



# THE CHRONICLE OF

# Special Kids



Quarterly Newsletter of Special Kids, Inc.



## From the Chair:

In our busy lives, time has become such a precious commodity. We rush from activity to activity trying to stay on schedule. I am reminded however, that this can be a dangerous trap. When we are moving at such a pace, we must be wary to avoid going by people so fast that we do not see people that have been "robbed, beaten, stripped, and left for dead" on the side of the road. We are all familiar with the story of

the "Good Samaritan" found in Luke Chapter 10. I want to share two thoughts with you that I think are very relevant to our fast paced lives. I have been guilty of seeing someone in need and thinking, "I do not have time for this right now." I recall the feelings of annoyance at the inconvenience of being interrupted in my schedule, as though those in need get to pick when they are going to have trouble!

The second thought, should Christ win over the first thought, is that the "Good Samaritan" had an agenda. We know from the Scripture that he was on his way to some



Chairman Paul Smith

kind of appointment.

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## Reflections from the Executive Director

Special Kids has celebrated the milestone of serving children with special needs for 6 years. Also, we have cared for 944 children in that time. It is amazing to stop and contemplate these facts for a moment. It was not long ago that Dick Kleinau and Carrie Goodwin were buzzing around Murfreesboro trying to fan into flames the passion that Christ had given for children with special needs. It is apparent that we are now dealing with a raging fire. But what else could it be if Jesus Christ is fan-

ing the flame? I have recently been reading in Deuteronomy 10, and similar to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, there have been times that we too have felt as though we would never make it . . . that the vision of Special Kids would falter . . . that the hopes and dreams and Dick and Carrie would never see fulfillment . . . that the numerous needs of God's precious children would go unmet. However, Jesus Christ has shown us over and over that when trust is placed in Him, He will never leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6). Deuteronomy 10:15 reveals that "He brought you water out of hard rock." This truth that sustained the Israelites has most definitely been experienced at Special Kids. Not that we could attain to that level, but that our God - our most loving, merciful Lord - has pro-

vided for each and every need that we have. One year ago, it seemed as though we may be considering the closure of Special Kids. Financial difficulty was proving to be too much. But, in this dry wasteland, God not only brought us water out of hard rock, He overflowed streams in the wasteland. New insurance contracts formerly impossible to utilize, He activated. Friends were called up to support and fan the flame. There were four special events held to benefit Special Kids over the next 10 weeks. This is amazing because none of the "friends" who jumped in to help Special Kids knew of our dire situation. "But God has revealed it to us by His Spirit" (I Corinthians 2:10).

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## Blessings of the United Way: Remembering Special Kids

Over the past four years, Special Kids has been blessed to be a Partner Agency with the United Way of Rutherford County.

We serve children with a diagnosis as mild as a speech articulation problem to children diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, Autism, congenital heart disease and malformation, and cancer. Some children, sadly, are terminal, but our therapists and nurses strive to give them and their families the encouragement and hope of Jesus Christ while they are with us.

Recently, we learned of a change in TennCare that has served to further threaten the services provided at Special Kids. The vital speech therapy services that are offered at Special Kids are in jeopardy. Due to a change in TennCare through Blue Cross Blue Shield, Special Kids suffers a deficit of \$52.89 every time a speech language service is provided to a child that has TennCare. The need does only grow, but the provision of this need is threatened. This is where you and the United Way can help and will so that we can continue to serve the precious children in our community.

We know that Jesus Christ has blessed Special Kids tremendously since opening in September 1998. It is through individuals like yourself, and the United Way, that He has blessed us. We have had the opportunity to serve 944 families from eleven surrounding counties since 1998. We cannot do it without the support of caring individuals like yourself. We are very honored that you would consider Special Kids! We ask only that you would remember Special Kids as you give to the United Way this fall. **Special Kids' organization number is 2877.** Also, please join us in prayer, asking Christ to continue to make provision for His special kids. As always, we are thankful for our relationship with the United Way and the needs that are ministered to through their efforts in our community.



