

Miss Ruby's Kids

The Miss Ruby's Kids program is named in honor of Mrs. Ruby Forsythe

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Piggly Wiggly assistant store manager Judy Sweitzer holds Tanasia Johnson, one of Miss Ruby's Kids, while her mother Jacqueline looks on.

Angel Tree benefits families

More than 100 gifts for the 15 Miss Ruby's Kids and their family members filled shopping carts to overflowing at the Litchfield Piggly Wiggly this Christmas. A good and generous neighbor, the store once again sponsored an Angel Tree, encouraging gifts to benefit a local non-profit organization.

Program Director Betsy Marlow happily accepted the store's offer to dedicate this year's tree to Miss Ruby's Kids: "I was thrilled to get Judy Sweitzer's call," and am overwhelmed by the wonderful response!"

Gifts were delivered to program families during Christmas week. Miss Ruby's Kids warmly thanks Piggly Wiggly and the generous members of our Pawleys Island community for the Christmas cheer they made possible for our families in 2004.

Friends of MRK

The Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids was conceived in September 2004 with the dual purposes of creating community awareness of and building financial support for this exciting early childhood education program. In its first outreach effort, the Friends, co-chaired by Eleanor (Pixie) Kubeck and Nancy Bride, sent a December

membership appeal to local friends sharing information about the program and asking for contributions. As we go to press, the results of our mailing have been most gratifying, with gifts in excess of \$4,700 received.

New members who responded to our letter are: Ruthenia Alston, Linwood & Nancy Altman, Ellie Armstrong, George & Betty Asnip, Kristin & Michael Bohan, Nancy R. Boyle, Nancy Bride, Daniel & Barbara Call, Zelma Carr, James Chapman, Stephen Chapman, Audrey Christensen, Babe Cone, William & Shirley Conner, the Episcopal Diocese of S.C., Frank Fisher, Connie Furrer, Ruth & Wharton Gaul, Robert & Shirley Graham, Lucille Grate, Mary Ella Greene, James & Elizabeth Herbert, Nancy Hopkinson, Jim & Molly Huntoon, Ron & Judy Ingle, Robert & Suzanne Jayroe, Lillie Jean Johnson, Ann Knight, Tom & Judy Koltak, John & Gertrude Kramer, Kenneth & Joan Kreikemeier, Pixie & Tom Kubeck, William & Cynthia Lapworth, Zeb & Nancy Lawhon, Katrina Lawrimore, Patricia Liphardt, Paul & Barbara Logan, Faye Marlow, T. Chandler Martin, Ericka McCants, Talicia McCants, Mr. & Mrs. A.D. McWhorter, Margaret Moran, Anne Moreland, Melvin Nauss, Jim Oates, Robert & Barbra Ottinger, Levonne Powell, Alberta Quattlebaum, Vervatine Reid, Janet Blair Reown, Anne & Patrick Rogers, Ronald & Jean Runkle, Cliff & Harriett Rusch, Tony Salerno, Philis Sarto, Paul & Susan Scheno, Jessie Singletary, Gregory & Marsha Smith, Leon & Annette Spangler, Jim & Margaret Stallings, John Trotter, Jill Waring, Rosa O. Williams, Marvin & Kathleen Wilson, and Alice Young. **Honorariums:** Cleo & Wyatt Clark Miller by John & Barbara Miller, Kevin & Mary Prince by Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Prince, Elaine & Pete Banner and Mona & Bill Panttaja by George Meighen. **Memorials:** Lucienne Marlow, Irene and John H. Steele.

Friends receive quarterly newsletters, invitations to special events, and access to volunteer opportunities. Community workshops on early childhood education and fun educational strategies for parents will be a primary objective of this group in 2005. If you're not already a Friend, please consider joining us – and let *your* friends and neighbors know about how Miss Ruby's Kids is making a positive difference in the lives of Georgetown County children.

Miss Ruby's Kids is sponsored by Baskervill Outreach at Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church. Our mission is to enable families lacking in resources to inspire a passion for learning in their young children by preparing parents to be their child's first, best teacher.

Building early math skills

Early math skills are not only critical to ensuring that children enter school with the tools they need to be successful students; they are also the basis for developing logical thought processes. Children who understand basic mathematical concepts are better able to see the connection between objects and ideas, thereby also developing reading and comprehension skills.

The Miss Ruby's Kids program fosters early math skills throughout its 2-year curriculum. How do our Home Visitors approach math with 2 and 3-year old children? Playing with blocks teaches them to sort and label shapes and develop spatial reasoning. Special toys help them learn patterns and reinforce their ability to count. Putting together elementary puzzles shows them how individual shapes fit together to form a whole.

The important thing on which Home Visitors and participating families agree is that numbers and math concepts should be fun for the children and easily related to their everyday surroundings. Showing children how they can use math in their daily lives and engaging all of their senses will cultivate in them an eagerness to learn and a genuine appreciation for mathematics.

The Parent-Child Home Program, of which Miss Ruby's Kids is a replication, has a 40-year long track record of developing successful math skills even in 2-year-old children. We invite you to learn more about Miss Ruby's Kids and early childhood learning on the **News** page of our website.

Books, books, books

Program families recently received some beautiful children's books from Vickie Crafton, co-owner of Litchfield Books in Pawleys Island. Thanks too, Vickie, for support in ordering curriculum books!



Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church
Miss Ruby's Kids
PO Box 990
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Grants awarded

MRK is happy to announce that it has received two grants this fall. The program received a \$10,000 open grant from the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation and a \$10,000 Good Samaritan grant from the Sisters of Charity. Both grants are for operating expenses, which along with other donations will carry the program through August 2005.

Leadership and staff

Join us in welcoming new Steering Committee members Nancy Bride, Molly Huntoon, and Sarah Wilson. We are also proud to announce four new Home Visitors: Zelma Carr, Lucille Grate, Marva Riley and Alice Young. Zelma and Marva are retired teachers, Lucille recently retired from the Hammock Shop, and Alice retired from the Pawleys Island Post Office.

We are blessed to have enthusiastic leadership and a dedicated, experienced staff people who can guide us in our program and family recruitment efforts.

How can we help you?

We want to hear from you. Contact these people with your questions, suggestions or referrals.

Program	Betsy Marlow	235-3031
Donations	Jo Fortuna	237-9116
Volunteers	Valerie Cole	237-9962
Newsletter	Pixie Kubeck	237-4611

Email - pchp@en-visions.com

Online - www.missrubyskids.net

Coming in our March newsletter:

- Kudos to the Florence, SC program
- Profile of a Home Visitor
- More about our "Friends" and their plans

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