

MILES OF SMILES

Editor's Notes

We hope you will enjoy the March newsletter, our first for 2014. It contains many enjoyable articles and letters from our readers, as well as useful information from TFGK's Central.

Our new column SmileMaker Sound Off on Page 3, reports information we have received from SmileMakers (and SmileGivers) from all over the country. We hope this will become a permanent feature of Miles of Smiles.

Please send us your contributions. This is your newsletter and it keeps getting better and better because of you!

Faye Kitchen, Editor

March 2014

TFGK Central	1
Letters from SmileMakers	5
Photos That Make Us Smile	7
Board Members	6
SmileMaker Sound Off	3

Notes From TFGK Central

This is the first chance we've had to let all of our friends and SmileMakers know how Toys for God's Kids fared in 2013.

In short, quite well. We added over 90 new Smilemakers, bringing our total to over 160, and 13 new Chapters or Workshops were formed. There are now 36 sites in 15 states making toys. And most importantly our SmileMakers shipped over 160,000 cars in 2013 to unfortunate kids around the world. That's about 48% more than 2012.

One goal during the year was to develop the communication tools needed to attract new SmileMakers and SmileGivers (those who distribute our cars). There are new brochures, an updated website and a refurbished trade show exhibit. We gave new life to our Facebook page and a created a just-about-to-be-released video to show to TFGK enthusiasts, current and future. It puts us in a great position to tell others how Toys For God's Kids touches and enriches so many lives.

We also developed our Smilemaker Identity Program to reinforce the community spirit of our SmileMakers. SmileMakers received a personalized

(Continued on Page 2)

Notes from TFGK Central (continued)

Certified SmileMaker Certificate and the offer of TFGK business cards. And of course we published four issues this newsletter that had its birth in 2012.

And importantly, with the support of **Roy Hoffman**, our bookkeeper and Treasurer **Lawrence Kitchen** we upgraded our financial system so it now provides a complete and transparent assessment of our financial situation.

Looking forward, one thing that gives us great pleasure at TFGK Central is to receive notes, photos and other news of what our SmileMakers are doing. And hearing from those SmileGivers who distribute our cars is an important pat on the back for those who made the cars. Plus it makes great copy for our newsletter and Facebook page. Just a short note or photo with some explanation will do. Please keep it up.

Our 2014 plans include, among other tasks, developing more sites within retirement communities. The success we've had with the Shell Point FL, Wind Crest CO and Holly Creek CO Chapters gives us great confidence that the mission of Toys for God's Kids has a significant potential in these communities. If you know of a facility that would like to begin making toys as part of their activity program, let us know.

In closing, thanks to all who made 2013 a very successful year. We plan to make 2014 even better.

Marlin and the TFGK Board

SmileMakers	Chapter or Workshop
Paul Allen	Broomfield #1 CO
Nancy Burritt	Broomfield #1 CO
Jerry Williams	Broomfield #2 CO
Walter Adamczyk	Heather Gardens CO
Gilford Ehler	Heather Gardens CO
Lehman Hoag Jr.	Heather Gardens CO
Jim Sollecchio	Heather Gardens CO
Bill Wiersma	Holland MI
Ron Ganze	Lyons NY
Duane Benson	Monument CO
Barnie Gavin	Monument CO
Tony Van Beek	Monument CO
Leslie Forsythe	Riverside CA
David Rodriguez	Riverside CA
Al Valles	Riverside CA
Pete Mattimore	Shell Point FL
James Mellinger	Shell Point FL
Freddy Vande Kamp	Sun Lakes, AZ
Warren Vandeberg	Sun Lakes, AZ
William Van Buren Jr.	Shell Point FL
Al Vande Kamp	Sun Lakes AZ

SMILEMAKER SOUND OFF

Reports from Our SmileMaker Chapters and Workshops

Platte, South Dakota

"These are some of the cars made. I get this laminated wood from a gun stock maker here in South Dakota and I also get all the black walnut I want for wheels. I have a lumber yard that keeps me in all the fir and pine I can use.

At this point I have sent 200 cars to foreign countries and have about 1200 in the making so I keep busy....."

Duane Strand

Platte, South Dakota

Heather Gardens SmileMakers

There are now four men building toy cars as of now. We had a fifth but he couldn't stand the saw dust. Jim is the fastest, Gill repairs cars for you, Whitey cuts almost as fast as Jim, and I am getting better all the time. I pressed out and cut out a gallon jug of wheels using Jim's (or your) jig, some fun! My wife went to hear the Opera at the movie show and I got a lot of work done in the wood shop.

One of my advantages is that I hate TV because of all the commercials. I will be giving out some cars to our nursery school at Augustana.

