

Northern Black Hills Association of REALTORS®

REALTORS® for Kids

Giving Back to our Communities ... 2005 in Review

Special points of interest:

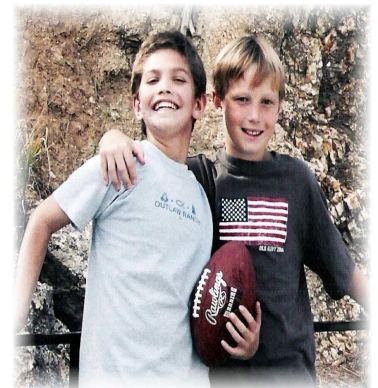
- REALTORS® for Kids Annual Benefit Auction ... April 28, 2006
- RFK T-Shirts available now
- REALTORS® for Kids to have a web site in 2006
- "Tee it up for the Kids" event coming this summer
- Bill Bomberg to stay on the RFK Board

During 2005, the REALTORS® for Kids organization contributed to more than 40 children throughout the Northern Black Hills communities. Over \$15,500 was given for items that included money to help offset expenses for children who required medical attention to funds to be used to buy school supplies for children and families that were unable to provide them.

Throughout the year funding requests came in from a variety of sources. Our REALTOR® members reached out in their communities to offer assistance by contacting their local schools, churches, and area social services organizations. Relationships with school

liaisons, like Brett Keller in Belle Fourche and Ginger Johnson in Sturgis provided opportunities for RFK to help children with special needs ranging from grief counseling to transportation to school. New giving opportunities were made possible by working with community based organizations like CASA and Child Protective Services.

In its third year, the organization has refined its referral request process and increased its referral network dramatically allowing it to reach more children that have special needs throughout the area. We are no longer just a "fill in the gap" organization but now are



Trevor Stacey continues to display a great attitude while suffering from a debilitating disease known as dystonia.

becoming an integral part of a support network throughout our Northern Black Hills communities. We are confident that the program will grow even more in 2006.

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"Share the Experience"

The REALTORS® for Kids, Inc. Board of Directors has scheduled their 2006 Annual Meeting for Friday, February 3rd, at the Tretaway Pavilion in Spearfish Park beginning at 5:30 pm. A special program has been planned to thank the volunteers and contributors for their generous donation of time

and money and to provide an opportunity for attendees to share their experiences working with the organization.

Volunteers will speak from their heart about their experiences giving a check to a family who has a child with a serious medical condi-

tion and has expenses mounting for the child's care.

Plans for 2006 will be introduced and a special raffle item will be offered to those in attendance.

A complimentary wine & cheese social will be part of the evening's festivities.

Extending our Reach

Founded in 2003 to foster community involvement of our local REALTOR® Association and provide a means for the organization to give back to their communities by helping the children.

Since its inception in 2003, the REALTORS® for Kids organization has promoted its importance as not only a vehicle for giving back something to the children of the Northern Hills communities but also as an important element linking our REALTOR® members to a common cause. It has always been the hope that other REALTOR® Associations throughout the state would see the value of this program and would be inspired to

implement their own REALTORS® for Kids program.

It appears that dream may come true. In mid-November, Denny McKay and Bill Bomberg were invited by Pam Cronin to the Central Board of REALTORS® General Membership Meeting in Pierre, where they talked about how the program started, the program's mission and why it has been so successful. Denny told stories about the children

and families that have benefited from the donations that the organization has been able to provide. Both noted that this was a program based "hearts" not self-promotion.

Organizational efforts are now underway in Pierre and we are anxiously awaiting the formation of a REALTORS® for Kids program there.

Bowling will never be the same



The Jamaican Bobsled Team comprised of Sue Cramer, Shelby & Kenner Cihak, and Kari & Tom Engen garnered lots of attention at the Bowling for Kids fundraiser as well as the award for the best costumes.

October 28, 2005 will long be remembered for outrageous costumes, humorous bowling skills, and big hearts. In keeping with its tradition of mixing fundraising and social events, the REALTORS® for Kids organization held their 1st Annual Bowling for Kids night at Lucky Strike Bowling in Spearfish. Participants were decked in their finest Hal-

loween costumes and displayed the bowling prowess on the alleys. Teams comprised of Affiliate and REALTOR® firms enjoyed an evening of food and fun, while competing for prizes including best costumes, highest score, fewest pins and others.

As always is the case, the big winners that evening were the kids. The event raised \$1000 to be used

by the RFK organization to help children in our communities. Special thanks needs to go out to the generous sponsors who provided food and prizes, the participants and three special volunteers who helped organize and orchestrate the event ... Kari Engen, Alexa Elwood and Shelby Cihak.

Thanks for your **HEARTS**

What we've Heard



REALTORS® for Kids, Inc.
It's all about
HEART

A note from a thankful parent:

Dear REALTORS® for Kids,

Thank you all for the \$500 check you sent us for the expenses for my son, Charlie. It came at just the right time since right after I received it we ended up going to Denver. My son had a set back and was in the hospital for a

week. The day after Thanksgiving he had surgery to put in a peritoneal catheter for dialysis. We were there for two weeks of training to teach me how to do it at home. Right now, I am staying with my parents at their home since my trailer is too small for all of the equipment and supplies. They are also doing testing

on me as I am going to be a donor if all works out. They figure that the transplant will happen the end of February or the beginning of March. At that time we will be in Denver for 4-6 weeks and then Charlie will be out of school a month or two. Thank you again for all your help.