

MILES OF SMILES

The Toys for God's Kids Newsletter – September 2014

Editor's Notes

Happy Fall to you all! As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, many SmileMakers' thoughts turn to their workshops after a summer of gardening, yard work, or fun times on the lake or cabin.

Toys For God's Kids is making changes too. We recently acquired a new Regional Manager, Virgil Houtkooper. (Page 3)

More CNC machines are up and running every day which results in more toys being created and distributed. Innovative ideas for toy display and TFGKs promotion were also sent to us this month.

Keep up the outstanding work, SmileMakers!

Faye Kitchen

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Golf Tournament and Fundraiser



Monday, September 8, 2014 is the date for the 5th Annual Toys For God's Kids Golf Classic at it's new venue of Red Hawk Ridge in Castle Rock CO. Join us for breakfast and warm up at 7:30 with a shotgun start at 8:30.

Come support a great cause and play a great course. Get three friends to play or come and join some new friends.

Reserve your place by calling **303-339-4042**. Contribution in support of our mission is \$145 per player. Mail your check to: **Toys For God's Kids, 3575 South Sherman Street #3 Englewood, CO 80113.**

There's Golf, Gifts, Prizes and More. Make your plans now. If you would like to be one of our Sponsors, just call the number above for details.

This event is our only official fundraising effort for 2014. We hope that many in the Denver area will join us in support of our mission. If you can't make the event or live too far away to make it practical to attend, your donation in any amount in support of our fundraising efforts will be deeply appreciated.

Notes From TFGK Central

Lots of Big News. First, we now have a central office location with it's own address and phone number and a new e-mail address. No longer are we using Marlin's mailbox. Thanks to the offer from our new director Debra Scifo, who is also Executive Director of ASA Colorado, we have space and communications capabilities in her offices. Our new public contact information, which we will publicize on our website, brochures and other communications is:

Toys For God's Kids

3575 South Sherman Street #3

Englewood, CO 80113

303-339-4042

Info@toysforgodskids.org

The new address, phone number and e-mail are for contact by those who are looking for initial information about TFGK. Those who want to contact Marlin or TFGK Central should use the current phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Another Big News item is the completion of testing on the new CNC (computer numerically controlled) machines. These computer guided units cut several car bodies at one time, complete with axle holes and windows and the final result needs little finishing. It has been a long-term goal to develop an affordable machine that is programmed specifically to make TFGK cars: one where we can provide technical support to SmileMakers who choose to install one.

Two SmileMaker sites in the Denver area, **Norm and Paul Miller's** operation and Broomfield #1 (Crew Chief **Stan Vander Ploeg**) have been working with CNC machines for some time. **Bill Van Zante** in Pella IA uses an industrial strength machine for his production. These machines have shown distinct advantages in producing significant volumes of cars

and they also they produce a more consistent product, important when we assemble cars at our Kohl's Stores, retirement home and service club locations.

Thanks to the support of the **Parker CO Rotary Club**, provider of the original grant to fund the project, CNC manufacturer **TAIG Tools** of Chandler AZ, and to **Marlin** and SmileMakers **John Thorum** and **Paul Miller** who together devoted many hours to developing the machine's computer program, we now have an affordable, volume production machine that we can recommend to SmileMakers. Marlin and **Ron Peek** are developing a video of the machine's capabilities which we will soon post on the TFGK Central page of the website. If you are interested and can't wait, contact Marlin for the full details.

Thanks to all the SmileMakers that provided us with their 6-month production totals. Their input showed that we distributed 70,000 cars to kids around the world in the first half of 2014.

Website Updates...We have added a page to honor our Supporting Suppliers. You can find it under the "Get Involved" menu heading. If any SmileMakers wish to have one of their suppliers added, just provide the company name, city and state and website address if you have it and we'll add it along with a link to their website. They deserve all the credit we can give them.

And last, we continue to add SmileMaker sites and SmileMakers across the country. At the end of July, there were 48 SmileMaker sites with 218 SmileMakers in 17 states making toys...and smiles. Thanks for all your good work and support!

Marlin and Your Board

P.S. Let us know about any news of TFGK activities so we can publish it in this newsletter. Your stories are what this publication is all about.

Virgil Houtkooper is Toys For God's Kids new Midwest Regional Manager

Toys For God's Kids recently welcomed Virgil Houtkooper as its Midwest Regional Manager. Virgil will cover the TFGK chapters in Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, and South Dakota, while Marlin Dorhout, TFGK founder, will manage the remaining chapters. This was a position set up to relieve Marlin of many day-to-day activities.

Virgil comes from pioneer stock, the only son of hardworking South Dakota farmers. He and his wife Dittie (who was born in the Netherlands) have been married for 50 years. They farmed for 25 years and then had a plastic fabricating business for the next 25.

Now retired they spend winters in Mesa, Arizona and summers in Iowa. In Mesa, they cut cars with the new CNC machine. As Virgil relates, "This is a new focus that has brought great joy and happiness to our ""spare time"".