Lehman Hoag Jr.

lhoagjr@aol.com

(Sound Off Continued on Page 4)



SmileMaker Sound Off (Continued)**Sun Lakes, AZ, CHAPTER**

50 of our fleet of 160 went to Mexico today with our church group. They are building a house for a family, an annual project.

We are having fun & will get back at making cars now that our family went back to NM & MN.

Lovin our great weather in AZ!!

Al & Freddy Vande Kamp

**Fort Meyers, FL Chapter**

THE PICTURE ATTACHED IS FROM BURMA, WHERE OUR NEW HELPERS DALE AND MARY ANN LOUIS TRAVELED TO RENDER DENTAL CARE TO CHILDREN, MANY OR MOST OF WHOM HAVE NEVER HAD ANY DENTAL WORK DONE.

THE LOUIS' ARE OFF NEXT IN MARCH TO CAMAROOON, AND THEN LATER TO HAITI.

THEY MENTIONED THAT A GROUP OF SOME 27 HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS ARE GOING ALONG TO CAMAROOON, AND WE WILL SUPPLY CARS FOR THE GROUP TO CARRY WITH THEM.

ONE LIMITING FACTOR, THE LOUIS' HAVE TO CARRY HIS DENTAL TOOLS, AND AS MUCH DENTAL SUPPLIES AS POSSIBLE, LIMITING THE NUMBER OF TOYS THEY CAN CARRY IN THEIR LUGGAGE.

KEN TRIEBER

THIS IS A VERY SATISFYING OUTLET FOR OUR TOYS, AND WE HOPE TO CONTINUE THIS CONTACT, AND WE HAVE ASKED THE LOUIS' TO PUT US IN CONTACT WITH THEIR OTHER HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PROSPECTS.



LETTERS TO TOYS FOR GOD'S KIDS

Dear Marlin and Marlene,

Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas card and GENEROUS donation of the adorable wooden cars from Toys for God's Kids! We brought all the little cars to 75 orphans (boys and girls at Hogar Rompiendo Cardenas in Bogota. The kids were absolutely thrilled!

I sent you a note with pictures.....but thought I'd send them by email too and am so grateful for Lauri Sindt and Ina Melen for making this connection for Airline Ambassadors!

The morning of the party, we got the idea to buy some nail polish so the kids could put their initials on their individual cars.....and we tried to explain that to them, but soon they just became carried away having a ball painting the little cars....,they were the hit of the party!

It was especially powerful as the Director of the orphanage - Marta, pulled herself together after living on the streets with her 5 children. She dedicated her life to helping others like her.....who were without hope. They made money to care for the kids by selling little wooden cars.....so the gift had special meaning to them.

We look forward to bringing Toys for Gods Kids to our projects in Guatemala, Haiti, Philippines, El Salvador and more. Enjoy the enclosed pictures and thank you again for your generosity.

There is one special orphan I had met last year - Jolynn. She painted a little car and gave it to me. I will treasure it always.

Have a very Happy New Year!

Nancy Rivard

President, Airline Ambassadors



LETTERS TO TOYS FOR GOD'S KIDS (Continued)

From: Stan Fuce

To: Toys For God's Kids Central

I thought y'all may enjoy this. My buddy keeps the pickup in Mexico where he hunts regularly. He told me that the window crank knob was broken (I know you remember window cranks) and asked if I had any ideas how to fix it. Voila...two of our toy wheels. Ta Da!

Maybe the only '74 F100 Pickup with wood trim. You never know where God's Wheels will take you.



TOYS FOR GOD'S KIDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Berger	Board Member	gsbperfectharmony@comcast.net
Marlene Dorhout	Board Member	toysforgodskidskids@aol.com
Marlin Dorhout	President	toysforgodskids@aol.com
Lawrence Kitchen	Treasurer	lkitchen@chicagobooth.edu
Jerry Krupp	Board Vice Chairman	rkrupp16@aol.com
Rita Krupp	Secretary	rkrupp16@aol.com
Andy Morris	Board Chairman	jamorr6964@gmail.com
Dutch Van Maaren	Board Member	dutch7179@comcast.net
Juan Botero	Board Member	JBBOTERO@aol.com

Photos That Make Us Smile



Don Collier titled this "Riverside at Work"



Nice Hat!

Photo from Duane Strand, Platte SD



These photos are from Cross Centered Missions. The cars were made by Duane Strand and sent to Mexico with John Stroman of Pierre SD. John reports that the cars were a big hit with the orphanage and the children in the afternoon program.

Photos that make us smile (continued)



Andrea Love shared these photos of Holy Cross Lutheran's pre-Christmas Family Work Night at the church. The families completed 100 cars for Toys For God's Kids.

