



Toy Rescue Mission NEWSLETTER



Community Partners Appreciation Dinner

We are grateful to the many guest who attended the Community Partners Appreciation Dinner we hosted on February 28. Thank you to all for helping us say farewell to the outgoing President and Founder, Karol Barkley. She expressed her gratitude to all those who helped Toy Rescue Mission serve the community over the last 20 years. The organization has grown from a space in Karol's home to a large warehouse facility on 6th Avenue. With the support and understanding of her wonderful family, Karol reached out to the needy children of Tacoma and provided refurbished toys for their birthdays, Christmas and Easter. The organization now has many dedicated volunteers and Board members and two paid employees. Though Karol has retired from the Presidency position she continues to be involved with TRM. At the dinner we introduced Martha Davis as the new President and honored some of the outstanding community partners who have extensively supported us with funds, supplies and volunteers. Many thanks to Batteries Plus, Wal Mart, Fred Meyer and World Vision. We also recognized Diane Pederson, a volunteer who distinguished herself by going above and beyond in showing true dedication to TRM. Diane has served our organization for several years by cleaning and sorting toys, representing us at local fairs and filling the Vice President position for a year.

We hope our guests enjoyed the dessert auction, the door prize drawings, the children's games and the delicious dinner provided by Papa Eddie's Catering.

Location

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Tacoma, WA 98465

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(253) 756-8074

Annual Easter Basket Distribution

Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers, we distributed 978 Easter baskets filled with toys, books and Easter candy to underprivileged children. We are grateful for the opportunity to brighten the lives of these children on this holiday.

We wish to thank those who donated money, candy or time:

Marsha Bell
Gerry Loeffler
Clarence Davis
Clare Murphy
Reed Slatterty, World Vision
Nancy Walters
Jimmie Warnell
Lakewood Baptist Church
Shirley Kay
Eleanor Weinrich

Daughters of Isis
Jazmine Simmons Village Green Retirement
Campus
William and Shelia Spenser
Wal Mart, Puyallup
Washington and Oregon State Grand
Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle



Thank You

...to Diana Herron
for organizing a
See's Candy fund-
raiser to help with
Easter distribution.
She raised \$196.

David Kidder



We are deeply saddened by the passing of one of our volunteers, *David Kidder*. David came to us from Centerforce agency. He washed toys every week for over two years and really enjoyed it. Everyone thought he was so delightful. Last fall he became home bound then passed away at his sister's home. The family requested all memorial donations be directed to Toy Rescue Mission because he loved it here so much. David will be missed.

Thank you to the following for contributions to David's memorial:

Veronica Bonar
Timothy and Rebecca Chisum
Jodi Lalla
Walter and Elizabeth Rice
Ralph and Debbie Ruvo
Shirley Smith

Volunteer Positions Available

Would you like to help TRM in a very important capacity? We have three positions available to fill. Please consider volunteering as Treasurer, Special Events Coordinator, or Building Maintenance.

Contact Martha at:
martha@toyrescuemission.org.



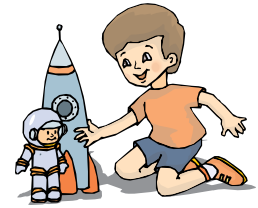
New Vice President

The TRM Board wishes to welcome *Francesca Rossellini* as our new Vice President. She has been serving on the Board as the Development Director and graciously offered to serve in both capacities.

Megan Short has joined our staff as the new Administrative Assistant. You may reach her at 253-460-6711.



Volunteer Drawing Winner



Congratulations to *William Spencer* who won our monthly drawing. Each month we draw a name of a volunteer who donates their time. William will receive a basket of goodies. You too could be eligible to win our drawing. Come and volunteer--the more often you do the better your chances of winning.

Notes from our President, Martha Davis

Thanks to everyone who supported the Community Partner Dinner and Easter Distribution. It's been a few months since I've been in office and I am still excited at all the possibilities for the future of TRM. Your continued support is what is going to keep our doors open. We need sustained support for rent, utilities and salaries for our two employees. This will enable us to keep serving the children that need us, and help us to still make a difference every day that we open by providing volunteer opportunities to those who are unable to be employed or just need something worthwhile to do. Please consider making a small donation via check or by PAYPAL through our website. Your donation may be tax deductible. Also, I wish to thank the Board and Staff for all your support. I feel humbled by the confidence you have entrusted in me to keep this vital organization going.

