

# MILES OF SMILES

## Editor's Notes

Our issue for December is filled with useful information, as well as great articles and photos our SmileMakers have sent to TFGK's Central. We appreciate your contributions. This is your newsletter and it keeps getting better and better because of you.

Our new website is up and running, thanks to the efforts of our Board Chairman Andy Morris. Even if you do not think of yourself as a "computer person," we think you find it easy to view the site and use the contents.

And, of course, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Faye Kitchen, Editor

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## Notes From TFGK Central

By the time you read this we will be up and running on our newly designed website. But before we tell you about its features, we want to extend the thanks of all of us for the work done on the previous site by Bernie Thompson of the Dayton OH Chapter. Bernie took on the job of developing our last site almost single handedly and it has been very productive, being a significant conduit for people interested in TFGK.

A major reason we decided to develop the new site was that the job to administer the previous site would have fallen completely on Bernie's shoulders, far from TFGK's Central which was neither fair to him nor efficient. (continued)



We felt the job should be handled at TFGK Central where it would be easier to keep the site contemporary.

Now to the site. A major difference besides its new look and other features, is that the primary address for the site will be [toysforgodskids.org](http://toysforgodskids.org). This ending does a better job of identifying us to others as a non-profit charity and not a commercial venture. However, through the wonders of the Internet, you will still be able to access the new site at [toysforgodskids.com](http://toysforgodskids.com). So those of you SmileMakers that have a stamp with .com don't need to change.

Much of the same information that was on the previous site is still there, but we have added a history of TFGK and will add a new video we recently produced. There's a page giving tips describing how to get involved in our mission and we've expanded our News section.

We've also added a section, TFGKs Central, for SmileMakers only. It includes a complete roster of all the SmileMakers in the country. It should make it easy to for SmileMakers to get in touch with and help out one another.

Also in this section are our online manual, car patterns and our liability form. Over time this section will be expanded with other information to help SmileMakers be more productive and more involved in TFGK. As it is password protected, we will send information on how to access these pages to all our SmileMakers in the next few days.

We hope you visit the site often and would appreciate your comments on how we can improve it.

Finally, from all of us at TFGK Central, we wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Marlin and your Board

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## TFGK Shows Off at ASA Conference

By Andy Morris

A huge hand of support was extended to Toys For God's Kids when Debra Scifo, Executive Director of the Colorado chapter of the American Subcontractors Association invited us to participate in their 2013 conference.

We were asked by the Association to be their "Charity of Choice" and to tell the story of our mission to the attendees. This took the form of having our newly refurbished exhibit booth as a major part of their vendor display, showing our new video during the luncheon and getting numerous mentions from speakers

The invitation came from Debra who is the daughter of one of our Denver SmileMakers, Leonard Hill. Deb has long been a fan of Toys For God's Kids and the invitation to be a part of the conference was a big plus for TFGK.

Besides telling our story to the attendees, we benefited financially as a portion of each registration fee was set aside for us.

We also received the proceeds of their silent auction that included a signed jersey from Keynote Speaker Randy Grandishar, one of the all-time greats in Denver football history.



*From Left: Randy Grandishar; Marlene Douhout; Marlin Douhout*

We even were able to capture a photo of Randy and the Douhouts at our exhibit. To show it's a small world, it turns out that Marlene Dorhout taught Randy's daughter, which likely made for some interesting conversation.

## Toy Recipient of the Year

Our vote for the cutest toy recipient of 2013 goes to this little girl in Uganda. As Board member Marlene Douhout remarked, "She has a million dollar smile." This photo was sent to us from the Loving One By One Mission there.



## Retirees build toy cars for Southwest Florida pediatric patients

By **Lindsay Downey**

Drills shake. Sanders squeal.  
Woodchips fall like confetti.

"You can see we're in the middle of production," Charles Rue, 86, says while he drills holes inside the "Fix-It Shop" at Vi at Bentley Village in North Naples.