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### From the Chair *continued*

Yet he was willing to change his agenda to meet the needs of this Jewish man, who had been left to die. He was willing to change his agenda!

Lord, forgive me, forgive us for thinking that we are more important than others and their problems. Here at Special Kids, we want to be willing to alter our agendas for the needs of others. Christ said that the greatest love that we could have for one another is to lay down our lives for each other. I thank our em-

ployees at Special Kids, for laying down their lives for those in need. I thank God for sending the "Samaritans."

Yours in Christ,  
*Paul Smith*

### Reflections from the Director *continued*

God quickened the hearts of those "friends" to come to our aid. It is no wonder that David wrote in Psalm 46:1 that God is our ever present help in time of trouble. Just like the Israelites in the wilderness, we have seen each and every

need met with abundance. Water from hard rocks . . . support and financial assistance from out of nowhere . . . spiritual growth in the staff and Board of Directors. I am humbled and excited to even dream of what God has planned for the next 6 years. And my God will meet all of your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

*Chris Truelove*



## Praiseworthy Partnerships

### **Allen's Air Care**

Allen's Air Care has over 20 years of locally-owned experience. Mike and Rhonda Allen began the business in 1992 to provide the residents of Rutherford County with exceptional heating and air conditioning service. Their goal: to provide dependable service at a reasonable rate. In 1999, Paul Wisdom came on board as secretary and Vice President of the company. The two men, coming from similar backgrounds of training, could boast training that began as far back as high school and growing from there to include work for the largest Nashville heating and cooling firm, gaining great expertise. Wisdom received a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and was called upon to sit on the educational committee for ARI (Air conditioning and Refrigeration Institute) in Washington, D.C. He has also submitted and reviewed submissions for the latest revision of *Modern Refrigerating and Air Conditioning*, a national textbook.

Allen's Air Care received the 2002 Town of Smyrna Parks & Recreation Small business Volunteer of the year Award, as well as Ed's Supply Co./ Heil Outstanding Achievement Award from 1996-1999. "I don't know why I am so taken with Special Kids," explains Wisdom, "but I have a place in my heart for the work that is going on there. All of us here have a certain tenderness toward kids and toward the underdog.

"I feel confident that when we give to Special Kids, our contribution is going to meet the children's needs!" exclaims Wisdom.

Give Allen's Air Care a ring this Fall for your seasonal check up at 615-459-2424.

### **Southeastern Tire Service**

Opening its doors on Bridge Avenue by the old railroad track in 1950, Southeastern Tire and Oil was founded by the late Roy Rowlette and Bill Crowder. After experiencing moderate growth the business split into Southeastern Tire and Southeastern Oil. At this time in 1960, Southeastern Tire moved to 316 N. Front Street off of Murfreesboro's Square. Rowlette became the sole owner. Nearing retirement in 1971, he sold the business to two young business men - Nelson Armstrong and Leonard Anderson. Through the 1970's, Southeastern Tire Service grew along with Murfreesboro. In Sept 1983, Nelson became sole owner, and the tire company experienced rapid growth in the decade ahead. As a result of this great growth, a large warehouse was built on Broad Street, from which the wholesale and retail store would be run out of beginning in 1990.

Southeastern Tire Service owes its growth and success to *many* supportive Rutherford County customers. In fact, from June 2003 to July 2004, those devoted customers purchase some 45,000 tires! The customers are patrons because of the quality, down-home service provided by the company's 18 staff members. And no one can resist southern hospitality in the form of a rocking chair, awaiting you in the lobby!

"Last year we were able to become Heritage Partners with Special Kids for the first time. We were so pleased with how our donation was used to support the programs that we decided to support Special Kids again this year," states General Manager Greg Armstrong. "It is an opportunity for Southeastern Tire to build community awareness about Special Kids," states Greg Armstrong. "Also our desire is to help a local, Christian organization."

For all of your tire needs, please call on the folks at southeastern tire Service at 1406 NW Broad Street, and tell them that you, too, are a supporter of Special Kids!



Special Kids Director Of Development, Morgan Bracy, accepting Heritage Partnership check from Southeastern Tire owner, Greg Armstrong.

