

# Miss Ruby's Kids

Helping parents to inspire a passion for learning in their children

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## 2006 Annual Report

The October issue of the newsletter will again be devoted to our organization's Annual Report to all the supporters and *Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids*. Once again we have been blessed by extraordinary support from individuals, foundations and local organizations and businesses.

The past year has been an epic journey for **Miss Ruby's Kids**. It included moving the office twice from its original home on the campus of Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church to a temporary office lent by the Georgetown County United Way and, finally, to our new office at 829 Front Street in Georgetown. Along the way the organization was incorporated and received recognition from the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity. Those physical and organizational moves, coupled with an active Board of Directors, positions **Miss Ruby's Kids** well to reach children throughout Georgetown County.

## 2005-2006 program review

Plans were made to have a total of 20 families in the 2005-2006 program year. However, things began and ended unevenly with some second year children returning late, one family moving away, and two first year families dropping out. The year ended with 17 families served for a majority of the year and eight of the ten children graduating who had begun the program two years before.

In a program as intense as is **Miss Ruby's Kids**, where parents must allow outsiders into their home twice a week for two years, it is inevitable that some families will be unable or unwilling to complete the two years. In recognition that such losses are bad for the program and worse for the children, a special private grant was obtained to provide orientation and enrichment for program families as well as training and orientation for new employees and volunteers.

## 2006-2006 Beach Day Kickoff

That special grant has already provided three orientation sessions for new families and a Beach Day Kickoff at Huntington Beach State Park on Saturday, October 7th. The Kickoff was a huge success with 13 new and returning families participating despite the blustery weather.



Activities at the park's education center included making fish print t-shirts, feeding fish and a baby alligator, touring the tanks and exhibits of sea and beach creatures and lunch.

Program children received **Miss**

**Ruby's Kids** t-shirts, and the families received a bag of household items donated by local businesses and the volunteers who stuffed the bags. More enrichment programs are planned during the program year.

## High average test scores continue

As you learned in an earlier newsletter, exit scores on nationally-normed tests administered to program children following the two year curriculum continue to average above the target 50<sup>th</sup> percentile norm. The average pre-program rank was in the 22<sup>nd</sup> percentile on the Test of Early Language Development for the eight students who graduated this year while their average exit was 69%. Those astonishing gains and anecdotal evidence from educators who now have program graduates in pre-K classes predict future success.

## Financial information

Local grantors continued their support with substantial gifts from the Bunnelle Foundation followed by the PSARAS Foundation, the Georgetown United Way, a Clemson/Bunnelle Compassion grant, the Houghton Family Fund and the Stowe Family Fund. Support from individuals rose again thanks to the *Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids*. Contract income for *Storyteller* parent literacy workshops done for First Steps supplied the balance of income. Actual income for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 was \$62,595 - 98% of budget; expenses were \$65,955 - 94% of budget.

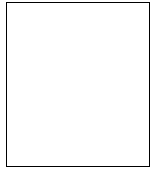
FY 2006 Actual		
Income	Total	%
Grants	\$33,500	54
Individuals and Other	\$23,219	37
Contract – First Steps	\$5,876	9
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$62,595</b>	
Expenses		
Operating Expense	\$17,494	27
Program Expense	\$38,272	58
Contract Expense	\$2,450	4
Grant Expense	\$7,739	12
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$65,955</b>	

## The year to come

A three year, \$90,000 grant from the Sisters of Charity and Bunnelle Foundation grants of \$10,000 and \$18,000 will allow Miss Ruby's Kids to expand the program to serve 25 families, up from 19 last year, by providing operating support and growing the staff. Five of those families will be in the county's growing Hispanic Community. A pilot effort to leverage the reach of the program's teaching techniques will begin in local child development centers. After school mentoring/tutoring pilot projects with the library, public schools and Habitat for Humanity will continue and expand with the goal to continue support for program graduates and others.



**Miss Ruby's Kids**  
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## Leading Toddlers to Literacy

### Learners For All Seasons

*Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids* sponsored the first in a series of **Learners for all Seasons** talks, led by local historian and storyteller Lee G. Brockington, last spring. The talks are "friend raisers" to spread the word about *Miss Ruby's Kids* and encourage support for the program from people interested in improving the quality of education available to local children and their families in the Georgetown community.