The 86-year-old pauses near bottles of Titebond wood glue to fish a business card from his pocket: "Charles Rue, SmileMaker."

"Some people paint," Rue says. "We make sawdust."

Rue and a handful of men — retired scientists, insurance salesmen and computer technicians — spend their mornings carving wood cars for Toys for God's Kids, a Denver-based nonprofit that ships them to children around the world.

Since June, the Bentley Village carvers and about six volunteers at Shell Point Retirement Community in south Fort Myers (who attach the wheels and stamp and condition the wood) have fashioned about 500 rolling toys.



Frank Harrigan, a SmileMaker for Toys for God's Kids based out of the Vi at Bentley Village in North Naples, produces a toy car at the wood shop. The men just donated more than 100 cars to help entertain pediatric patients at NCH Healthcare System. / Andrew West/ The News-Press

Naples Shutter offers poplar wood scraps for the bodies while Fort Myers-based Florida StairWorks donates oak blocks for the wheels.

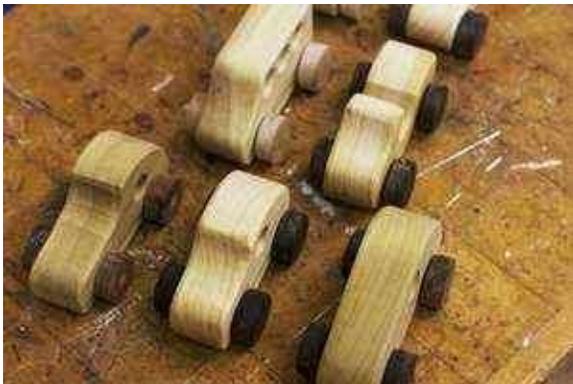
The men built 106 cars for children in Rwanda, 100 for Armenian orphans and carved 100 that were delivered to a hospital in Turkey.

"They get worldwide distribution," Rue says, and are stamped with "USA" license plates.

(continued)

Their latest batches have been for children closer to home, however. The men have carved 30 cars for the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida in south Fort Myers.

Most recently, they carved 104 cars for patients in the pediatric units at NCH Healthcare System in Naples, said Rue, also a member of the Medical Diplomat Council, the annual donor program for the NCH Healthcare Foundation.



The cars come in different styles. / Andrew West/ The News-Press

The foundation is preparing for its 55th annual Hospital Ball on Saturday at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. The ball — which last year raised more than \$1 million — will benefit the expansion of the pediatric emergency department. It's part of a renovation of the North Naples ER, which last year served a record 17,000 children.

The expanded pediatric ER will feature smart-room technology that displays for patients information about staff members who are entering their room and why, says Miriam Ross, director of development for NCH Healthcare Foundation. It will have a tranquil waiting area and interactive entertainment centers designed to make the ER more child-friendly.

“When children come to the ER, they're frightened,” Ross says. “It's important these children have a good experience because if they don't, the next time they get sick they might not be as quick to tell their parents they're not feeling well.”

The “SmileMakers” at Bentley Village and Shell Point hope their miniature motorcycles and convertibles give children something to decorate or roll across the linoleum as they await diagnosis.

“Kids are kids,” woodworker Pete Mattimore, 81, says. “They have such imaginations. They paint the cars, they put wings on them and they race them. And, it keeps us out of trouble.”

Reprinted from the October 20, 2013 issue of the Fort Meyers FL Free-Press

## Put on Wheels Party

On September 11, 2013, Jerry Clark, Broomfield Chapter SmileMaker, hosted A Put On Wheels Party for friends and family. Here are some photos from the event.



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## Honduras



Ken O'Bannon reports: I took a small team back to Honduras last week and took the rest of the toy cars we had. Here are a couple of really good pictures. I will look to see if we have some more good pictures, but kids don't really cooperate with picture taking.

## Letters From SmileMakers

Editor's Note: We hope this column will become a regular feature of our newsletter. Marlin recently received this email from Denver area SmileMaker Bill Wiersma to share it with our readers.

