

## Caring Corner



Carol Ramiccio

As we prepare for the upcoming Zone Conferences, I'm reminded of the awesome service that the Florida District provides to our Service Leadership programs. Do you know that the revenues raised from the *Caring Corner* go directly to our Leadership programs?

I am asking each club to donate a gift basket to the *Caring Corner*. This will ensure the overall success of the *Caring Corner* and instill a sense of pride that your club played a key role in helping our sponsored youth. We will still accept quality hand-made items, however, NO used items. We want to improve the quality of the items for sale. I'm sure someone in your club is great at making something special!

Each year, Past First Ladies Aggie Albright and Elizabeth Storey contribute their "Special" contribution. For example, Aggie makes several dozen jars of her famous "Pepper Jelly," and they sell out in the first ten minutes of the sale. Elizabeth works hard all year long crocheting an Afghan for our live auction, along with several other hand-made items. I'm sure there are a lot of talented Kiwanians who can make something special. Think of that special item that you can contribute. I'll be donating one of my hand-made scrap booking albums.

I'm excited about the future of Kiwanis because *you* are involved.

## Highlight: First Lady's Project

### First Lady's Project - Hats /Hugs Distribution

During the Christmas season, members of The Kiwanis Club of Kendall South Dade partook in the First Lady's project of hats/hugs.

#### Project #1 Hugs Project

On December 5, 2008 members of KCKSD met at the Juvenile Courts in Miami, Florida to distribute Teddy Bears. The main objective of this program is to comfort a child going through traumatic times such as an adoption, separation or loss of parent or both, with a Teddy Bear.

We were greeted by the Director of Juvenile Courts Operations, Ms. Maria Wolley-Larrea who gave us an overview of the difficulties these children endured.

We then met with two of the judges, General Magistrate Karen Kallman, and Judge Roger Silver, who assist in giving the Teddy Bears to children in need of a "hug".

Thirty one Teddy Bears in all were donated that day. The judges were ecstatic at the enthusiasm displayed and hoped for the continued support in this effort. After leaving the premises we realized that this has to be an on-going project to make a difference in a child's life.



A child shows his joy after receiving his hat and teddy bear at the Miami Children's Hospital

#### Project #2 Hats Project

On December 12, 2008, members of KCKSD visited with Children in the Miami Children's Hospital Hematology and Oncology Department.

We took approximately 80 hats and 10 Teddy Bears to the wards and distributed them to those children with whom we shared time. The remaining supplies were donated to the hospital to be distributed to other children.

The children and the Administrative staff were very thankful for the Teddy Bears and hats. We plan to visit them again.



The Hospital coordinator is seen receiving the hats from Director Curzon and Dist. Chair Dawn for the patients

#### Project #3 Hands on Miami

On December 13, 2008 KCKSD members, Dawn Campbell, Diana Morrell and Curzon Thompson delivered over 200 unwrapped gifts and 30 Teddy Bears to St. Sophia Greek

Orthodox Church. The gifts will benefit migrant workers, women with HIV/AIDS, women who suffer from domestic abuse and children served by the YMCA in Liberty City. Hands on Miami acknowledged that they targeted over 5000 children during this Christmas season.



General Magistrate Karen Kallman & Director Maria Larrea receive the teddy bears

