



Turning scrap wood into smiles



Newest Chapter in Hesperia, CA



Doug is shaking hands with Lowell

Note from Doug Card: "This chapter of TFGK really got started because my father-in-law, Lowell, who lives next door, was looking for something new to do with his scroll saw. My son, Daniel in Orange City, Iowa, put me onto the organization and I thought it would be great for Dad. To make a long story short, he is cutting out cars at the rate of 70-80 cars per day. So I called in some friends to help me in my shop to make wheels and to do the finish work. Our little group has grown to about 15 on any given Wednesday. They are all retired guys and love the fellowship, but mostly love the purpose they have in making all those smiles!" **THANK YOU, Hesperia Chapter.**



Looks like they are working hard AND having fun!

WOODLEY'S ~ A Great Supplier of Lumber



Here is Smilemakers' version of the Odd Couple. Stan Vander Ploeg has cultivated a relationship with Woodley's, but Bob Gullion has the pickup truck. Here comes the best part of the story between the two of them, along with Woodley's,

who generously supplied the hardwood for wheels, TFGK ends up the winner! Woodley's "scrap" pile is a goldmine. Look at the magnificent hardwood that was donated by Woodley's, piled high in the pickup truck. Can you say wheels, wheels and more wheels!

THANK YOU, Woodley's



Be sure to share our newsletter with family, relatives, and church friends. Questions or comments? Email us MarlinD@ToysForGodsKids.org

Toys for God's Kids™

From Colorado to Ohio to Arusha, Tanzania

Pastor Tim and wife Diane who reside in a farm community in Waseon, Ohio, spend five months each year teaching in a Lutheran Seminary in Arusha, Tanzania. The cars were given to kids who are recovering from surgery at a rehab center named Plaster House. Tim writes "Your organization gifts are greatly appreciated." The many smiling faces say it all.

THANK YOU to our Colorado chapter.



Cars for Guatemala



Stan (Colorado) shipped cars to his sister, Arlis (Minnesota), who then talked about the toy cars while getting her teeth cleaned. Next thing you know, kids in Guatemala are playing with cars made by the Colorado chapter, delivered by River Bluff Dental. It was a unique trip for the cars from Colorado to Guatemala, and as you can see, the children are thrilled and excited.

THANK YOU to everyone along the road for making it possible.

Message from Sean Peters with Samaritan's Purse

"In February I had the privilege of participating in an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) distribution trip to Veracruz, Mexico. During one of the distributions, I noticed a young boy playing with a wooden toy car from the shoebox he received. Upon closer inspection, I realized it was one of the toy cars that TFGK donated to OCC this past year. I wanted to share this with you to not only encourage you and the rest of your Smilemakers, but also affirm the partnership we have." **THANK YOU** to all Smilemakers!



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Exciting Distribution Opportunities!

Over the last 15 years, children around the world have been receiving little wooden cars donated by our charity, “Toys for God’s Kids.”

Originally, the toy cars were made in a few Denver home workshops by caring volunteers dubbed “Smilemakers.” The toy cars were given to people traveling abroad for distribution to needy children everywhere.



Dr. Cory Krupp

TFGK has grown into a dynamic 501(c)(3) charity, providing more than 830,000 free toy cars to children in at least 145 countries. Our Smilemakers number about 235, located in 19 states. With an insatiable need to supply kids with toys, our charity is always exploring new distribution possibilities. It seems there’s a great opportunity emerging right here within our TFGK family.

Jerry (a Smilemaker) and Rita Krupp, both previous TFGK board members, have a daughter, Cory, who has created an exciting network. She has developed distribution channels through her international graduate students in Public Policy at Duke University, many of whom come from developing or transition countries. Several years ago, she began giving TFGK toy cars to her “Fellows” who were returning home, to distribute them to the children there. In return, she only requested pictures of their happy faces to share with TFGK.

It is not an “official” program or partnership between Duke and TFGK, but rather an informal arrangement. The response has been wonderful, as the pictures attest.

It certainly seems that making cars available to students and faculty who will be traveling for study-abroad programs will be an excellent way to increase overseas distribution and reduce shipping costs. We can supply additional information to help create similar distribution channels at other universities. Please let us know what contacts you may have so we can pursue new opportunities to connect toy cars with kids!

Rita Krupp

Note From Editor

I’m really excited to be a part of not only an all-volunteer organization, but also one working with children.

Smilemakers are busy making cars for children to enjoy. The next step is getting them into children’s hands. Let’s all work together and enthusiastically promote TFGK. Do you know of a church group going on a mission trip this summer (suitcases), or any medical professionals that do service work overseas (suitcases), or perhaps a college group doing a semester study outside the US (suitcases)? Suitcases provide free shipping and will get cars into the hands of children whose only toy may be our small wooden car.

Arlis Vande Garde

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Marlin's Musings - A Note from TFGK President Marlin Dorhout

2015 has arrived with a bunch of changes and the corresponding challenges. We have three almost-new board members, and we think we've discovered a promising Miles of Smiles editor. Thanks to Andy, Dutch, Lawrence, and Faye for all their assistance over the years. As they say, it pays to have good help, and we did.



So we have work to do. Our bookkeeper, Roy Hoffman, will soon get our new treasurer, Pete Scifo, trained. We appreciate all of Lawrence's expertise in that area. Andy prepared plenty of long- and short-range plans for us to fulfill so we can use those as reference points. Dutch is really not leaving, just leaving his board position, so we still have his woodworking wizardry to set our standards. We are so thankful for Faye's contribution with the newsletter, as well. We will miss her.

But we have high hopes for our new editor, Arlis Vande Garde. She is the sister of a bona fide Smilemaker, Stan Vander Ploeg, and hails from the same Iowa High School as I. We are planning a 2-4-page version with lots of pictures. It's all about the kids, so we will emphasize them. We want to get more of you involved in the storytelling as well.

With that in mind, please relate any amazing anecdotes or poignant incidents that you may have experienced during your work with TFGK, whether it be from making toys or distributing them. Those of you who actually hand out the toys have the best view of what happens when a child gets his or her very own toy.

We're looking to promote TFGK through events in our local communities. Every town has car shows, tulip festivals, fairs, holiday parades, etc. where we could set up a booth, hand out cars and brochures, and get more people involved. It's not fair that we get all the fun.

Sure, we'll include a note now and then about old Ed in Kansas or Francis in Maryland. We geezers need some recognition too, although I think we'd make toys even if there were no kids to give them to.

We have a new chapter in Hesperia, CA, with eleven members and our Arizona Traditions now has over 25 men and women making smiles. Thankfully, it never stops.

So thanks for your interest, your support, and for talking about TFGK. In short, "Keep up the Good Fun!"

Thanks, Marlin

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