

“Serving the Children of the World”

See our website at www.smithfieldkiwanis.org.

Kiwanis Club of Smithfield

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Smithfield Officers

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Bob Cole

President-Elect

Sherry Vincent

Vice President

Gerald Gwaltney

Treasurer

Amy Musick

Secretary

Beth Supko

Toy Store Project Another Huge Success



President Elect and Project Chair, Sherry Vincent, and member, Debbie Szalwinski, with all the toys for this year's Toy Store Project

Dec/Jan Programs

CHKD Physical Therapy—Shelley Canada Dec 17

Christmas Eve—No Meeting Dec 24

New Year's Eve—No Meeting Dec 31

IOW Bike and Ped Trails—Leah Dempsey Jan 7

TBD Jan 14

Peninsula Pilots—Jeffrey Scott Jan 21

TBD Jan 28

On December 8, the Smithfield Kiwanis Club distributed toys and books to parents of 300 of Isle of Wight County's most underserved children. This project requires a huge effort on the part of the project chair, project committee and the entire club.

The action begins in mid-October when letters are mailed to parents asking for each child's wish list. From there, Kiwanis volunteers shopped at the Target at Chesapeake Square Mall on two different days to ensure that each child receives three specific gifts that are on his or her wish list. The effort culminates on toy distribution day when, in one day, all of the parents converge on the Smithfield Center to pick up the toys and books for their children. This day of toy and book distribution takes the work of, essentially, all club members to tend the event in two hour increments.

The Smithfield Kiwanis Toy Store Project is different from other holiday toy drives in two distinct ways. First, the club raises funds from many club members, local businesses, and local individuals instead of asking for toy donations. This allows the club to shop for specific toys that the child has on his or her wish list, making it more personal. Second, the club asks that the parents not bring the children to distribution day, allowing the parents to provide the goodies to the children in accordance with their holiday traditions. In theory (and this editor believes, in "practice") the children never know that the toys came from anyone but Mom, Dad or maybe even Santa!!

Congrats to Sherry Vincent, Project Chair, and all members of the Kiwanis Club of Smithfield for a job superbly done!

Santa Came to Town!!



Club member, Carter Williams', granddaughter visits with Santa

On Saturday December 12, The Kiwanis Club of Smithfield held it's Annual Breakfast with Santa fundraiser project. The food was delicious and the fellowship was fun!! And the best part this year...NO LONG LINES!!!

This project is a huge undertaking and co-chairs, Sue Ivy and Melinda Williams did an awesome job in planning and getting all the supplies. The day of the event brought out many club members who cooked, served, cleaned and helped keep things on track. A big thank you goes out to our "elves", Smithfield High Key Club members who helped with the Santa photos and at the front door. It's always fun to see tomorrow's Kiwanians working side by side with our club members.

The final numbers aren't in yet, but suffice it to say this year's breakfast was another huge success !! This project is always a great way for our club to interact with our friends and neighbors.

Getting to Know...

Amy Musick

Amy lived in Mechanicsville, Virginia until she entered the fourth grade. Then she moved with her family to a small community in Smithfield on the James River called Rushmere Shores. She attended and graduated from Tidewater Academy in Wakefield, Virginia. Upon graduation she entered the US Army at the tender age of 17 and served for four years, earning her GI Bill for college. After the military, Amy decided to move back to Virginia. She attended Old Dominion University and graduated with a Bachelors in Communications, Film and Television in December 2000.

She embarked on a tv and film career with her first job being a production assistant (fancy title for camera operator) at WVEC Channel 13 in Norfolk. She then moved into making commercials at Metro Video Productions where she started off as a an administrative assistant and then became an assistant producer/director. This position had Amy traveling all over the US from Boston, Massachusetts to San Antonio, Texas. It was very exciting work but Amy had big dreams of working as a director in Hollywood. So she loaded up her Kia and headed west to the land of glitz and glamour. After a couple months, Amy soon realized she was one in a million looking to work in the movie business in Los Angeles. She once again headed back to Virginia and rolled her producing talents into the event industry. Her next job was working as a wedding event assistant at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. While working at the gardens, Amy soon found out that the town she grew up in now had an event venue called the Smithfield Center. She inquired about job openings there. It just so happened that the Smithfield Center was hiring for a receptionist. She was hired as a part time receptionist and six years later, she is now the director of the Smithfield Center.



