

Caring for Kids is an all volunteer organization helping kids in need in Lakewood, Steilacoom and University Place. We are a 501c3 through **the Exchange Club of Tacoma Foundation**.

### Caring for Kids Projects

- ♥The 2006 Holiday Fair helped 2,157 kids and their families with food and gift baskets.
- ♥The 2007 Ready to Learn Fair provided 1,467 kids with new and good used clothing, new school supplies, immunizations, vision and hearing screening, \$6 bike helmets, hygiene products, books to read and lunch. Free sports physicals were provided to secondary students.
- ♥The CFK Clothing Bank was established to provide free clothing to kids and their families in need. The clothes are distributed through schools and after school programs. In 2006 we helped 687 kids with clothing, hygiene products and shoes. The orders come from counselors, principals and family service workers for their students in need. Volunteers process the clothing at the Little Red School House and the packaged orders are delivered to the schools. Warm, decent clothing and shoes that fit are so important to a child's health and self-esteem. At the end of 2007 school year there were 335 homeless students just in Clover Park.
- ♥School supplies are purchased by CFK to provide free school supplies for approximately 600 kids a year. We also purchase dictionaries and thesauruses. Deodorant, toothpaste, flosses and toothbrushes are also provided through the school supply bank. The Life Skills Class at Lakes High School manages the CFK School Supply Bank, as part of their work-training program.
- ♥In 2006 we distributed 2,464 dental care kits to our kids in need. Each kit includes a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss with a loving reminder to brush and floss in the morning and at bed time.
- ♥In celebration of the NEA sponsored Read Across America on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, new books are distributed to Headstart and ECEAP (at-risk preschoolers) and some of the needier kindergarten students. In 2006 we purchased 1,000 books and gifts. The intent of the program is to encourage parents and students to read at home. In addition 3,000 more books were distributed through the rest of the year.
- ♥CFK Food Closets supply immediate emergency food to kids who are hungry. Our main food closet supplies emergency food to approximately 4 to 5 families a week. CFK helps the onsite school banks by providing shelving and food, when available.
- ♥We are currently working with Communities in Schools assembling Growing Up Is Fun Bags for preschool parents. The bags contain instructional materials and supplies to help parents prepare their kids for school. In 2006 we were able to distributed 1,464 bags.

♥Caring for Kids has a small cottage business selling **Caring for Kids Angels**. There are 5 volunteers who have worked hundreds and hundreds of hours to produce the angels for sale. They are totally handmade, even the hair, and sold for \$6.00 each. We have an angel for every occasion.

♥The Alfaretta House for special needs students is now running a balloon bouquet business for Caring for Kids. The business is called **Kids Helping Kids balloon bouquets**. They also assemble ABC necklaces for our Growing Up Is Fun Bags, and wash and sort linens. As another fundraiser they help us collect ink cartridges and cell phones.

♥Along with Lakewood First Lions Club and Communities in Schools we are also distributing furniture. The project is called **Furniture for Families**.

#### **List of Needs**

- ❖ **Monetary donations** to purchase socks, shoes, school supplies, pants, underwear, and hygiene products for the Clothing Bank.
- ❖ New clothing, gifts and money for the **Holiday Fair**
- ❖ New or good used **children's and young adult clothing**.
- ❖ New or good used **toys, stuffed animals and games**
- ❖ **School supplies**
- ❖ New or good used **books**
- ❖ Non-perishable **food** (especially meals in a can, peanut butter, tuna, etc.) for our on-site school food closets
- ❖ **Hygiene products** such as shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and dental floss (unused hotel amenities too)
- ❖ **Blankets, silverware, plates**
- ❖ **Glasses and hearing aides** (for the Lion's)
- ❖ **Auction items** for our dance in March
- ❖ **Anything Free** - we will find a place for anything free.

***For more information please contact:***

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