



Miss Ruby's Kids

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

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2005 Annual Report

We are proud to produce this Fall Newsletter which is, in large part, our organization's first Annual Report to all the supporters and *Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids*. Thanks to your financial support and volunteer efforts, **Miss Ruby's Kids** has grown and flourished during the 2004-2005 program year. Following are some highlights we thought you should know about:

Test scores soar

Nationally-normed testing reveals program's value

With our first graduating class we have our first two-year program test results. These results are compared to those achieved by children of the same age across the United States. We administer the tests before the program begins and again at its conclusion, measuring each child's progress toward the norm – the 50th percentile. The tests measure each child's auditory comprehension and verbal communication.

With only 5 children, our sample is, of course, small. In addition, two of our children, because of their parents' work schedule, received only one home visit a week instead of the "normal" two. As would be expected, the children who received the optimal program progressed dramatically, moving from the 33rd percentile at the beginning of the program to the 68th percentile – a startling 200% improvement. The scores of the children who received fewer visits also improved, moving from the 12th to the 19th percentile, a 58% improvement. Happily, one of these children is now attending a special full-year, half-day program in the school district.

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To monitor the children's progress more closely, we decided last year to test our first year children at the end of their first year and adjust our program delivery as needed. Again, we found impressive improvement. Ten children began the program in 2004; one child moved away and another refused to be tested. Scores of the eight remaining children moved from the 23rd to the 53rd percentile.

These concrete results are gratifying to the **Miss Ruby's Kids** staff and Steering Committee. The Home Visitors are often so involved with their day-to-day activities that they don't see the overall picture. They know "their" children have made progress; *now* they can see the objective measure of that progress.

2005 program year to start with 20 children

We're Growing! Twelve more children will become Miss Ruby's Kids this fall, joining the 8 who completed the 2004-2005 program year.

When we launched **Miss Ruby's Kids** in September 2003, we enrolled 5 children. Last September 10 more students were added and the original 5 "graduated." We are excited to report that four of these graduates now participate in the Georgetown school district's 4-year-old, pre-kindergarten program. The fifth child, too young to enter pre-K, will start next year. Rather than the 10 children we originally budgeted for and had expected to recruit, this year's "freshman" class will include 12 children. These added children replace two who moved away after beginning the program last year.

Betsy Marlow, our Program Director, and her six Home Visitors will have a happy, if somewhat frantic, year. Because the Parent Child Home Program (of which **Miss Ruby's Kids** is a replication) is a research-based program, our activities must be carefully documented. For the families alone this year, we will generate 1,600 forms and records and deliver 460 books and toys. The Program Director and Home Visitors will make 920 home visits. They will spend about 1,265 hours doing visits and associated paperwork, plus another 322 hours in staff meetings. It is a lot to "say grace over" – but what a hugely important result!

*Because we estimate that 300 children are born each year in Georgetown County who would qualify for this kind of intensive early intervention, we aspire to deliver our program to **40** families within the next five years. With South Carolina ranking lowest in the nation in its percentage of high school graduates, we have to start somewhere!*

Highlights – in brief

Staff Development

- ? During the 2004-2005 program year, six Home Visitors and the Program Director made 667 home visits, delivered 334 books and toys, and put in 918 hours doing visits and associated paperwork.
- ? Six Home Visitors received 16 hours of program training before beginning the 2004-2005 year and 4 hours of review prior to the current program year.
- ? The Program Director, 6 Home Visitors, and Steering Committee Chair met weekly for 2-hour staff meetings – about 368 hours for the 2004-2005 program year.
- ? The **Miss Ruby's Kids** Steering Committee completed a year-long training schedule developed by Clemson University's South Carolina Rural Communities Compassion Project. The training is designed to build organizational structure and stability needed to develop financial sustainability.
- ? The Program Director and Steering Committee Chair completed the 9-month Non-Profit Leadership Institute at Francis Marion University.
- ? The Program Director completed Positive Parenting Program (levels 2 and 3) training and Successful Workshops I and IV.
- ? The Program Director and Steering Committee Chair attended two 2-day "best practices" conferences sponsored by South Carolina Association of Non Profit Organizations (SCANPO) and the Parent Child Home Program.

Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids

- ? The **Friends of Miss Ruby's Kids**, a supporting membership network, was launched with a fall 2004 mailing, followed by a Valentine's Day mailing. The mailings and memorials by Dr. Arthur Madden's family netted a total membership of 188.
- ? During the Christmas season the **Friends** decorated a Hospice Angel Tree and assisted with the Litchfield Piggly Wiggly Angel Tree.
- ? The **Friends** have applied for a grant to subsidize grant writing and fundraising projects, as well as a membership appreciation event and future community awareness meetings.
- ? The **Friends** expertise and local newspapers' follow-through netted great program coverage in the *Coastal Observer*, the *Georgetown Times* and *The Sun News*.

Financials

We have had an interesting year as regards the

budget. On the downside we will likely exceed budgeted expenses. On the upside, we expect income to be over budget as well, more than offsetting expenses. Please see the expanded budget figures and narrative presented later in this document.

Miss Ruby's kids to partner with "First Steps"

The Georgetown County office of South Carolina's "First Steps" program has invited **Miss Ruby's Kids** to collaborate with its Centers of Excellence, four of the county's child care centers. The Centers, Little Smurfs in Andrews, Sampit Daycare, Rainbow Child Care in Oatland, and Pawleys Island Child Care, will function as resource teacher preparation programs. Our participation involves offering 3 parent education workshops for each center at intervals throughout the coming school year. After meeting with staff members from each center to develop a fall schedule, we will launch the workshops in October, using our staff members and volunteers as presenters.

During the first workshop, we will review the materials parents will receive and describe how these are to be used. We will also talk about and view a video showing reading techniques. The second workshop will emphasize reading techniques with "hands on" practice. The third workshop will focus on using learning techniques with toys. In May, we will celebrate and honor the participating families with a reception at the Pawleys Island Child Care Center.

Our project is named *The Storyteller* to honor our area's rich oral tradition – and to remind the parent participants that some of the best lessons children learn are through family stories. We will demonstrate to parents that they *do* have resources to offer their children, even though their own school experiences may have been either limited or negative. *Parents – not impersonal experts – are their child's best teacher!*

The parents who complete these workshops will understand that the foundation for success in school and in life is communication and reading – and that these begin at home. We will encourage them either to begin or increase reading to their children, to complete a literacy plan, and to assess and encourage their own literacy awareness.

Miss Ruby's Kids will provide each center with a limited number of books to be used as their "lending library" and a toy for each family. Families will also receive guide sheets for using books and toys with their children, as well as age-appropriate lists of books and toys they can purchase. Journals containing tips for "Happy Reading" will be distributed so that parents can record the titles of books they have read as a family.

This partnership with Georgetown County "First

Steps” is just one more indication of the way in which **Miss Ruby’s Kids** is growing and bringing to all parts of Georgetown County the important message that learning begins when a child’s eyes first open and that an enthusiasm for learning is the key to success and fulfillment in life.

Program wish list

From time to time we have wishes to fulfill program needs. We would be grateful for any of the following:

- ? A sturdy 4-drawer file cabinet.
- ? Various inexpensive new toys suitable for children 2 to 5 years old, meal coupons, or family items to be used as door prizes for parent workshops
- ? A recommendation for a media specialist
- ? A subscription to a local newspaper for each of the families of our recent program graduates

Home Visitor Barbara Logan

This the first in a series of interviews featuring the Home Visitors who are the engine of the Miss Ruby’s Kids program.



