

## ADVENTURES AT WALDEN FARMS

On Oct. 4 the children from our skilled nursing program ventured out to Walden Farms in Smyrna. They spent half the day having an adventure of a life time.



First they wandered through a hay maze and took a tour of the farm by hay ride. Next they were off to the grain bin to play. Later they visited the petting zoo and spent time with miniature ponies, goats, pigs, and many other farm animals. During their picnic lunch, the children observed while the staff of Walden Farms fed two baby calves.

"It was fun in the hay maze," Cameron comments on his experience, "but it wasn't fun when I lost my glasses."

The children learned about the cycle of the pumpkin then picked out their very own pumpkin to take home. One of the most exciting events for the children was the hay ride. They sang songs and gasped at the special decorations as they toured the farm on the hay.

"It was fun to be together and sing songs," says Alexis, one of our recreational therapists in skilled nursing. "It was a good time of fellowship for us and the children." Alexis explained that the staff at Walden farms was extremely hospitable. They took extra time to give Special Kids a personal tour and were gracious to the children. Special Kids definitely plans to return to Walden Farms next year.

## A CORNELIUS CHRISTMAS

As in years past, we plan to have a Christmas giving program that involves the community in directly supporting the families of Special Kids. We have linked this program with Acts 10:1-4 because of the great example Cornelius is for all of us with his generous giving.

*Acts 10:1-4*

*At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God."*

Here at Special Kids we feel the effects of those who honor God and give to families with special needs. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

For the Cornelius Christmas program we encourage groups such as Sunday school classes, work teams, and various offices to sponsor a family in need during Christmas. Our family services department determines the specific needs of the families and then matches appropriate support groups. We work very hard to keep everything confidential and at the same time give generously to families in need.

"We are here to provide what families really need," says Claudia Benson, Family Service Coordinator. Special Kids makes an effort to provide necessities such as, coats, shoes, blankets, and other house hold needs. Families that are provided with Food Stamps sometimes have difficulty finding money for non food items. We encourage individuals and groups interested in giving to bring in gifts such as paper products, personal hygiene products, and gift cards for superstores such as Wal-Mart.

For any questions please contact Claudia or Ann in Family Services at 890-1003.

## GIRL SCOUTS HELP WITH EDUCATION AT SPECIAL KIDS



GIRL SCOUTS®

Special Kids Lending Library, a vision of Lead Speech Pathologist Susan Spires, is soon to be a great hit among the parents we serve. The purpose of the library is to provide resources for enlightening parents on their child's specific condition. Each book is an education tool for families with special needs. The books will soon be available for check out and will be accessible to all parents involved with Special Kids thanks to our dedicated volunteers.

The Girl Scout Cadette Troop #2840 chose the Lending Library as their Silver Award project. This is the highest award a Cadette Scout can earn. For this project they have devoted themselves to improving our Lending Library. Their troop funds purchased a bookcase and presented over 38 books to the library. The troop worked hard painting and decorating the quiet room for our library, providing parents with a relaxing space to enjoy their new resources.

The Lending Library is still under the process of completion but parents are enthused. "When I was bringing the new books in," says Sandy Harris, "One of the mothers got really excited and already picked out which book she wants to borrow first." Sandy Harris is Special Kids billing assistant and troop leader of the volunteer Girl Scouts. We plan to have the materials ready for lending by the mid of November.

If you would like more information about the Lending Library please contact Stephanie Hoffman, occupational therapist, at 890-1003.



## YEAR END GIVING BY THOMPSON AND ASSOCIATES

As this year comes to a close, you may be thinking about year-end planning. What you may not be thinking about is the amount of money you could save in tax deductions if you redirect some of your dollars to a not-for-profit of your choice. Thompson & Associates offers this advice as you begin to think about saving on your taxes.

Please remember the precious children here at Special Kids as you make your plans.

Thompson & Associates suggests that you think about giving in a gift of appreciated assets especially if you do not feel you can give in a dollar donation. Some options are as follows.

### **A Gift of Appreciated Assets**

**Securities** - Gifts of securities allows you to deduct from your taxes the fair market value of the gift even if you actually paid much less.

**Real Estate** - One of the most popular gifts is real estate. Reason being, you can take a deduction for the full fair market value of the gift, if you have held it more than a year. That means you can take a tax deduction based on today's prices even if you bought it for less.

For more information regarding other giving opportunities contact Len Weddle, Director of Resource Development at 890-1003.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS SUPPORT HOOFBEATS PROGRAM

We are offering Christmas cards again this year to help support Hoofbeats, our therapeutic riding program. The cards are uniquely designed by children at Special Kids. They are currently available and in exchange for a \$15 donation, you will receive a package of 20 cards and envelopes. The packages contain cards with four different designs. Money raised will go directly to the Hoofbeats program. These cards help us cover the cost of riding program and they are a great way for you to give unique Christmas cards this year.

