitable giving is Easter Seals. ESA's involvement with Goodwill Industries Easter Seals began when the local Easter Seals chapter started producing a telethon. The three-day event required countless hours of

volunteer support to answer phones, serve food and helped with logistics. That relationship grew over the years and when Easter Seals and Goodwill merged in Kansas in 1986, ESA continued to support our mission.”

Over the years, ESA's involvement grew from telethon support to helping year round. With 49 chapters and about 800 members in Kansas their efforts have been instrumental in the success of our fundraising events from the sports auction, cosmic bowling, and the telethon and of course The Festival of Trees. Without the support of ESA there might not be a Festival of Trees, ESA members serve on various committees, organize volunteers, donate trees, bake cookies and attend the Festival of Trees events to support it financially as well.

When Goodwill Easter Seals has a need there is always someone from ESA ready to help. This year, ESA chapters even organized a birthday party for the organizational employment clients so no one went without a birthday party this year. May ESA chapter even organize their own fundraisers and have done several poker runs, bowling events, style shows and much more.

Epsilon Sigma Alpha's impact on Goodwill Easter Seals cannot be measured. Whether they've purchased tickets to an event, served on a committee, baked cookies or donated items to our stores, ESA members have helped to change the lives of Kansans with disabilities and further our mission"

ESA is represented in this area by (name of your chapter here)