Barbara and Paul Logan are lifelong educators

When **Miss Ruby’s Kids** was launched in October 2003, Barbara Logan signed on as one of the three original Home Visitors (along with Beth Wiley and Betsy Marlow, who doubled as the program’s director). A colleague of Betsy’s on the Waccamaw Elementary School faculty before her

retirement, Barbara saw **Miss Ruby’s Kids** as a natural extension of her own commitment to expanding educational opportunities for Georgetown County’s youngest students

A graduate of Morris College in Sumter, SC, Barbara received her Master’s Degree in Education from the University of South Carolina. She married husband Paul, a fellow educator, in 1964 and taught for one year in Florence County before moving to Georgetown and beginning a 30-year teaching career, first at Beck, Kensington, and , Kensington, and Parkersville Elementary Schools, and then at Waccamaw Elementary School when it opened in the late 1970’s. Along the way the Logans had a daughter who lives in Dorchester County with their grandson. She retired in 1995. Before his retirement, Paul taught social studies, economics and government and served as an administrator at Waccamaw High School. Although Barbara taught all six elementary grades at one time or another, her

concentration was on the earliest years, grades 1 through 3.

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

– Barbara and Paul Logan

Following her retirement, Barbara spent two years as a team member for the school system’s Teacher Evaluation Instrument (ADEPT). This program evaluated second year teachers and made recommendations for specific ways in which they could improve their skills. She also served as a tutor for students at Sampit Elementary School, which, she points out, was one of only four S.C. schools to receive the national Blue Ribbon award by the Department of Education.

Barbara’s new role as a Home Visitor for two 2-year-old girls was made easier by the fact that she knew the children’s families. “It gave me credibility,” she says, “and made the families receptive to having me come into their homes.” Barbara continued to work with her two girls through 2004-2005 and was proud to see them “graduate” from **Miss Ruby’s Kids** in May. Now she’s “starting over again” with two new students, two of the 20 who are now being mentored by six Home Visitors and Director Betsy Marlow.

Barbara is a strong proponent of the Parent Child Home Program of which **Miss Ruby’s Kids** is a replication. She describes the materials used by the Home Visitors – the books and the toys – as age appropriate and capable of being adjusted to suit the needs of individual children. She further commends the program’s home setting as the means by which Homes Visitors can model for parents the kind of adult behavior which will produce positive responses in their

children. Parents are so often pressed for time or reacting to other stresses in their lives. “As Home Visitors,” Barbara observes, “we can sit and talk calmly with the children. We can advise parents about what is *normal* 2-year-old behavior. We can reassure them about their children and even encourage them in positive directions they want to pursue.”

For Barbara, being a Home Visitor has been and continues to be personally enriching: “It’s wonderful to learn new techniques of motivating the young child,” she says. And “when one of my kids says ‘Where’s my hug?’ I feel quite blessed, at my age, to be a part of **Miss Ruby’s Kids**.”

Thank you Friends of MRK!

We are grateful for your support of the Miss Ruby's Kids program over the past year. Your gifts are making a difference in the lives of youngsters who will be future contributors in our community.

Mary & Daniel Abel, Ruthenia Alston, Alan & Betsy Altman, Linwood & Nancy Altman, Don & Carole Anderson, Amy Armstrong, Ellie Armstrong, Betty & George Asnip, Donald Auld, Judy & Bob Axson, Emily Bailey, Jack & Sylvia Bame, Jani Barbati, Jim & Anne Bessant, Robert Blease, Kristin & Michael Bohan, Carol Bolin, Mac & Nancy Boyle, Nancy & John Bracken, Nancy Bride, Lee Brockington, Michael & Teresa Bronson, Fanny & Roddy Brown, George Brown, Howard & Anne Burgin, Richard Burnside, Alan & Katy Burrell, Louella Bushnell.

