

Northern Black Hills Association of REALTORS®

# REALTORS® for Kids

## Special points of interest:

- REALTOR Association of the Sioux Empire forms a REALTORS for Kids organization
- RFK outreach program brings in more requests for Belle Fourche and Newell children
- RFK brochure now available on the web
- New RFK notebooks available
- Read the story of RFK on the web @

[RealtorsForKids.org](http://RealtorsForKids.org)

Each year RFK reaches more children and their families in our Northern Black Hills communities thanks to the generosity of our Realtor members, Affiliates and community organizations. Their concern for the future of communities is often realized by their involvement in activities during the year.

In 2007, two of the organizations that have been major supporters of REALTORS for Kids, Inc. were honored for their participation and contributions. Each was presented with a specially designed RFK Heroes plaque to thank them for their ongoing support.

The Niesent family was recognized for their contributions

## Heroes Among Us

throughout the year and their special financial donation at the Annual Benefit Auction in the spring. Deb, Ron, Ryan and Rachael have always been there to assist the children.

Dave Withrow, owner of Black Hills Choppers, knows the importance of supporting the children. Each year Dave organizes a "Ride for the Children" poker run in the Northern Hills to raise funds for organizations that support the local children. For the past two years, RFK has been the beneficiary of the funds raised at this event. The 4th Annual "Ride for the Children" raised over \$3500 which has been used to assist children throughout the Northern Hills.



Alexa (left) and Rich (right) present Rachael, Ryan and Deb Niesent with a RFK Heroes Award for their donation from the Robbie Niesent Memorial fund.



Alexa and Rich present Dave Withrow of Black Hills Choppers with a RFK Heroes for his contributions of proceeds from the annual "Ride for the Children" poker run

## Parade, Santa and Chili

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Hundreds of folks donned their warmest winter gear to brave a chilly November evening to enjoy the Annual Sturgis Light Parade and Chili feed. Sturgis Realtors, led by John Teigen, delighted the crowd by serving belly warming chili, hot cider and cookies after the parade at the Armory.

This year, the kids got a special treat ... a visit from Santa. When Mr. Claus entered the Armory,



children of all ages lined up to let Santa know that they were good boys and girls. Each child received a bright red Realtors for Kids wristband to wear.

Proceeds from voluntary chili feed donations total over \$450 and were given to the Realtors for Kids or-

ganization to support the children in the Northern Hills. A special thanks to all those that volunteered to help with this wonderful event.



Children enjoyed the RFK float in this year's Parade of Lights



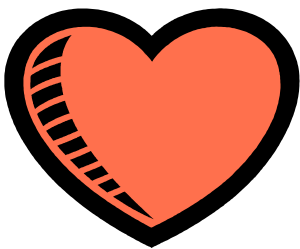
Our commitment to our communities in the Northern Black Hills starts with our commitment to the children. The opportunities afforded them is our responsibility. Each and everyone of us has the responsibility to spread the message that the REALTORS® for Kids fund is available for those children in need of financial assistance.

RFK Board of Directors

- Rich Krogstad - President
- Alexa Elwood - Vice President
- Terri Keene - Secretary
- Bill Bomberg - Treasurer
- Kari Engen - Director
- Denny McKay - Director
- Brandy Purcell - Director
- Dixie Olson - Director
- Polly Odle - Director

RFK Committees

- Referral Request Committee  
Chair - Dixie Olson
- Public Relations Committee  
Chair - Denny McKay
- Auction Committee Co-Chairs -  
Kari Engen & Brandy Purcell
- Administrative Committee  
Chair - Bill Bomberg



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

## 2007 In Review

2007 was a year highlighted by efforts to extend the reach of RFK to children in all of the communities in the Northern Hills and provide funding to children in those areas. Historically, the majority of requests for funding have come from Sturgis, Lead/Deadwood and Spearfish. Though that is still the case, recently requests for funding for children in Belle Fourche, Newell and Nis-

land are coming in.

The ability of RFK to provide funding quickly and for a variety of needs is the reason so many come to the organization for funding. This year, requests for money increased by 44% with over \$37,000 being provided to meet those requests. The largest increase in funding requests came from our school teachers

and counselors, who identified children in need of funding for grief counseling down to just basic necessities, like a bed and chest of drawers.

Here's a breakdown of the funding requests for 2007:

Medical	35	\$16,550
Social	21	\$8,388
Community	22	\$12,102
Transport	1	\$242

## What is Next for 2008

Plans for 2008 are already underway and volunteers are busy making arrangements for fundraising events. The Annual Benefit Auction is planned for April and auction items are already rolling in. Keep an eye out for the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket for a trip to the Big Apple. "Tee it Up for

the Kids" is scheduled for this summer and plans for other fundraising activities are being laid out.

Efforts to increase the reach of RFK to more children in our communities will continue to be major focus of the organization in 2008. The outreach efforts started in 2007 will be refined and expanded to increase our contact base.

The organization again encourages anyone interested in being part of the efforts of RFK to contact any of the Board members. Believing with your HEART that children are the future of our communities and that our support of them will help build a better place for all of us is all that is required.

## What We've Heard

We recently received this letter from Joe DesJarlais of the Mended Hearts and Mended Little Hearts.

To All

About 2 weeks ago I called Dixie Olson in a desperate need for help for a family in Belle Fourche. JoAnn and their son Ethan were air lifted on the Flight for Life from Rapid City to Omaha for emergency heart surgery. She was there with the clothes on her back and very little money. David, the father of Ethan, was at work in Belle Fourche at the time. JoAnn and Ethan had gone to RC for a nor-

mal checkup when things got a bit serious. David had a car that was not fit for travel to Omaha and was short on money.

Within a day Dixie called me to say that Realtors for Kids was sending \$750. The surgery went better than expected and David was there the following day. At this point I'm not sure how things are going. Ethan was back in trouble by last weekend and I have not heard any more. I guess in this case no news is good news. They are in good hands and have a place to stay and eat that is a donation only. So we know that part is not a

worry. The place is called Rainbow House and is unbelievable. JoAnn told me that part of the money you sent will be given to the Rainbow House.

There is just no way for me to say thank you enough for what you people do. There has got to be a special place in heaven for people like you.

Thanks Again

Mended Little Hearts, a new support program for parents of children with heart defects and heart disease, is dedicated to inspiring hope in those who care for the littlest heart patients of all. Mended Little Hearts offers resources and a caring support network as families find answers and move forward to find healing and hope.