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## Town Talk

### Karen Nazor Hill

**FUND-RAISER** "It behooves every man who values liberty of conscience for himself, to resist invasions of it in the case of others."

— **Thomas Jefferson** THOMPSON ENGINEERING held a reception to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County during the recent NCAA Division I-AA football championship festivities in Chattanooga.

According to www.cachc.org, the nonprofit Children's Advocacy Center was established in 1991. Its mission is to serve children who are victims of abuse through prevention, education and intervention.

The center provides free evaluation and treatment for abused children and their nonoffending families.

Thompson Engineering, based in Mobile, Ala., opened a Chattanooga office a little over two years ago, said Robin Derryberry, spokeswoman for the event. "Their firm is very philanthropically minded and has established a foundation to assist in raising funds for charitable organizations."

Before the NCAA game, Thompson Engineering officials set up a mobile kitchen and reception area in a huge, heated tent and held their second annual low-country boil.

Jeff Sikes, regional manager for Thompson Engineering, and others from the firm prepared a traditional low-country feast, Ms. Derryberry said.

They invited guests not only to join them in the tasty meal but also to make donations to the Children's Advocacy Center.

Last year, the company asked for donations of canned food for the Community Kitchen, Ms. Derryberry said. "With the success of this year's event, Thompson Engineering plans to make their annual reception a fund-raiser for the Children's Advocacy Center." Among those attending were Manuel Rico, Tracy Rico, Larry and Patsy Henry, County Mayor Claude Ramsey and wife Jan, Warren and Cheryl Mackey, state Rep. Bo Watson, Ray Swafford, Andy Derryberry, Chip and Karlette Baker, Ken Jordan and Nicole Easterday.

"Prior to halftime, Jeff presented Shelley McGraw (Children's Advocacy Center associate director), board chairman Irv Ginsburg and Jennifer Mitchell, center director, with a check from the Thompson Foundation," Ms. Derryberry said.

"The Children's Advocacy Center does a tremendous job in changing the lives of children who have been abused,"

Mr. Sikes said. "We were proud to present the center with a donation to help them continue the important work they do."

"We were delighted that Thompson Engineering was interested in getting to know us better," Ms. Mitchell said.

"We're thankful for their donation and glad to have such generous corporate citizens in our community."

**HEARD ON THE TOWN** **JENNIFER MCCORMICK**, spokeswoman for Bluff View Art District, said the 10th annual Day for Brides will be held from noon to 5 p.m. today. There will be a \$7 admission charge, she said.

Brides-to-be can sample wedding cakes and hors d'oeuvres and tour the facilities while meeting with bridal

vendors from the area including representatives from Epiphany Day Spa, Tom Smith Photography, Flowers by Gil & Curt, Chattanooga Tent Co., Signal Mountain Travel, Celebrations and Music by Stutz. The Musicians Union will be available to assist brides-to-be with their individual needs. Highlighting the event will be three seatings for a bridal fashion show by Monica's.

**REUNION** IT WAS ALMOST 70 years ago that Soddy High School, founded in 1905, closed its doors forever. Local resident Ted Mills, who attended the school, said Hamilton County Board of Education officials closed the school in 1937 for economic reasons before combining it with a nearby Daisy school and forming Soddy-Daisy High School.

In keeping the memory of Soddy High School alive, several class members still celebrate their years at the old school.

"Although 617 persons are Soddy High alumni, the group still living has dwindled drastically," Mr. Mills said, with only a dozen alumni assembling at the last reunion.

They were Mary Smith Rogers, Madge Clements Lockhart, Verena Hale Bolden, Ted Mills, Mary Alice Cliff Mills, Treva Hale Cobb, W.L. Sims, Eugene Varner, Ruth Stephenson Cook, Almeda McRee Frazier, Earl Lee Frazier and Ovaline Coleman Penny.

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Contributed Photos Shelley McGraw, Children's Advocacy Center associate director, with board chairman Irv Ginsburg, Jeff Sikes of Thompson Engineering, and Jennifer Mitchell, CAC director.





Soddy High School alumni include, in front, from left, Mary Smith Rogers, Madge Clements Lockhart, Verena Hale Bolden, Ted Mills and Mary Alice Clift Mills. Standing are Treva Hale Cobb, W.L. Sims, Eugene Varner, Ruth Stephenson Cook, Almeda McRee Frazier, Earl Lee Frazier and Ovaline Coleman Penny.