

MILES OF SMILES

Editor's Notes

As we publish our third newsletter of the year, we tried to highlight the many contributors who make Toys For God's Kids mission possible. There are articles in this issue about those who make car bodies, axles, and wheels; those who assemble the finished cars; and those who distribute them to children around the world. Our working Board of Directors deserves a note of thanks, too, for their efforts to shape the mission of TFGK's and make the operation run smoothly. The Notes from TFGK newsletter section highlights their endeavors. Also, there are those of you who "work behind the scenes" organizing events, creating publicity for TFGK's, and simply being there to assure the job gets done. To all these contributors, we say a sincere Thank You and we hope you find an article to enjoy in this issue of the newsletter.

Our Mission
To Provide handmade, sturdy,
attractive wooden toys,
FREE to God's children everywhere

HIGHLIGHTS

September 2013

SmileMakers	2, 3, 9
Golf Tournament	1
Parker Rotary Event	8
TFGK Central's News	5

Golf Tournament Reminder

Just a quick reminder to mark Monday, October 14 on your calendar as the annual Toys For God's Kid Golf Tournament at beautiful Perry Park Country Club.

Each year, this important fundraiser gathers more and more golfers, so make certain you reserve your tee time before we fill up.

A quick e-mail now to toysforgodskids@gmail.com with your name and number of players, assures you a spot.

Get together three of your golf buddies or come and join up with others in support of this great cause. It will be one of the enjoyable days you'll have on a golf course.

If you are not a golfer, pass on this information to a friend that wants to play a great course and support a great cause.

There will be gifts, prizes and food, so make your plans now. The contribution for this full day is only \$125 per player. Hope you can make it.

Marlin Dorhout , Toys For God's Kids Central



Retirees carve out time to bring smiles with toy cars

BY ATHENA PONUSHIS
aponushis@floridaweekly.com

Like many a bright idea, it all started over a round of golf. Bill Reiff asked his golfing companion, Marlin Dorhout, "So what do you do?" The Colorado man told him: "I make toy cars."

Mr. Reiff fancied the idea. It fascinated him and stayed in the back of his mind. Before too long, he booked a flight to Denver. He visited Mr. Dorhout's woodshop and saw the pickup truck parked out front, bearing a sign to promote the nonprofit Mr. Dorhout had founded: "Toys for God's Kids." Mr. Reiff learned the craft and brought the mission back to Southwest Florida.

"Toys for God's Kids" spreads a little sunshine and imagination into the lives of children through the construction of sturdy, handmade wooden toy cars. Volunteers across the country donate their time and skills to assemble the chunky little vehicles; charitable and faith-based organizations distribute them free to children around the world. "I think people in this world are trying their best to do something, whatever they can do, to help humanity," Mr. Reiff says. "This is just a little part of that."

Eight gentlemen from Vi at Bentley Village in North Naples and Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers have partnered up to make these toy cars. They cut and sand the wood, attach the wheels and stamp each one: "USA."

"All they need are the kids to add the 'Vroom ... Vroom ...'" says Ken Treiber, a friend who helped Mr. Reiff bring the local toy-making group to fruition.



The men started assembling toys cars last July. They made their first shipment to the Koutiala Women's and Children's Hospital of Mali in August. They shipped toy cars to Afghanistan in November. At Christmastime, they gave toy cars to the U.S. Marine Corp's "Toys for Tots" program and more to the "Samaritan's Purse" shoebox project through Operation Christmas Child.

"We're not making cars as much as we're making smiles," Mr. Treiber says. "We've been dubbed 'Smile Makers' by the guys who give these cars to these kids ... A lot of these kids in third-world countries have never owned anything of their own. When you give them a toy like this, not only is it a toy, but it's 'mine.'"

When people ask Mr. Treiber what he does, he tells them he's in the car manufacturing business. "People say, 'Oh!' Then I'll tell them, 'But they're only 'this big,' " he says, moving his pointer fingers close together. "People are always a little surprised, but they need to remember, it doesn't take so very much to make kids happy."

"And that's a fun thing to be able to do."