God Bless, Martha

Our Spotlight Shines on a New Volunteer Dixie

We are fortunate to have a new volunteer, Dixie, who faithfully comes in to Toy Rescue Mission three days a week. She has taken charge of the donated dolls and proceeded to organize our doll room. Before the dolls are placed on the store shelves they are cleaned and dressed and oftentimes are matched with the appropriate accessories. Dixie seems to have a special talent to make this all happen. Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication!

**Many Thanks to Those Who
Contributed to Our**

Community Partners Appreciation Dinner

Papa Eddie's Catering
Affairs Cafe
Shari's on Union



Fred Meyer on 19th
World Vision

A Wonderful Story from a Dedicated Volunteer

by Julia Kelso, MA Folklore

I am the oldest of two children and due to a combination of late-blooming parents and geography, always envied kids who got hand-me-downs. Now, decades later, I find myself sorting through donated books of all shapes, sizes, ages and conditions, cleaning them as I gently as possible. If it's a colouring or activity book, I make sure none of the pages have been marked up and then add crayons, or pencils and a small, donated toy and place the lot in a Ziploc bag. And for the first time in my life, I find myself wondering what it must be like to never have toys that are untouched by another's hands.

I have learned a number of things volunteering at the Toy Rescue Mission, helping to sort and prep books for parents to pick out and give to their children for birthdays, Christmas, etc. Most recently, I learned that even those without a penny to spare wait until the last minute to Christmas shop. I have learned that there are levels and levels of used and only the best go on the shelves here--the closest possible to new. I learned that (there) are numerous agencies that have their own uses for pre-owned books, where those that aren't quite perfect can go and be loved, appreciated, read and possibly chewed on by small children.

I didn't know that there are agencies that take the books that are in poorer condition than that and either physically recycle them, or send them to places such as Africa where books in virtually any condition are a treasure because of their rarity. I do know now that this agency that survives on donations of goods, money and time, with a few grants here and there, but without any public funds, serves far more than itself. That the dispersing of books to homeless shelters, daycares and needy schools is repeated with donated toys, clothing and anything else that passes through the doors and cannot be used by the Toy Rescue Mission. That nothing is wasted that can be used by someone, somewhere.

I now know, in much more visceral sense than I did before, how valuable this place is. How many people it serves and in turn, how many serve it. And I learned that there is as much gained by volunteering. If not more.

Executive Board

President, Martha Davis
Vice President, Francesca Rossellini
Secretary, Beth Parker
Treasurer, (vacant position)
PR/Marketing Director, Johana Beresky
Development Director, Francesca Rossellini

Philip Turner, Advisor
Melody Cummings, Advisor
Ray Smith, Advisor

Paid Staff

Administrative Assistant, Megan Short 460-6711
Volunteer Coordinator, Katrina Miller 460-6711

Volunteer Staff

Building Maintenance, (position vacant)
Newsletter Editor, Melody Cummings
Web Master, Scott Brown
Literacy Coordinator, Barbara Robak
Special Events Coordinator, (position vacant)

Toy Rescue Mission Serves *Tree House: A Place for Families*

Multicare's family housing complex, located near Mary Bridge Hospital, offers a place for out-of-area families to stay while their child is hospitalized. Recently two sergeants from the Tacoma Police Department, Dani Griswold and Loretta Cool, have been collecting and coordinating a toy drive for this facility. Our President, Martha Davis, invited them to TRM and we consequently gave them over 150 toys.

Albertson's Community Partners Program has been discontinued as of January 31. We thank all of those who participated.



Thank You for your monetary contributions which help us continue our service to the community...

**Lucky 7 Foundation
Milgard Family Foundation
United Way Donor Voice
Puyallup Fred Meyer**



Centerforce presented TRM with a **Certificate of Appreciation** for supporting their mission, which is to give their clients work programs for meaning and purpose. Thank You!

Our Mission Statement

Toy Rescue Mission is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to the innovative refurbishing (rescuing) of used toys with the objective of providing joy to underprivileged children and to seniors in care facilities, while providing meaningful volunteer opportunities.

Garlic Jim's Famous Gourmet Pizza

We've partnered with Garlic Jim's to offer the public a great opportunity to help TRM raise funds. Buy a **Peel-a-Deal Card** from us for just \$5 and you will receive eight discount coupons worth \$70. You can pick them up at our distribution center (607 S. Winifred Street) or we can mail them to you. Call us at 460-6711.

What is Success?

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;
That is to have succeeded.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson