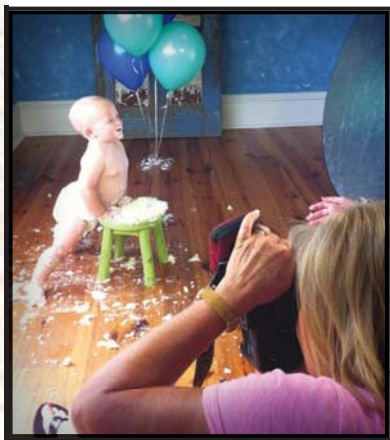




Giving Creatively

Across the world, countless designers, artists and crafters choose to put their creative talents and hobbies to the best use possible: helping others. In the spirit of love, and to shed a special spotlight on the work being done by such selfless individuals, the SCC team is honored to share the undertakings of some of our contributors with you. We hope their stories inspire and encourage you to give in your own creative ways!



Clicking for a Cause

When Jennifer Tarkington first launched Clicking for a Cause through her business Jennifer & Company Photography in 2007, she never anticipated such an overwhelming response from the community. What started as a 5-year campaign to raise \$25,000 for pediatric cardiology patients at Huntsville Hospital has more than exceeded its goal, garnering over \$40,000 in just five years.

Under the program, parents and friends who donate \$150 or more to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation via Jennifer & Company receive a complimentary photo session with Jennifer along with a special edition wall portrait. The Foundation is the fundraising arm of Huntsville Hospital, a community-based, not-for-profit institution that ranks as the second largest hospital in Alabama and the sixth largest publicly-owned hospital system in the nation.

"I believe we all have a creative side to ourselves, and in using your gifts to help others," Tarkington says. "I believe my gift is creating moments in time with my camera."

Tarkington knows firsthand what it's like to have a child with a life-threatening heart condition. Her son Joseph was born without a right ventricle, a congenital heart defect called tricuspid atresia that severely limits the amount of blood the heart pumps to the lungs. Though Joseph endured two procedures as an infant and open-heart surgery at just 3 years old, he went on to study at Auburn University and was an assistant student coach for the Auburn Football special teams and offensive line. Majoring in health promotion and on schedule to receive his bachelor's degree in 2013, Joseph passed away from a massive heart attack in September 2012 at just 23 years old.

"I believe my gift is creating moments in time with my camera."

Clearly, Tarkington appreciates the expert knowledge of practitioners and the technology they use in diagnoses and treatment on a very personal level. Her hope is that an increasing number of children will benefit from the kindness and generosity shown to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation as Clicking for a Cause is carried on in

Joseph's memory.

"I'm so very proud that I can use my gift to help others that have congenital heart disease. My profession means more to me now than ever before. Creating memories of families and babies is such a honor; at the end of the day, our families are all that matter."

To learn more about Clicking for a Cause, visit www.facebook.com/jenniferandco or call 256-534-9500.


“If I’m not using my time and talents to fight for justice and mercy, then what am I using them for?”

CRAFT 4 Love

When blogger and designer Danielle Burkleo first learned about an organization called Love 146 and the realities of child sex trafficking, her first instinct was to look away and focus on the happiness of her own young family and children. However, she felt commanded by her faith to instead commit to doing something personal to help draw attention to this international horror and support its prevention, no matter how small. In 2011, Danielle began co-leading a regional task force in upstate New York and hosting an annual crafting event to benefit Love 146, a non-profit that works to prevent, abolish and provide aftercare for child sex slavery and exploitation.

“If I’m not using my time and talents to fight for justice and mercy, then what am I using them for?” Danielle asks. “Just imagine what would happen if each and every one of us shared these children’s stories. Just imagine what would happen if we each gave more of ourselves for the things we were passionate about changing.”

Craft 4 Love, held in November, is a day full of crafting and fellowship intended to raise both awareness and funds. Supported entirely by donations, 100 percent of ticket sales and raffle proceeds go directly to Love 146. Raffle prizes are often handmade, many donated by designers and artists who sell on Etsy or their own online shops, and participants leave with an assortment of projects they made themselves at the event.

To learn more about Craft 4 Love, visit www.danielleburkleo.com; and for further information about Love 146, go to www.love146.org. 



Pictured above are just a few of the donated raffle prizes, including an embroidered hoop by Natalie Ensor of Take the Cannoli (takethecannoli.storenvy.com) and card by Aneta Nina of Give with Joy (givewithjoy.etsy.com).