The Smile Makers of Bentley Village and Shell Point gathered for lunch on a recent Friday. One man had held an international

marketing role in the fertilizing industry, another had owned his own insurance agency, another used to run the circulation for Weekly Reader, another was a World War II pilot and another spent 35 years in the aerospace business and even worked on the Hubble Telescope.

Now in their decaf years, still stuck on expressions like, "Holy Mackerel," the men joke that they make toy cars because "that's all they let us do anymore."

But listening to the gentlemen chat band saws and jigs, it becomes apparent that perhaps they have as much fun in the process of making the toys as the young recipients eventually will have playing with them.

"I retired 30 years ago," Mr. Reiff says. "I've been trying to find something like making toy cars for 30 years, and I finally found it."

The men say it's their goal to make toy cars as fast as they can, find homes for them and ship them out. They've been thinking maybe the police force, local shelters and child-advocacy agencies might be able to put these timeless toy car contraptions of imagination to good use in the hands of children who are placed in their temporary care.

Currently, Naples Shutter provides the Smile Makers with scrap wood. The group welcomes additional donations as well as woodworking enthusiasts who might like to join their ranks. For more information, call Mr. Treiber at 267-7229. †

Photo credit: Athena Ponushis / Florida Weekly. Article courtesy of Florida Weekly www.floridaweekly.com

Retirement Community Residents Build Toys for Kids

Ongoing Project Will Send Toy Cars to Children in Guatemala and Afghanistan

By Mel Tansill

HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO -- Six Wind Crest retirement community residents are partnering with Toys for God's Kids, a nonprofit agency that provides impoverished children with wooden toys, to build over 550 wooden cars to be sent to children in Guatemala and Afghanistan.

The ongoing project, which is spearheaded by Lloyd Eicher, president of the Wind Crest Windy Wooders, involves residents working with materials donated by TFGKs. Wind Crest residents work together each Monday afternoon on the cars.

Toys For God's Kids came to Wind Crest and gave a recent presentation to the Windy Wooders, enlisting the residents' help in the cause. Residents have been carving, sanding and working away ever since.

The woodworking group – comprised of residents Bill Shackelford, Jack Stevens, Jim Bartlett, Jim Lohr, John Lillie and Lloyd Eicher – has sent its finished products to three of the world's poorest countries: Guatemala, Haiti and Afghanistan. A fourth, India, is pending as Eicher works to send cars there through his church's missionary. He plans to pay shipping costs out of pocket.

Toys For God's Kids has been impressed with the Wind Crest residents' progress and the quality of the toys produced to-date.

TFGK founder Marlin Dorhout said the experience benefits the toymakers as well as the kids. "It is a rewarding experience – one reason being that we know there are kids out there that don't have toys, Dorhout said. "When we saw the DVD of the kids receiving toys, they were excited. We give as



Wind Crest resident Bill Shackelford makes a wooden car, part of the effort to make toys for the nonprofit Toys For God's Kids. Photo by Pete Ritchie

many as we can because kids tell other kids and pretty soon, all the kids want one. So we send extras." In the shop it builds camaraderie and a sense of pride.

Wind Crest Community Manager Peter Ritchie said the residents were thrilled to hear Dorhout appraise their work. TFGK's takes pride in producing toys of lasting quality, and the Windy Wooders have the knowledge and experience necessary to do so, according to Ritchie.

"This program is an opportunity for our residents to use their skills and to rally around a project to form a quality product for a good cause," Ritchie said. "They're thrilled to be helping kids around the world."

Mel Tansill is public affairs manager for Erickson Living. All photos by Pete Ritchie.

Article content and photos courtesy of Mel Tansill. This story, with different formatting, appeared in the June 13, 2013, Your Hub insert in the Denver Post.