Virgil met Marlin Dorhout, Toys for God's Kids founder and president in Mesa last winter and was immediately interested in TFGK and its operation. Because Virgil and Dittie have traveled the world on mission trips (including Mongolia, Vietnam, China, The Sudan, and India), they were a perfect fit for TFGK.

Virgil's talents for addressing issues and solving problems also came at a time when Marlin was trying to reduce his day-to-day tasks. The match, to paraphrase the old cliché, came from Heaven. Virgil's philosophy also meshes with many of TFGKs volunteers. As he says, "God has blessed Dittie and me with good health so while we're here on earth we seek to do his will and be a blessing to others we meet." Virgil's goal for the future is encouraging others to get involved with toy making and toy distribution. Virgil's email is virgil.houtkooper@gmail.com.

TFGKs Board of Directors

David Berger	Board Member
Juan Botero	Board Member
Marlene Dorhout	Secretary
Lawrence Kitchen	Treasurer
Andy Morris	Chair
Debra Scifo	Vice Chair
Dutch Van Maaren	Board Member
Marlin Dorhout	President/CEO

Correction

Bill Wiersma of the Michigan Hollanders Chapter reminds us that the yellow smiley face toy rack originally published in the June newsletter is John Jager's creation and not his as we originally stated. He refers to John as a "smile-making machine" who created 5,000 toys last winter and distributed 3,000.



Welcome New SmileMakers	
SmileMaker	Chapter/Workshop
Jim Berger	Broomfield CO #1
Randy Skoczen	Chandler AZ
Roy Nixon	Glendale AZ
Jim Crock	Golden CO
Ken Gerbrandt	Heather Gardens CO
Bob Gullion	Heather Gardens CO
Toby Lear	Heather Gardens CO
Ken Sheets	Lynden WA
Al Kyhl	Mesa AZ
Cy Whatley	New Hope CO
Wilma Juffer	Sioux Center IA
Ben Sterling	Sun City #1
Jack Cunningham	Tinton Falls NJ
Claude Allen	Tinton Falls NJ
Bill Bocchino	Tinton Falls NJ
Ivan Metzger	Tinton Falls NJ
John Burns	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Dyan Cormier	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Bob Edwards	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Jack Ellison	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Ed Hamer	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Bob Higgins	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Richard Hoyt	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Cecil Jones	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Don Lovell	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Robert Mauk	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Fred Ornelas, Jr.	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Jim Pepper – Crew Chief	Traditions, Surprise AZ
Anthony Marquez	Wheat Ridge CO
Terry Tessendorf	Wheat Ridge CO

**Holly Creek Chapter Makes
TFGK Display Case**

“The Holly Creek team recently completed a large display cabinet for all visitors complete with pictures and a variety of cars made over the years. They invite all Smile Makers to drop by and enjoy pictures from all over the World”



Information from Herb Bowman
Holly Creek CO Crew Chief

Windy Wooders enjoy their time in the shop

By Mel Tansill

When it comes to giving, the Wind Crest (Colorado) retirement community Windy Wooders give nearly 2,000 times over. The Highlands Ranch-based woodworkers group builds and donates items for children, including wooden toy cars and intricate dollhouses.

A small subset of the 51-member group works an assembly line every Monday to build wooden toy cars for impoverished children in Mexico, Africa, Haiti, and the southern U.S. Denver-based Toys for God's Kids distributes the cars.

"The kids are usually in a foster care home or orphanage where they don't have a lot of toys," says club chairman John Lillie.

Shop manager Lloyd Eicher has lived at Wind Crest Since 2007 and participated in the woodshop since it opened shortly after. He's one of the six men who work the toy car assembly line. "It's a personal satisfaction of doing something that makes these kids smile", he says.

Lloyd says they call themselves the "smile makers," and for good reason. The organization sends photos and videos of the children when they receive their gifts. "It's rewarding. It means more to an impoverished child to receive one of these cars because, unlike many children in the U.S., they don't have a room full of toys. They may just have one or two."

The Windy Wooders have been building toy cars for about a year and a half and have made around 1,800 cars to date, including one order for 800 cars and another for 300.

Despite the organization's name, Toys for God's Kids makes no religious distinction regarding the recipients of its toys, and each car has a "Made in the U.S.A." stamp or license plate.

The Wind Crest group gets scrap wood from local cabinetry shops and finishes each car by sanding

Chapter Spotlight

and applying a mineral oil finish to prevent it from drying or cracking. John says an assembly line of five to six woodworkers takes about 20 minutes to complete a car from start to finish.



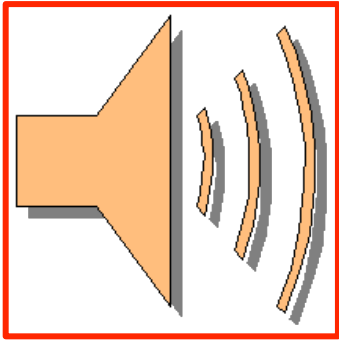
(L-R) Lloyd Eicher, John Lillie and Jack Stevens are three of the six Wind Crest Windy Wooders who build toy cars for underprivileged children around the world. (Photo by Jason Atwell)

While the six-man subset works on wooden toys, many other Wind Crest Wooders build for pleasure or for the benefit of neighbors. "We do a lot of repair and modification projects for neighbors, as well as a number of community projects," says John.

