

# Miss Ruby's Kids

*Helping parents to inspire a passion for learning in their children*

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## Save the Date - Sweetheart Party

As Valentine's Day approaches, Miss Ruby's Kids has, once again, scheduled a party to honor and thank the many *Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids*, whose gifts of time, talent, and treasure have made our work this past year so successful.

On Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 p. m. , our *Friends* are invited to Hobcaw House, former home of financier and diplomat Bernard Baruch, for an afternoon of sociability, refreshments, and a brief program. Board member Lee Brockington will present a brief history of Hobcaw Barony and introduce one of the plantation's former residents. Board Chair Jo Fortuna will unveil a new Miss Ruby's Kids video, and Executive Director Betsy Marlow will share a progress report on program activities and introduce one of the participating families.

We hope that many of our *Friends* will join us for this "sweetheart" celebration. Please call the office at **527-8560** to let us know you'll be there. ♥

## A Special Christmas for Miss Ruby's Kids

Christmas, 2006, was the third year that the Litchfield Piggly Wiggly sponsored the Angel Tree, once again dedicated to the children and families in the Miss Ruby's Kids program. Special thanks go to store manager Tim Smith and Angel Tree coordinator Judy Sweitzer for their interest and support. More than



*Linda Beale, author, and Judy Sweitzer, Pawleys Piggly Wiggly Angel Tree coordinator, preview one of the personalized books Linda created for each of Miss Ruby's Kids program children.*

150 gifts, contributed by members of the Pawleys Island community, were distributed to the program's families.

Among this year's Christmas gifts to the children were *personalized* Sesame Street books, in which each child is the hero or heroine of the story and her own home and neighborhood the setting in which the story takes place. These very special Christmas books were the gift of Linda Beale, one of our valued *Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids*.

## 2007 wish list

Betsy and Jamie's "wish list" for the office is just one item. They are hoping that a *Friend* of Miss Ruby's Kids who reads this newsletter will have available -and be willing to donate: a secretary's desk in good condition. If you have such a desk to offer the program, please call Betsy or Jamie at 527-8560.

## New Staff Members



*Miss Ruby's Kids proudly introduces our newest staff members: Left to right, Jamie Bromell, Administrative Assistant, Carolyn McBride and Claudia Blanchette, Home Visitors.*

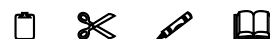
Two new Home Visitors and an Administrative Assistant to Executive Director Betsy Marlow joined the staff of Miss Ruby's Kids in January. A generous grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation made it possible for the program to hire a full time administrative staff person and an additional Home Visitor who will be working with Latino children and their families. The second Home Visitor was hired to because of the increase in the number of families served from 17 in 2006 to 25 in 2007.

**Jamie Bromell**, our new Administrative Assistant, is the smiling face you will encounter on a visit to our Front Street office. Jamie's duties include getting office files and materials in order, updating computer forms, preparing and creating materials needed by the Executive Director for workshops or home visits, handling the many phone calls that come in daily, and overall office management. Jamie has a bachelor's in marketing from Coastal Carolina University and experience in various local businesses.

**Carolyn McBride** is a native of Washington state but came to Pawleys Island with her husband three years ago from New York. Carolyn's academic training focused on education and child development. She also has valuable expertise gained through her years as a professional social worker. Currently visiting 8 families, Carolyn is helping Miss Ruby's Kids extend its outreach, thereby fulfilling its mission of reaching children in all areas of Georgetown County.

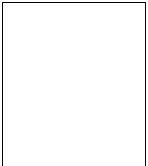
**Claudia Blanchette**, our new bilingual Home Visitor, lives in Pawleys Island with her husband and two children: one a preschooler and one in kindergarten. Born in Colombia, South America, Claudia grew up in Connecticut. As a teenager, she vacationed in Myrtle Beach and determined to return here to live as an adult. She obtained her Early Childhood Certificate from Horry-Georgetown Technical College and worked at a child care center in Myrtle Beach before joining the staff of Miss Ruby's Kids. Claudia is in the process of enrolling 5 new Latino families and has already begun her home visits.