Photos That Make Us Smile

Windy Wooders (Wind Crest, CO) SmileMakers



Wind Crest residents Jim Bartlett (l) and Jim Lohr (r) make cars.
Photo by Pete Ritchie



Wind Crest resident Jack Stevens makes wooden car.
Photo by Pete Ritchie



Fort Meyers SmileMakers

In the woodshop at Vi at Bentley Village, left to right Brian Trecek of Naples Shutter, which gives its Scrap wood to the SmileMakers to turn into toy cars and Smile Makers Frank Harrigan, Ken Treiber, Pete Mattimore, Bill Reiff, Charles Rue and Bill Farrell.
Photo courtesy of Athena Ponushis/Florida Weekly

Notes From TFGK Central

One of our major goals is to assure we have a cohesive, national network of SmileMakers. This newsletter was the first step and recently we've initiated a SmileMaker Identity Program that honors and identifies those who are working with us to advance our Mission of sending free toys to children around the world.

Those of you making and assembling cars have received a certificate designating you as a Certified SmileMaker. And many SmileMakers have taken advantage of our offer of free business cards to identify them with the Toys For God's Kids organization. (SmileMaker Alert: the back of the card is designed to be a handy place to request photos of the kids receiving your cars. Just jot your message and place the card into your package of toys.)

Our new brochure helps tell the story of TFGK and should be an aid in securing supplies and finding new outlets for your toys (and explaining to friends why you're making all those little cars). We hope you'll also use them to secure donations to help us expand our work and recruit new SmileMakers. Let us know if you need more brochures.

Coming soon there will be an updated website to help spread our message, recruit new SmileMakers and identify new donors and sources of income. We'll let you know when it's online and we will look forward to your comments.

Since June, we've added 30 new SmileMakers. (See the list in the sidebar.) In addition to those 30, in Colorado the Heather Garden Complex is gearing up, as is a new, enthusiastic group in Michigan. In Phoenix AZ, a new group from Grace Bible Church has big plans for assembling cars that may tax our output.

As of this writing, there are 155 SmileMakers making and assembling cars, with more sites gearing up. That is an increase of 24% since we last reported to you in June. Through your efforts, this year we are well on our way to sending over 130,000 cars to unfortunate children around the world.

Next on our fundraising plans is the 4th Annual TFGK's Golf Tournament, set for October 14th. It's being held again at Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur CO, one of the most enjoyable and beautiful courses on Colorado's Front Range. If you haven't received information via e-mail and want to participate, let us know at TFGK Central (toysforgodskids@gmail.com). (Continued on Page 6)

Welcome New SmileMakers

Name	Chapter/Workshop
Phyllis Hutchins	Holly Creek CO
Rosemarie Labriola,	Holly Creek CO
Barry Houslander	New Hope CO
Lorance Swier	Wheat Ridge CO
Don Van Dyke	Sun City AZ
James Bartlett	Wind Crest CO
George Boysen	New Hope CO
Ken & Linda Jones	New Hope CO
John & Ruth Lundgren	New Hope CO
Mark Willey	New Hope CO
Dave Shipley	New Hope CO
Bob Ledoux	New Hope CO
David Closky	Broomfield CO #1
Ed Howser	Broomfield CO #1
Richard Lindemann	Broomfield CO #1
John Lille	Broomfield CO #1
Ed Wares	Smyrna TN
Ron & Kim Black	Riverside CA
Joel Collier	Riverside CA
John Colman & Leslie Forsythe	Riverside CA
Tom & Karen Hunt	Riverside CA
Stephen Willis	Riverside CA
Joy Yunag	Riverside CA
Sterling Forsythe	Riverside CA
Chris Collier	Riverside CA
Lucas Peckari	Riverside CA

Notes From Toys for God's Kids Central (continued)

We can't sign off without recognizing the contribution of **Ron Peek** of the Denver Chapter. Ron has put an enormous amount of time and expertise into creating an invaluable new manual on "How to" make the best possible cars. It's a priceless tool for bringing new SmileMakers up to speed. If you'd like one, it's available by e-mail at TFGK Central (toysforgodskids@gmail.com).

And last, to all of our SmileMakers and those who support us in so many ways, we give our grateful thanks.