When they're not building, they're learning. Local companies give workshops on topics such as furniture reupholstering or finishing. And whether woodworking is old hat or a new hobby, John says they all continue to sharpen their skills. Most of all, John says, it's the camaraderie that keeps them coming back. "It's really fun. Sometimes, it slows down a project or two, but it makes it fun," he says.

Posted in Douglas County Front, Highlands Ranch

Mel Tansill is public affairs manager at Wind Crest Retirement Community, Highlands Ranch CO..



SmileMaker Sound Off

THE WOMEN'S GUILD OF ST. ISABEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH ON SANIBEL ISLAND, WORK WITH IMMIGRANT WORKER'S CHILDREN, HELPING THEM TO LEARN ENGLISH AND TO GET READY TO START SCHOOL. THE GUILD SPONSOR PARTIES FOR THE KIDS AND GIVE THEM CLOTHES TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL. AT THESE GATHERINGS THEY GIVE THE KIDS OUR TOYS, AND THE PICTURES THAT FOLLOW, SHOW WHAT THE KIDS DO WITH THE TOYS.



CARS AFTER PAINTING BY THE KIDS



SOME OF THE ARTISTS DISPLAYING THEIR WORK

Sound Off (Continued)



Ken Treiber (Ft. Myers, FL) sent us this picture taken in an orphanage in Peru that his chapter supports. He reports, "These folks spend their vacation time in Peru and we keep them in cars."

New Car Model Approved by Granddaughter

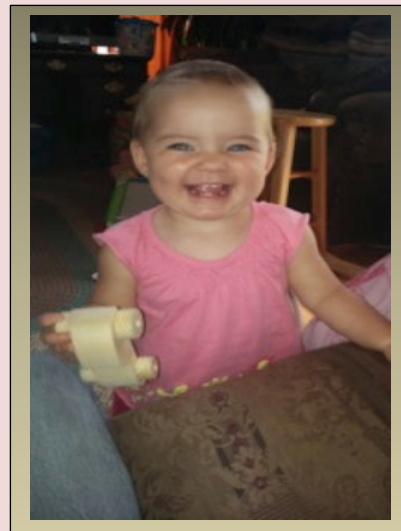


Photo from Ken Sheets (Lynden Washington Chapter)

Jim Keatley

Bill Wiersma introduces Miles of Smiles to another member of the Michigan "Hollander's" Smile Maker Chapter-- Jim Keatley. The photo (right) is of his display case and shows several of the TFGK car designs he developed. He has made and distributed 880 cars, to eight countries/two schools, Bill adds, "Jim has also met Fred Hekstra and Howard Huyser. He's a really awesome fly fisherman, too."



Kids Enjoy Toys In Kenya

This photo below was sent to us from Virgil and Dittie Houtkooper. Toys distributors were Dennis and Jeni Hoeskstra. According to Jeni, the children were "thrilled with their cars

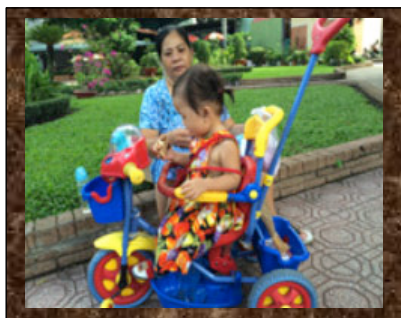


JoLynn and Jim Vegh Arnold forwarded this letter and these pictures to us. It is always heartening to know what joy a simple toy can bring.

Hi,
Just wanted you to know that we are back from Africa and the cars were a hit!!!! We visited a little town on the outskirts of Harare called Juru Village. They have very few outside visitors to the village and they were sooooo appreciative. I wish you could have seen the little kids' reactions to the cars, they politely lined up while the village chief handed each child a car. Then they assembled as a group to say "thank you", sang a little song and the elders closed in a prayer of thanksgiving. Please let the ministry who supplies these toys know how very blessed this village was by their gift. In His love, Donna



Cory Krupp daughter of Jerry Krupp (Bell Mountain CO Chapter) has been participating in an outreach program from Duke University to Vietnam and India. She recently emailed her dad,: " I gave away the last of the cars today, and I wish I'd brought more. You and TFGK sure made a lot of kids in Udaipur very happy." Great pictures, Cory!



TFGKs Toys Go TO Malawi

Marlin received this note from Ken Termolen : "We just got back from our medical mission trip to Malawi. I was able to take all the cars that you had sent me plus just over 100 that I had made. I was able to hand out just over 600 cars in the villages of Zomba, Kaday, Khave, Bwana and Nseule in Malawi. I probably could have handed out 10 times that many. I've attached a couple pictures. Notice the modifications that some kids made at one of the clinics."



Just For Fun

SmileMakers, see if you can recreate these car shapes using symbols found on your cell phone or computer:

Car grill: **01110**

TFGK Car: **$\frac{/}{\backslash}$ $\frac{|}{|}$ $\frac{\backslash}{/}$
<@.....@>**