



### A Charity Guild Original

Muriel K. Murphy, who died on Sept. 9 at age 92, was a Brockton native, wife of a pediatrician, mother of six, grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother of five. She was also one of the last survivors of the group of 17 women who founded The Charity Guild in 1971. One of her sons, Dr. Kevin Murphy, and his wife, Dr. Laura Murphy, a Guild board member, are longtime supporters of ours. Muriel and Dr. Thomas Murphy sold their house on Prospect Street in Brockton to Dr. John and Florence McNamara. Florence later became Guild chairwoman and her daughter Kate Feodoroff is now board secretary.

## Women Who Care

Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM

Mix one part holiday shopping, one part fashion show, one part spa treatment and one part festive food. These are the ingredients for a new Charity Guild event intended just for women. It is "Women Who Care," on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the Shaw's Center in Brockton from 6 to 9 p.m. Crafts people will show their handiwork, and food purveyors will offer samples. Guests can enjoy dinner at food stations while watching an Ann Taylor fashion show. They can also experience a soap massage and have their fortune told. All the vendors will contribute items for a raffle. The event is a fund-raiser for the Guild's "Feeding Families, Feeding Minds" campaign, and \$1,000 of the proceeds will go toward scholarships for Guild clients. Admission is \$50. To reserve tickets – or sign up as a vendor – contact Michael Molyneux at (508) 699-4360 or [michael@thecharityguild.org](mailto:michael@thecharityguild.org).

## FROM HOLLYWOOD TO HANSON



A caricature made from Sonya's Warner Bros glam photo of 1991 is her Facebook profile image.

The Charity Guild is lucky to have a great crew of volunteers helping in the pantry and thrift store. And there is a volunteer -- Sonya Brite -- who works hard behind the scenes and miles away. She has designed our website [thecharityguild.org](http://thecharityguild.org) and maintains it, created more efficient systems for client services and produced the newsletter you are reading.

Sonya joined the Guild team in 2008 when she began volunteering to help the intake process in the Food Pantry two hours a week. She enjoyed helping those who came seeking assistance but was soon asked to work as the Guild secretary, which she did for about five months. After having a successful career as a computer programmer/analyst, she soon was applying more current technology to the Guild's computer systems and streamlining daily efforts in the pantry.

Looking to do something worthwhile, she recognized The Charity Guild as an organization whose size and scope enabled her to use all her particular skills and talents. She found The Guild to be an organization she wanted to support however she could. When a chronic illness began to disrupt her ability to work full time, she made a commitment to herself to continue to help as much as possible.

Now, much of what Sonya does for The Guild is from her home in Hanson. This arrangement has given her an unusual way to reinvent herself professionally. She has her own web design and consulting business called Brite Ventures.

Sonya and her husband, Chris, have lived in Hanson for 15 years after moving from Los Angeles to be closer to family. In LA, Sonya worked for the Warner Bros. Studio as the head GUI designer (graphical user interface) and was responsible for programming and analysis for the domestic film distribution department. One perk of the job was getting Hollywood hair styling and makeup for a "glam photo." She recalls many other great times working for the studio including a near-miss with the Batmobile in one of the back lots, riding the elevator with Superman and several other celebrity sightings.

### VOLUNTEER PROFILE

**Name:** Sonya Brite  
**Age:** 52 years old  
**Hometown:** Los Angeles, California  
**Time With The Guild:** 5 years  
**Volunteer Days:** As needed

But it is her work with The Charity Guild that makes her happy now. She can bring her experience and skills to better support our efforts with clients and members. Currently Sonya is on disability but emphasizes that it is not an end to life but, for her, has been an opportunity to help others. — NICKI MEADE DRAVES

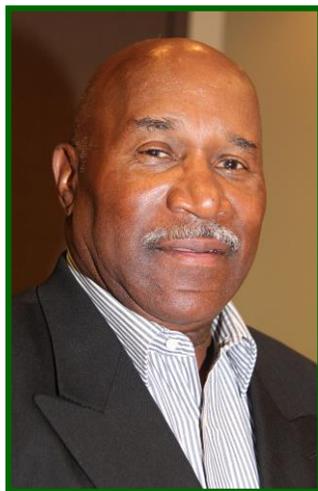
## That Championship Evening



*Kate Feodoroff, at lower right, reacting to the performance of 87-year-old James Ingargiola.*

Two talented singers won the hearts and votes of the audience to win the “Voices of Champions” competition at The Guild’s Harvest Gala at the Shaw’s Center on Sept. 26. A children’s division was added this year, and 10-year-old Laney Powers of Plymouth won it. The adult champion was Sandy Verneus of Brockton. Each winner will receive \$150, recording studio time and a guest singing spot at next year’s home opener for the Brockton Rox. Vice-chairwoman Nancy Gustafson was the event’s producer. The Gala also honored the Howard Home Foundation for its support of the Guild’s services for the elderly.

*Photographs by Diane Prince*



*Dr. Laura Murphy, left, and her husband, Dr. Kevin Murphy, share a laugh; Gene Marrow, above, represented the Howard Home Foundation; Sandy Verneus and Laney Powers took top honors.*

*More photos at <http://thecharityguild.org/events/harvestgala.php>.*