



It Keeps Getting Better!

A word from Toys for God's Kids President, Marlin Dorhout:

"You must be doing something right. Every year keeps getting better. This result is not just being measured by the output of toys either, although we did add another 300,000 to our cumulative total in 2016. We have made serious advances in other aspects of our mission as well. Most of you have heard about the TFGK volunteers who work with residents of Assisted Living Centers (ALC's) in assembling cars. That work is expanding to include youth groups in churches, schools, and half-way homes. There is no doubt that putting wheels on these little cars has tremendous therapeutic value. Could it be the hammering that provides the outlet people need? I've heard, too, that the volunteers are blessed as well. There are Smilemakers who are working with corporations that have allotted time off for their employees to do charitable work. Tens of thousands of our toys were manufactured by these company volunteers. In some cases, the corporate sponsor makes a financial grant along with the finished toys. Truly a blessing. We now have over 100 church groups around the country who receive toys from our various Chapters for their "Operation Christmas Child" (OCC) shoebox ministries. While we appreciate this opportunity to get our toys to kids in need, this demand does strain our ability to produce enough toys for our individual missionaries

and civic groups. Actually, that's kind of a nice problem for a company to have. So here's what we can do. Some of the OCC churches have taken to helping us assemble the cars they need. Even better, a few are even making their own wheels. Of course, there is nothing to prevent people from making car bodies as well. After all, it's not right that we have all the fun. The only requirement to be a Smilemaker is a willing attitude. Remember too, that there are some 2,000,000,000 kids around the world who still do not have a toy to call their own. Well, I could go on, and on ... about the ways you all could help. But let me finish, instead, with a commendation. It has been over 16 years now that we have been making smiles, and each year I realize even more how privileged I've been to have met and worked with each and every one of you. You truly are good people. Thanks. Marlin"

OK, we are impressed! Ed Berg at age 91 accomplished his goal of making 2,033 cars to be put in Operation Christmas Child boxes in Denver. His grandchildren will get to put some in as they volunteer at the Distribution Center. **Thank you Ed for creating so many smiles, you are an example of a true Smilemaker!**





Our future is in good hands. From two to ninety, all ages can be Smilemakers. This two-year-old in training has got it down...1...2...3...4...DONE! Heartwarming to see such a young Smilemaker.





An encouraging note from Christie Powell regarding toys in Guatemala:
“Thank you to all Smilemakers who volunteer your time & energy in making these cars for children ALL around the world. For so many of them, these are the only toy they'll ever own, I know it makes them feel special & loved. Keep being God's Hands & Feet!” **Check out the BIG smiles that every Smilemaker helped to create!**



[Click anywhere here and watch the YouTube video from a recent South Africa trip showing the joy of young boys who received the wooden cars. THANK YOU all Smilemakers.](#)

Here are some pictures of an assembly board and press that Evert Buren created. The slots in the assembly board are 1/8" deeper than the wheel depth, thus pressing the wheels on are left with a space for them to turn. This is better than hammering the wheels on as there is more pressure applied and the excess glue is squeezed out, putting the wheels on correctly and tight. Great idea, Evert, thank you for being a TFGKs innovator. Do you have something unique that is working for your group? Let us know, and we will share with all our Smilemakers.



Enjoy these pictures of cars David Ziegler took to Masachapa, Nicaragua, on his recent Habitat for Humanity trip. The pickup trucks were a big hit.



David Ziegler is sharing cars with some excited children in Buenos Aires, Costa Rica, on a Habitat for Humanity trip.



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