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Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club to aid day care centers

By Bill Zlatos
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The Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club has designated Angels' Place as the main beneficiary of next year's fundraiser.

"I'm personally from Mt. Lebanon," said Michelle Smith Tipton, executive director of Angels' Place, a nonprofit group on the North Side. "I've known from years past how much good that their organization does within the community.

"To be the recipient this year is quite an honor."

Angels' Place, formerly Mom's House, runs day care centers in Brookline, Swissvale and the North Side. Services are free for parents who are single, meet income guidelines and are working on their education.

The clients must pledge to maintain passing grades in school, attend a parenting class one hour a week and volunteer for the group two hours a week.

"What drew us to Angels' Place was their focus on the importance of education and how that can change your life for the better," said Nadeana Cook, philanthropy chairwoman for the club and a Mt. Lebanon resident.

"It's really not just about dropping the children off," she said. "It's making them better parents and better members of the community."

Founded in 1968, the Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club has grown from 10 to 80 women in the South Hills and has raised more than \$500,000 for charity. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon.

Next year's fundraiser, "A Night at the Museum," is scheduled for March 6 at the Heinz History Center. Activities include a silent auction and basket raffle.

Proceeds will go toward a playground and outdoor classroom for Angels' Place in Brookline.

Club spokeswoman Michelle Tallman of Mt. Lebanon said this year's benefit raised \$12,500 for Lydia's Place, a Downtown charity. Last year, the club raised \$30,000 for Bill Neches Heart Camp for Kids in Fombell in Beaver County.

"With the downturn in the economy, we didn't have the participation (this year) that we had in the past," Tallman said.

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