On Monday, November 6, and again on Thursday, November 9, at 9:30 a.m., Lee will return to the Parish Hall of Holy Cross Faith Memorial Church (a.k.a. *Miss Ruby's School*) to present the second lecture in the **Learners for All Seasons** series. This time, Lee will train her sights beyond Georgetown County to take in the whole state of South Carolina. Her subject, "From the Mountains to the Sea: A Mini-History of South Carolina," will give those of us who hear her a taste of the extended course she will teach as part of Coastal Carolina's schedule of adult education classes during the upcoming winter term.

To keep you informed about the role that **Miss Ruby's Kids** plays in improving children's educational outlook, Lee's talk will be followed by a brief program update, including new initiatives, successful outreach and collaborative efforts, and emerging opportunities for volunteer service. We hope to welcome many of you "Friends" who receive this newsletter to our November **Learners for All Seasons** presentations!

### Thank you Friends!

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

Martha Allison, Amy Armstrong, Linda Beale, Ethel Bellamy, Susan Benati, Kathie Bestic, Wachesaw Book Club, Nancy Boyle, Nancy Bride, Wannetta Bridges, Lee G. Brockington, Anna Bula, Sarah Clemmons, Valerie Cole, Bonnie Lee Decker, Amaryllis Duvall, Anne H. Floyd, Mary Floyd, Jo Fortuna, Pamela Gardner, Kathy Gaskill, Susan Geiger, Nancy Gibson, Patty Griffith, Helen Haendle, Thomas Hale, Rose Red Hatters, Ella Henderson, Louise L. Heroux, Martha Huguenin, Minnie Kennedy, Lillie Jean Johnson, Bud and Jan Jones, Joan Kreikemeier, Eleanor

Kubeck, Bette Lachicotte, Brandy Madden, Helen Madden, Betsy Marlow, Liz Moore, Marcia Nellos, D'Ann O'Donovan, Toni Pennington, Teresa Peterson, Lester Pittman, Alberta Quattlebaum, Maudest Rhue-Scott, James Rider, Ronald Runkle, Frances Saylor, Anita Schumacher, Carol Smith, Beverly Smith, Cameron Speth, Pat Strickland, Shelia Sullivan, David Tedrow, Christine Thompson, Joyce Tolan, John Trotter, Joanne Urso, Ellen Watt, Rosa. Williams, Sue Zeddun.

Thanks also to the volunteers and organizations that helped us in various ways recently: Sue Benati, Lonnie Brewington, Jan Devereux, Mary Floyd, Bud and Jan Jones, Pat Lowery, Cassondra McNamara, Kate Scefones, Marty Tennant, Matt Trask, Celie Tyson, John Wilson, All Saints Church, Bethesda Baptist Church, the Boy Scouts, Georgetown Presbyterian Church, Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown Library, Georgetown United Way, Precious Blood Catholic Church, Rose Red Hatters, Sasee Magazine, Teacher's Heaven, and Wachesaw Book Club.

### Lady in Red

Joyce Tolan wanted something fun to do. She lost her husband soon after she moved to South Carolina in 1999. Then she read a newspaper article about the Red Hat Society and that was the start of the Rose Red Hatters of Pawleys Island led by Joyce and joined by 26 neighbor ladies.

Though the Red Hat motto states, "If it ain't fun, we're not doin' it," Joyce's chapter decided that once a year they would donate to a worthy cause in the community. This year, the Rose Red Hatters of Pawleys Island co-hosted a Red Hat Appreciation Night with Dillard's for the 200 + Myrtle Beach Red Hat Chapters that netted \$561 for **Miss Ruby's Kids**.

Miss Ruby's continues to grow because of people like Joyce, who recognizes the benefits for our children of educating parents in early literacy techniques. Thank you Joyce, the Rose Red Hatters of Pawleys Island and Dillard's!



*Joyce devotes an entire room to Red Hat regalia at J&J Antiques in Murrells Inlet*