Charles & Val Calderbank, Daniel & Barbara Call, Robert & Jill Callahan, Zelma Carr, Jimmy & Rebecca Chandler, William & Anne Chandler, Jeane and James Chapman, Audrey Christensen, Valerie & Michael Cole, Babe Cone, William & Shirley Conner, Walter & JoAnn Dambman, John & Helen Dawson, Sandy & Jack Dent, Daisy desPortes, Ernie & Marion Dozzi, Paul & Carol DuBois, Robert & Marie DuBose, Carol Eliot, George & Barbara Ermentrout.

Frank & Patsy Fisher, Ann M Floyd, Anne H. Floyd, James & Elizabeth Forrester, Wally & Jo Fortuna, Connie Furrer, Kathy Gaskill, Ruth & Wharton Gaul, Wilhelmena Gibson, Robert M. & Shirley Graham, Lucille Grate, Mary Ella Greene, Patty Griffith, Jim & Betty Lou Hall, Mabel Hamilton, L F & Mabel Heinecke, Elizabeth & James Herbert, Herbert & Mildred Herrman, Robert & Leora Hileman, Caroline Hoffman, John & Jane Holloway, Nancy Hopkinson, Billie & Alan Houghton, Mary & J. O'Neal Humphries, Kay Hunter, Jim & Molly Huntoon, Ron & Judy Ingle, Bobby & Suzy Jayroe, Helen Jenkins, Judy & Phil Johnson, Lillie Jean Johnson, Jan and Bud Jones, Lee & Lee Jones, Lee B Jones, Albert & Judith Keller, Clementine Kelly, Katherine Kelly, Jane Kennedy, Christina King, Sally & Jim Kitchen, Ann Knight, Tom & Judy Koltak, Daniel & Patricia Kowaleski, Gertrude & Jack Kramer, Joan & Kenneth Kreikemeier, Susan & Tom Krowka, Pixie & Tom Kubeck.

Bette Lachicotte, Doc & Martha Lachicotte, Don & Pat Lacy, Dottie Lafitte, Thomas Lance, William & Cynthia Lapworth, Mitchell & Ewa Laurance, Nancy & Zeb Lawhon, Carol Lawlor, Katrina Lawrimore, Patricia Lewis, Renee Lewis, Patricia Liphardt, George Lippard, Pat Lively, Barbara & Paul Logan, Grace Long, Van Lott, Allan & Ann MacDonald, Brandy Madden, Helen Madden, Richard & Pamela Mahany, Betsy Marlow, Faye Marlow, T. Chandler Martin, Thomas & Carol Mather, Jason Mayhew, Beth & Kelly McCallister, Ericka

McCants, Talicia McCants, Rachel McElheney, Doyle & Lillis McWhorter, Charles & Deborah Meade, George Meighen, Ted Meldahl, Dorothea Mentzell, Barbara & John Miller, Lynn Miller, James & Gail Millett, Eleanor Moody, Anne Mooreland, Peggy Moran, Jo Ann Morgan.

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Tony Salerno, Philis Sarto, Susan & Paul Scheno, Charles & Pat Schooler, John & Kathryn Sharp, Jessie Singletary, Marsha & Greg Smith, William & Beverly Smith, John & Eileen Snell, Annette & Leon Spangler, Cameron Speth, Bob & Peggy Stahlberger, Peggy & Jim Stallings, Amy & Robert Steuer, Claudia & Harold Stowe, Pat Strickland, Peggy & Gene Teague, Jerome Thomas, John & Jenkins Trotter, Joanne Urso, Bunny & Ed Vaden, Tula Valassakis, Mabel Vervaat, Fritz & Luan Vinson, Jill Waring, Beth Wiley, Rosa Williams, Kate & Marvin Wilson, Peggy & Bill Wilson, Dave & Sallie Yoder, Alice Young.

We'd like to think we haven't left anyone out, but we're human. If your name should be here let us know!

Thank You All!
**We cannot imagine
a world
without friends
like you.**

Finances

Note that year-to-year funds carryover is not reflected in the figures below, nor were funds budgeted for a program assistant who has been giving full-time support on a volunteer basis.