Hello Marlin

We have made over 400 "Toys for Gods Kids" now, the word is getting out, and requests are coming in. I have a partner at the Evergreen wood shop and he has been making toys for several weeks now. His name is Jim Keatley and I have been making all the wheels and "dipping". Also have been "dipping" for Fred Hekstra and he has really stretched my small operation to the tune of around 800 cars.

The Lord is presenting us with new opportunities for wood, and found one called "Butternut" that is fantastic to scroll saw and finish. Wheel wood of Hickory, Oak, Maple, are plentiful too.

I have a new SmileMaker that has the garage wood shop, (the one I wanted to show you on your visit) and he is now ready and excited to make the Toys. His wife is an invalid, so the home workshop works as he can take care of her and find time to relax and keep his hands/mind busy. He retired as a Pattern maker and is a very talented guy. I am requesting a "Smile Maker Start Up Kit" for him, and will make the \$200.00 donation if needed.

We have your Gods Smile Toys for His Kids in Africa, Haiti, Michigan Children's Hospital, Billy Graham's Christmas Box program, Jamaica, Bolivia/Columbia next month, and a request from the Holland medical team that will go to a third world country in January/February.

Thanks be to God for brother Jim's persistence in getting me involved, you for this ministry, and all the fun we have had making the cars.

Buffalo Bill

## A Letter From Guatemala

Dear Mr. Dorhout,

I wanted to thank you for the many smiles you put in the faces of over 600 Guatemalan children this past month.

Thank you so much for your generous donation of the little wooden cars to Global Dental Relief.

Our clinic worked with under privileged Mayan Families, and each child had a dental exam, fillings, cleanings, and fluoride treatments.

When a child needed treatment, they also received anesthetic for pain management. After the anesthesia, the triage dentist would then give the child a little car.

It made for a very nice dental experience for the children. They all held on to their little gift while getting dental treatment, it was so sweet.

thank you thank you thank you ( 600 times...)

Liliane Brantes



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## Allied Jewish Senior Housing Hosts Car Making Event

Dave Berger reports that on December 12, 2013, Rita and Jerry Krupp with the help of Lynn Rubenstein set up a car assembly event at the Allied Jewish Senior Housing. Seniors as well as adults with disabilities assembled the cars. Hans and Dudley also inspected the cars. Jerry gave the cars to Lynn for distribution to Israel. About 150 cars were assembled in two hours



# Wooden toy cars bring smiles to children all over!



Above (from left): HG Smilemakers Lehman Hoag, B216; Jim Sollechia, B210; Gifford Ehler, CP6; and Walter Adamczyk, B242, nearly reached their goal for cars needed by Sept. 12, donating 275 cars to a couple on a mission to South Africa. Sollechia said that scrap wood is provided by several sources, but Dorhout's organization will supply all that is needed. Jim enlists the HG morning coffee group to draw, using a template, the car outlines on the wood that he and other woodworkers cut out, sand, sometimes stain, then assemble with wheels on dowels. Cars lined up in the HG Woodshop look like a used car lot.

For several months, residents who enjoy working in the HG Woodshop have been on a mission — to make several hundred toy cars to donate to "Toys for God's Kids." Mission: To provide handmade, sturdy, attractive wooden toys FREE to children everywhere.

Inspired by Denver resident Marlin Dorhout, who started this local nonprofit, HG woodworkers embarked on producing hundreds of cars for the charity. Each car is stamped with "Toys for God's Kids@aol.com" and the website, [www.toysforgodskids.com](http://www.toysforgodskids.com) on the bottom (below left). The license plate is another stamp, "USA." (See below.) Woodworkers are called "Smilemakers."

Warranty: We absolutely guarantee that all toymakers will receive as much pleasure from making these toys as the children who receive them. Call 303-733-2284 for information.



Above: Truck template on wood; Right: Wheels ready for final cutting.



A child enjoys his new toy. Photo above from [www.toysforgodskids.com](http://www.toysforgodskids.com)

