

Northern Black Hills Association of REALTORS®

# REALTORS® for Kids

## Your Dollars at Work

### Special points of interest:

- Win a trip to Puerto Vallarta. Raffle Tickets are selling fast. Don't be left out in the cold.
- RFK expands the "Tee it Up for the Kids" event to 18 holes. Get your team together early. Scheduled for Friday, June 19th.
- 2009 RFK Benefit Auction is coming soon. Mark your calendar for Friday, May 1, 2009
- Check out media coverage of RFK on the web @

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

This past year marked several milestones for the REALTORS for Kids organization. Contributions by members, affiliates and the community exceeded \$50,000 for the first time. That generosity enabled the organization to reach out and directly assist over 125 children with more than \$34,000 of financial assistance. An additional amount of almost \$11,000 was provided to organizations that provide programs and services for the children of our communities.

The largest number of the requests for financial assistance are due to financial hardships caused by medical conditions that have afflicted a child. As an organization, we are able to help by providing funds to be used for travel to medical facilities that specialize in childhood diseases and cures. Last year alone there were 34 such requests to which over \$19,000 was donated.

Requests for funds to help with the basic necessities, clothing for school, food, personal hygiene items, etc. have been on the increase during the past year. These type of requests accounted for about \$10,000 in direct funding. Often a teacher or school counselor will note a child that is without proper clothing or isn't per-

forming well in school because they haven't had enough to eat. Funding requests for necessities of this type can lead to a dramatic change in a child's life.

As an organization, REALTORS for Kids is very aware that education is extremely important to childhood development. Requests for Preschool and other tuition assistance programs make up the third largest segment of donations, with over \$3,600 allocated to help 14 children.

Your dollars also work in concert with other organizations that care for the children in our communities. For the past three years, REALTORS for Kids has provided funds to Northern Hills Area CASA to assist with their Christmas Angel program. Also, each year funds are donated to Sun-catcher's Therapeutic Riding Academy to be used for a program to assist disabled children. December marks the opportunity for our organization to participate in community Angel Tree programs. This year, with the help of volunteers from the REALTOR membership and affiliates, we purchased gifts for over 100 children in our Northern Hills communities that otherwise may not have received a present during the holiday season.

Financial support for other worthwhile programs, including the Newell backpack food program, Bell Fourche Alternative School food program, Belle Fourche School hot lunch program, Spearfish school supply drive, and YouthWise was provided. All in all, over \$45,000 went to supporting the children in the Northern Black Hills.

While that was the largest dollar amount that REALTORS for Kids had ever distributed, another milestone was reached when for the first time, the organization received funding from two non-profit foundations to be used to assist children. The Smith-Ramsey Foundation provided \$2,000 earmarked for two families that had medical needs. Also, REALTORS for Kids received a grant of \$1,500 from the Sturgis Rally Charities Foundation to be used to assist children in the Sturgis community.

Realtors for Kids, Inc.

2008 Recap

#### Children Assisted

Medical Travel	34	\$19,055
Preschool Tuition	5	\$ 1,960
Community Activities	26	\$ 2,095
Summer School Tuition	9	\$ 1,575
Basic Necessities	45	\$ 9,258

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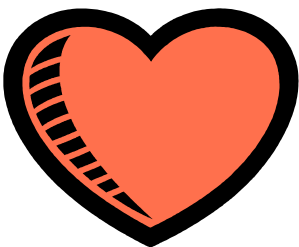
Our commitment to our communities in the Northern Black Hills starts with our commitment to the children. The opportunities afforded them is our responsibility. Each and everyone of us has the responsibility to spread the message that the REALTORS® for Kids fund is available for those children in need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

**RFK Board of Directors**

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

**RFK Committees**

- Finance Committee Chair - Terri Keene
- Public Relations Committee Chair - Denny McKay
- Auction Committee Co-Chairs - Kari Engen & Polly Odle
- Administrative Committee Chair - Bill Bomberg



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

## 7th Annual RFK Benefit Auction

Mark your calendars, the REALTORS for Kids organization will be holding their Benefit Auction on Friday, May 1, 2009. This year, the event will once again be held at the Deadwood Gulch Resort and Convention Center. This year's fundraiser will include many exciting "live" and silent

auction items. Included at this year's event will be a framed Jon Crane print and artwork from many other local artisans, as well as, many unique items. The auction will also feature sports packages, weekend getaway packages, dining packages and much much more.

During the evening, the Auction committee will select the winning raffle ticket for a trip for two to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. This wonderful trip includes round trip airfare from Rapid City to Puerto Vallarta and a 7 night stay at the Riu Jalisco hotel located on the Playa de Flamingo beach.

## Heroes Award



Lawrence Title Co. receives a Heroes Plaque

helping REALTORS for Kids, Inc. make a difference in children's lives and makes them our HEROES.

Without the support from organizations like theirs, REALTORS for Kids would not be able to touch so many children.



Belle Butte Title Co. receives a Heroes Plaque

Thank you so much Mindy, Don, Dan, Wayne and the staffs at Lawrence Title, Belle Butte Title and Meade County Title for all that you do for the children of our communities.



Meade County Title Co. receives a Heroes Plaque

This year, REALTORS for Kids, Inc. is proud to recognize three companies for their continuing support of the children of the Northern Hills. Their generous donations, ongoing participation in fundraising events and sincere dedication to

## What We've Heard

Throughout the year RFK receives requests to provide funding and often times the story that accompanies the request is so tragic that it tugs at our hearts. We are truly blessed that in a small way we can be of some assistance. Here is one of those stories re-told from the child's perspective.

(NOTE: Names of the family & children have not been included)

*I am a little boy that just turned 2 years old. Since I became old enough to eat I haven't been*

*able to tolerate any kind of food. Nothing will stay down, so I am receiving my nourishment from a formula made for pre-mature babies. My family has taken me to the doctor but so far the doctors haven't been able to determine what is causing this condition.*

*Soon my family will be taking me to Omaha to see some doctors that will be running a series of tests and doing biopsy of my intestines. We are hopeful that these tests will identify the cause*

*of my eating disorder.*

*Mom stays home with me and my brother and gives us all her love and care. Dad works very hard to provide for our family. The doctor bills have really started to pile up and there are more to come. They have had to give up so much to look after me. It would mean so much to me if you could help with some of the expense that my family will incur when we travel to Omaha. I know that will go along way to easing some of the stress that Mom and Dad must be enduring.*