In 2005 fifteen children were enrolled in the program the first half of the year. Eight children returned for the fall program and twelve more are being enrolled, served by six Home Visitors and the Program Director. By August 31 income had already exceeded budget.

Income	Budget	Projected 12/31/05
Foundations/Trusts, Other	\$ 30,210	\$ 30,300
Individuals, other	9,533	27,257
Total Income	\$ 39,743	\$ 57,557
Expenses		
Operating expense	11,009	22,879
Travel and Staff Development	2,144	2,197
Wages and Salaries	31,498	31,498
Total Expenses	\$ 44,651	\$ 56,574

Below, for comparison is the 2004 budget. Five children were enrolled in the program the first half of the year visited by two Home Visitors and the Program Director. Those children returned for the fall program and ten more were enrolled; four Home Visitors were added.

2004	
Income	Budget
Foundations/Trusts, Other	\$ 22,500
Individuals, other	12,691
Total Income	\$ 35,191
Expenses	
Operating expense	5,910
Travel and Staff Development	2,945
Wages and Salaries	19,482
Total Expenses	\$ 28,337

Foundations and others

We have been very fortunate over the past 12 months to receive strong backing from foundations and local agencies as well as individuals, with the strongest support coming from the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation. Miss Ruby's Kids received a \$10,000 Bunnelle Sustaining Grant in April 2005 that we have pledged to double and a \$10,000 Open Grant in November 2004. We are also grateful to the Meadows Charitable Trust for a grant of \$2,500 in August 2004, to the Sisters of Charity Foundation for a \$10,000 Good Samaritan Grant in January 2005, and a United Way grant of \$3,000 in August 2005.

Since we must offer the program free to qualified families we feel blessed to have the confidence of these organizations and to be able to put their funds to work in our community. It has been heartwarming to step out in faith and have the needed support come to carry out our plans just in time every time.

Program Staff

Miss Ruby's Kids is proud to have a highly qualified and enthusiastic staff. Program Director and Co-Founder Betsy Marlow has her B.S. in Elementary Education from Winthrop, a MEd. in Elementary Education from USC, 21 years teaching experience, and eight years as a social worker for the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Home Visitor Zelma Carr is a retired high school teacher with a MEd and experience as a social worker; Lucille Grate has many years experience as a retail sales associate; Barbara Logan is a retired elementary school teacher with a MEd. and 31 years experience; Marva Riley is a retired high school teacher and an adult literacy trainer for Job Service; Beth Wiley is a retired elementary school librarian with 30 years experience; and Alice Young Home retired as Assistant Postmistress with 30 years experience in the department.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is a cross section of the community. Jo Fortuna is Chair and Co-Founder; Pixie Kubeck is Vice Chair, Nancy Bride is Secretary-Treasurer, George Asnip is Chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee, Valerie Cole is the Volunteer Coordinator, Lucille Grate is Chair of the Program Committee. Other Committee members are Lee Brockington, Richard Culbertson, Molly Huntoon, Joan Kreikemeier, Barbara Logan, Toni Pennington, Vervatine Reid, Marva Riley, Pat Strickland, Shelia Sullivan, and Sarah Wilson. Advisory Members are Kristin Bohan and Susan Surratt.

Invite your friends

Miss Ruby's Kids thanks you for being our Friend. Do you have a friend who shares your interest in early childhood literacy and the benefits it will bring to Georgetown County? Tell them about us! Or, better yet, tell us about them!!

Who else should be reading this newsletter? Call Pixie Kubeck at **237-4611** or Nancy Bride at **237-2492** and let us know your friend's name and address. We'll invite them to join us as a **Friend of Miss Ruby's Kids**.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by Eleanor (Pixie) Kubeck. Contact her at pkubeck@sc.rr.com.

Miss Ruby's Kids is a **PAIRS** affiliate (Parents & Adults Inspiring Reading Success) and a **United Way** Agency

