

### Coconut Telegraph

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### Deadline

for the  
Coconut Telegraph's  
January issue is  
Friday,  
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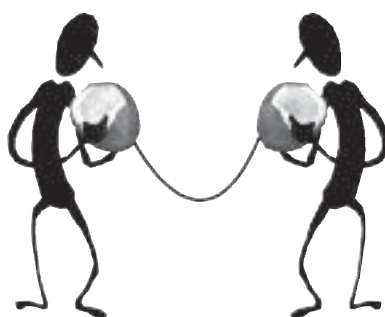
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### Articles

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### Editorial continued

she thought she was entitled. We raised some money that was meant to pay her mortgage and expenses. It didn't. Instead she spent it on bottled beer and expensive cigarettes.

A few months later she wrote me a few hateful emails because she was angry because she had demanded that I give her a free (Hunk

of the Month) tee shirt (that would not fit her) and I had politely refused. I had to unfriend and block her because of this and have since just avoided her. Imagine my surprise when I recently saw through Facebook where this woman was trashing me yet again! I wonder if she realizes that her comments were public and all the generous

businesspeople in this town that donated to her benefit probably saw what she wrote about me on Facebook? They know how hard I worked to help her and it just makes everyone realize how greedy and ungrateful she is. Lessons learned. Negative, needy people will suck you dry. You can't help everyone but don't let that make you stop trying.

I would like to thank Cindy "Cindy Claus" Smith and Jane Wasmund for the hard work they do all year to bring Christmas to local families that otherwise their children wouldn't have anything under their tree Christmas morning. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

## Editorial: The Basics. How to hold a benefit, lessons I have learned.

First off, make sure the person the benefit is for is truly sick and needy.

Once that is established you need to pick a location that will hold a large number of people and has room for a band.

Talk with dependable musicians that you can count on to show up volunteer their time and not cancel at the last minute.

Set the date as far in advance as possible. Two or three months is good.

Hire a graphic artist to produce a poster. Graphic artists charge \$60 to \$80 per hour. Plan on (\$60).

Make approximately 100 flyers. Color copies run about 50 cents each (\$50)

Make approximately 50

color posters at \$3 each. (\$150)

Make sure you have extra money for gas because you are going to need it. From now until the benefit you will be putting a lot of miles on your car soliciting donations of items and delivering posters. Guesstimated expense (\$100+) Some places will ask you to come back several times.

Silent Auction sheets approximately 50 black and white copies at 10 cents each (\$5.00)

Raffle Tickets - a large roll is about (\$25)

Enough tables to display all the items. You can borrow them.

Door prizes. I usually spend (\$150) or more.

I make a silent auction basket (\$100)

Newspaper advertising. I usually provide full page color ads \$600 x 3 months = (\$1,800)

I do not charge these expenses against the benefit, they are my donation and it totals approx. \$2,440 out of pocket. That does not count my time or loss of income from neglecting my work.

Plan on spending at least 20 hours a week for 2 to 3 months soliciting donations and delivering posters.

You will spend the entire day of the benefit on your feet and be so exhausted the next day you will need to take the day off from work. After the benefit plan on spending a week or two contacting the

silent auction winners and delivering the merchandise.

It is exhausting work but is extremely rewarding when you have been able to use your talents and resources to help out someone in a tough spot. All of the people I have helped were good people that appreciated what the community did to help them, except for one.

Although I was advised against it a few years ago I did a benefit for a woman who was not very popular. I felt sorry for her because she was a very unhappy and negative person who couldn't keep a job for very long. It was very difficult to solicit donations to benefit a person who has very few friends and wasn't even a US citizen, plus

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