Marlin and your TFGK Board

Toys for God's Kids Board of Directors



Left to Right: Standing: Marlin Dorhout; Dutch Van Maaren; Lawrence Kitchen; Dave Berger Sitting: Marlene Dorhout ,Andy Morris; Jerry Krupp; Rita Krupp

Photo by Gloria Berger

Photos That Make Us Smile (continued)



These pictures are from Fred Ypma's mission in Papua New Guinea. Thanks to Eldon Peters for forwarding.

Loving One By One In Uganda



These pictures came to Toys For God's Kids from Loving One By One, Karen and Jim Adamak's medical mission to Uganda. These photos were taken at their medical clinic.

Toys For God's Kids teams up with Parker Rotary for car assembly night.

On July 16, 2013, Rotary Community Corps of Parker (RCC) gathered to assemble 1,000 cars for Toys For God's Kids. 50 friends, family members, and church members met at the Parker United Methodist Church to assemble the cars. About 30 of the workers had special needs.

Don Clasen, from the Rotary Club of Parker, who is also a SmileMaker for Toys For God's Kids, facilitated the group and everyone enjoyed the evening.

Toys for God's Kids is making a difference in the lives of the members of the Rotary Community Corps, who assemble the cars, as well as the recipients of their completed products.

This Is RCC!, a book written by Kam Breitenbach, Parker Rotary Club member, tells about the programs of the Parker Rotary Club. In the section about the Rotary Community Corps, several members of the corps, all special needs adults, tell in their own words how much Toys For God's Kids means to them. With Kam's permission I am printing excerpts from her book to share with our SmileMakers.

ALEX: "I'm 25 year old. I joined RCC because my friends were members and it sounded like fun. I have met new people and get to do things in the community. My favorite project is Toys for God's Kids because I know it's a good thing to do. RCC has helped me to be able to help other people."

Caroline: "I am 26 years old and joined RCC because I like being involved with my friends and community. RCC has made me feel more involved with the people around me and my community. My favorite activity and projects are Adopt A-Family and building cars for Toys for God's Kids. I like doing things with my hands. RCC has made me proud to be alive."



Elizabeth: "I'm 26 years old and joined RCC to have fun and be socially aware of the needs of our community. I've helped with the Parker Task Force Food Drive, Parker Days Festival where we showed a Shelter Box and making cars for Toy's for God's Kids.

Greg: "I am 27 years old. I joined RCC because all of my friends are there. I like helping others and being more involved in the community. I help with making cars for Toys for God's Kids.

Hanna: "I'm 27 years old and I am a Charter member of the Rotary Community Corps. I joined RCC for an opportunity to spend time with my friends, but it's been so much more. I like the spirit of RCC that gives back to my community. I've helped with Food Drives with the Rotary Club of Parker, helped make blankets for Project Linus, Adopt-A-Family at Christmas, made cars for Toys for God's Kids, Smokin' Brew BBQ, Tip-A-Cop and helped sponsor a child from Romania. I've loved them all!

Jayson: I joined RCC because a friend invited me. I am 23 years old. It's taught me things that I have not covered before. My favorite project is making cars for Toys for God's Kids.

John: I'm 37 years old and joined RCC because my friends joined. I've helped with lots of projects like building Toys for God's Kids. Through RCC, I've learned to put others above myself.

Reprinted from the Gate 'N Green Newsletter, July 2013.

Move Over, Detroit

The "Motor City" has nothing on one of your neighbors right here in our community. You see, Jerry Clark (of 40 Walter Way) produces **HUNDREDS** of little wooden cars **PER DAY** (that'd be a pretty good day) – right here in Gate 'N Green -- **IN HIS GARAGE!**



Jerry can usually be found most mornings at his garage drill press or scroll saw, punching out wheels or sawing bodies for another batch of toy cars to make little kids happy. He distributes thousands of cars every year through *Toys for God's Kids* among other charities **ALL OVER THE WORLD**. This summer, he and his wife Lois plan to drive to Minneapolis with 3500 cars for the ministry there. Jerry has two co-workers, Ollie Hux (10 Curtis Court) and Dick Lindemann (41 Ruth Road) & often enlists Gate 'N Green residents to help assemble cars, once assembling 500 cars in one morning in our clubhouse.

Thank you, Jerry!