We also offer other various greeting cards such as happy birthday, thank you, and get well.

The Hoofbeats program involves 35 Special Kids children in therapeutic riding. The children learn movement skills, responsibility, and daily life skills from the interaction with horses. There are almost 30 children still on the waiting list for this program. For the 2006 year we are planning to have four riding sessions to enable every child receive an opportunity to benefit from this program.

For any questions about Hoofbeats please contact Dana Bobo, CTRS program coordinator, at (615) 890-1003.

## PRAYER FOR SPECIAL KIDS

Please be in prayer for:

- Protection and healing for the precious children God has entrusted into our care.
- Jesus Christ to be glorified through His ministry and servants at Special Kids.
- Kathy J as she continues to struggle against TennCare to get the reimbursements that we have worked to earn as part of our contractual agreement.
- Protection of Special Kids through the changes in TennCare. They have approved some changes that could make it more difficult for us to receive reimbursements.

## KELLER WILLIAMS SPEAKING VOLUMES THROUGH GIVING TO SPECIAL KIDS

On Oct. 3, Keller Williams Realty hosted a live auction to benefit Special Kids. The realtors in the Murfreesboro office along with family and friends celebrated at B. McNeel's Restaurant in honor of their local office reaching over 100 employees. The event raised \$9,600 for the facility. Gifts such as trips to Gatlinburg and massages from Angels Crossing were auctioned off in order to raise money for Special Kids. Their office has established a great relationship with Special Kids.



**Debbie Flowers, team leader of Murfreesboro Keller Williams, first heard of Special Kids through a friend. After a tour through our facility the Fun and Giving Committee of Keller Williams adopted Special Kids for a fundraising event and chose to do the action. These dedicated Keller Williams realtors plan on raising much more for Special Kids through their KW Cares Program.**

The KW Cares program benefits charities nation wide. The KW Cares program is a public charity that raises money throughout the nation to benefit charities in communities where associates live, work, and play. Through this program Keller Williams has displayed their values of putting God first, family next, and then business.

This year KW Cares has raised over 3.5 million dollars in the United States for hurricane victims. Keller Williams's real estate agents are encouraged to designate a specific amount of their closings into a fund designated to Special Kids, a Katrina relief fund, and other charitable organizations. Keller Williams believes the more they give the more it comes back.

To find out more about Keller Williams and the KW cares program visit [www.kw.com](http://www.kw.com) and [www.kwcares.org](http://www.kwcares.org).



## WE CHERISH THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY

The support we receive from the community enriches our programs and helps us to ensure the utmost in quality care for God's precious children. Many thanks to all the private and corporate foundations that support our programs! Since July, the following foundations have provided continued support:

**Gannett Foundation**  
**Community Foundation for Middle Tennessee**  
**HCA Foundation**  
**Bridgestone/Firestone Foundation**

We also have been blessed with many organizations partnering with us for the first time. These foundations/corporations include:

**LifeWay Community Fund**  
**Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation**  
**AmSouth foundation**  
**Jim Blevins Foundation**  
**Springs Industry**

Thanks for investing in our kids and in our community!

## IT'S HERE! Team ASK Country Music Marathon



**Athletes for Special Kids**

We are already getting started for the Country Music Marathon. For those of you that are thinking about those terrible pounds you might gain during the holidays, we are offering an alternative.

As a Team ASK team member you will be coached and encouraged on exercise and diet. We will help you obtain the goal of running or walking the Country Music Half or Full Marathon on April 29th in honor of a Special Kids child.

Our informational meetings will be held as follows:

**Thursday November 17 6-7:30pm**  
Education Center at StoneCrest Medical Center

**Thursday December 1 6-7:30pm**  
Middle Tennessee Medical Center  
Bell Street Center-Hastings Conference Room

For more information about Team ASK please contact Stephanie Folkmann at 890-1003.

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## **REFLECTIONS**

Be the Moon!

This is not a directive that you will read in Scripture, but if you think about it for a moment, it should be applicable to a believer's life.

Although the moon does not produce light of its own, it does reflect the light from the sun. The moon provides light for us to see while it is dark. In the same manner, spiritually, we are called to "shine before men" (Matthew 5:16). Similar to the moon, how are we supposed to shine when we don't have the power to shine? As such, it is not our own light, but it is the Light from the Son that reflects off of us into the dark world for others to see the Way (John 8:12).

Some nights the moon is out of alignment and is not in the right position to reflect the sun. The same holds true in our daily lives as believers. There are times when we are out of place, we are disobedient or we are walking away from Him. When these things occur, we can't reflect the Light of Jesus Christ—we are out of position.

At Special Kids, Jesus Christ has called us to reflect His Light and His glory as we care for His children. God said, "Let light shine out of darkness." He made His Light shine in our hearts and gives us the knowledge of the glory in the face of Christ. It is the light of Jesus that shines at Special Kids and we are His moon.

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