Amy has had some pretty impressive milestones since she began working at the Center. She became engaged the day she was offered the job at the Center. She was married 6 months later and became a stepmom to two terrific kids, Dallas 15 and Maranda 11. Then she had her first baby, Aidan Murrill, this past July. She feels so lucky to work in the community where she lives and especially enjoys the volunteer work she does as a member of Kiwanis. "I've always admired those who give their time and talents to their communities and now I am able to do the same with the Kiwanis. It's very rewarding."

A New Fundraiser...We Need All Hands On Deck!!

At the December 10 club meeting, President Bob presented an additional fundraiser idea on which he asked the full membership who were present that day to vote—Spring Homearama Parking. This project provides the club with an opportunity to raise \$6,500—\$7,000 over a 17 day period by directing cars to appropriate parking places during the Tidewater Builders Association home show at Founder's Pointe. As was noted by several members, the club did a similar project to this a few years ago at Cypress Creek. The difference this year is that the club will not be responsible for collecting money, we are only responsible for directing cars.

It was stressed that this will be a very time-intensive project for the club. Over the course of the 17 days, it is recommended that we have four people per shift during the week and six people per shift on the weekends. When the Board initially reviewed this project, they decided to take a vote of the club membership because of the level of the commitment we will need from all club members.

After some great discussion of the pros and cons associated with this project, the club voted in favor of moving forward. The Homearama is May 7—23, listen for more details at upcoming club meetings.

The Prez Sez...

By Bob Cole

It's here again. Christmas! It brings with it reflection, joy and sympathy. For whatever the reasons, I "reflect" on Christmas days that have past me by. Many were spent on board ships flying airplanes somewhere around the world or sharing some local families Christmas dinner in a foreign country through a USO hook up. Where ever I ended up I tried to make the best of it and sometime during the day I would call my family at home in the good ole USA. I just remember many Christmas Days standing on a street corner in my uniform holding a poinsettia plant for the hostess, waiting for my ride to a stranger's home.

No matter where I celebrated Christmas it was an emotional experience reflecting on the "joy" of the birth of Christ. One Christmas Eve in a huge cathedral in Naples, Italy, as I gazed around the audience, it touched my heart that all of us that night shared the moment singing Christmas Carols in Italian.

Christmas has always been a time of reflection for me each year, looking back on the past, but also looking ahead to the coming of the joyous New Year. A fresh start!

As this holiday season approached, I found myself slowing down a bit and becoming more observant of those around me. I have genuine "sympathy" for our fellow men and women who find themselves going through a storm of life. It may be a home fire victim you read about in the paper, or the guy who just walked into my office looking for a job. It may have been the women who came by to pick up an early pay check for her family and was in obvious distress over funds. Have you noticed the homeless folks living in the woods on Battery Park Road?

We Kiwanians all do a great job with the Toy Store and Breakfast with Santa. I am very proud of our Kiwanis contributions to the community. But this year my deepest sympathy is especially felt for a mom and 3 year old daughter who lost their husband/dad to an all terrain vehicle accident. Dad broke his neck and died while riding a 4 wheeler. His name was Kevin and he worked on my house last year for about 4 months. He scraped, painted and repaired. He was talented at what he did and would go the extra mile for anyone. Gutter clogged with leaves? It wasn't Kevin's job, but there he was cleaning them out. There are examples way too many to relate here. Suffice to say this year my family has elected to donate some of our bounty to Kevin's family. We hope the gesture will be a small part in the healing process for them. I sincerely hope it helps to lift them out of reflection/sorrow and back into joy and an up lifted future. May God Bless you and your family during this very special season. Thanks for permitting me to share my thoughts. Bob