

# Toys for God's Kids

*Turning scrap wood into smiles*



Buz Dabkowski from Colorado recently got an email from his dentist friend Jim Maurer stating: "Nothing better than watching kids' faces light up when we give them a car! I brought along toothbrushes too, so they get both. Gave out quite a few in San Pancho. Then visited an even poorer town called Monteon. Not sure if those kids ever see gringos. When we got out of our van, this mother protected her girls by shooing them into the house. Once she realized we were friendly, she allowed the girls to take the gifts and then reminded them to say 'gracias'. When we walked to the van, even the adults across the street shouted gracias to us. Made their day. So cool." THANK YOU to all Smilemakers for helping put a smile on a child's face.



Hear Ye ... Hear Ye ... Let it be known that a new Guinness Book of Records was set at a recent Kaiser's volunteer day. Thirty-four people assembled 3400 toys in 3 ½ hours. GREAT JOB. Well maybe it wasn't a Guinness record, but something that special doesn't happen in a vacuum. Frank, Jeri, Len, Mike and other members of the Strand put in countless hours cutting out and sanding the car bodies, getting everything ready for the event. THANK YOU to everyone for creating smiles in children all around the world.



On a visit to Grand Haven, MI, Marlin Dorhout was impressed with the chapter from Covenant Life Church. They recently bought the old Clark/Story piano factory. The third floor was converted for the purpose of building bunk beds that are given to families in the community who need them, and an offshoot of their bed program is their Smilemaking work. They use the scrap wood from the beds to make cars. Thank you to Ken TerMolen and all the Grand Haven SmileMakers for "Turning Scrap Wood into Smiles!"





Jonathan Fehl, pastor at Bethany UMC in Latrobe, PA, took a team to Mozambique. While working with an orphanage, they shared cars with the children. Jonathan reported the cars were a "big hit with the orphans!" Enjoy watching the joy on their faces.



I love this three-generation story: Art Franken makes cars in Arizona while he lives there in the winter. You all know about snowbirds, right? OK, back to our story. Art shares some of the cars with his son and daughter-in-law, Daryl and Kim Franken, who go to Mexico each year with their 12-year-old son, Spencer. Spencer typically has a friend along. Mom reports Spencer and his friend have lots of fun giving the cars away to children they meet on the street. The children have big smiles as they receive the unexpected gift. Many times they hear gracias, gracias, gracias. Kids sharing with kids-how special is that!

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