These three new faces at Miss Ruby's Kids are living proof that the program is growing and pursuing its vision to serve every Georgetown County child who qualifies for the Parent Child Home Program, of which we are a part.





**Miss Ruby's Kids**  
PO Box 1007  
Georgetown, SC 29442



## Leading Toddlers to Literacy

### Thank you Friends!\*\*

Thank you Friends, for becoming new members or renewing your membership since October and for your volunteer work. We are also grateful to those who remembered and honored friends and family with gifts to **Miss Ruby's Kids**.

Special donors and foundations: Alan Altman, Linwood Altman, Alan & Billie Houghton, L.E. and Jan Jones, Harold & Claudia Stowe, and the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation and Georgetown County United Way.

Jack Bame, Linda Beale, Susan Benati, Carolyn Berry, Kathie Bestic, Carol Bolin, Nancy Boyle, John Bracken, Lonnie Brewington, Johanna Brown, Alan Burrell, Valerie Calderbank, Robin Calderon, Jill Callahan, Anne Chandler, James Chandler, James Chapman, William Clancy, Albert Clark, Valerie Cole, Karen Collins, Babe Cone, Cecelia Cook, William Crimmins, Dorothy D'ambrosio, Bonnie Decker, Sandi Dent, Lang Donkle, Carol DuBois, Sharon DuMont, Amaryllis Duvall, and

George Ermentrout, Marla Fabian, Betty Farley, M.P. Ferris, Thomas Flanagan, Anne H. Floyd, Mary Floyd, Jo Fortuna, Beattie Friday, Eleanor Friday, Wharton Gaul, Edith Gaylord, Barbara Gibson, Nancy Gibson, Sarah Gillespie, Phyllis Goldnetz, Lois Graham, Katherine Gramet, Mary Ella Greene, Pleshette Greggs, Jim Hall, June Hard, W. Scott Henderson, Leora Hileman, Jane Hinton-Smith, Jane Holloway, Nancy Hopkinson, Harriet Hostetler, Richard Hull, Molly Huntoon, and

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Sarto, Susan Scheno, Carol Schnitzlein, Anita Schumacher, Fred Schwerer, Lois Scott, Lee Simmons, William Skilton, Freda Skirvin, Catherine Slattery, Ann Smith, Carol Smith, Gregory Smith, Eileen Snell, Leon Spangler, Becky Sparrow, Peggy Stahlberger, Margaret Stallings, Jeane Steele, Amy Steuer, Andrea Suydam, Ella Thomas, Celie Travis, Jenkins Trotter, Mabel Vervaat, Fritz Vinson, Martha Wahl, Jill Waring, Marjorie Watson, Howard Weigel, Beth Wiley, Margaret Wilson, Marvin Wilson, Patricia Wilson, and

Business Networking International, Holy Cross ECW, Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church, Martha's House, Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club, Pawleys Island Rotary Club, Litchfield Books, Reserve Nine Holers, and Service Over Self.

**\*\*Donor spouses, please know that we know you are involved in your family's charitable giving decisions; however, lack of space did not allow an expanded listing in this issue of the newsletter.**

### Did you know?

You can make gifts to Miss Ruby's Kids to honor friends or family members on special occasions or gifts in memory of a loved one. What could be nicer than to honor your friend with a hostess gift of a donation that changes lives in lieu of bottle of wine? Your small gifts can make a world of difference to program children. For instance:

\$10 = a toy box (actually, a large storage container)

\$15 = a book or toy that will be used during a home visit

\$20 = a backpack for a "graduate"

\$30 = pays for two home visits

We acknowledge your gift or we can supply you with special cards and envelopes to use. Send your check to Miss Ruby's Kids, PO Box 1007, Georgetown, SC 29442. Don't hesitate to call if you need more information: 527-8560.

### Got friends or time to share?

Do you have friends who might be interested in learning about Miss Ruby's Kids? Think they'd enjoy knowing about Learners for All Seasons or volunteering? Just give us a call and we will send them a brochure and the latest newsletter; call 527-8560.

We have opportunities for volunteers who are interested in helping with parent literacy workshops, mailings, event planning and are planning ways to support our "graduates" by forming tutoring teams at local elementary schools.