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Let Us Entertain You, A HUG-A-BEAR Production



BRIDGETON ROTARY
FOUNDATION

"HUG-A-BEARS
are made not born
They grow from seeds of love,
Into the threads of caring that
HUG-A-BEAR fabric is made of;
They are stuffed with the softest
angel down from heaven (or close by),
And stitched with silver needles from
cloud linings in the sky.
Their noses are roast chestnuts from
many a years past,
Their eyes are favorite marbles
Children long ago have cast;
But a HUG-A-BEAR is not a HUG-A-BEAR
until he belongs to you,
Until he's shared your fears and joys and
tears, And loved you long and true.
For no matter where they come from,
However soft they feel; It's love
that makes a HUG-A-BEAR
And love that makes
him real!"

~ Author Unknown

Saturday, April 17, 2010

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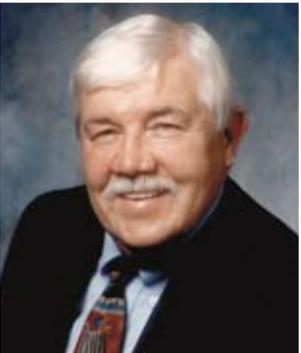
Bridgeton Rotary Club Is All Smiles For The April 17 HUG-A-BEAR Event!

A Message From . . .
GIL WALTER

President,
Bridgeton Rotary Club

HUG-A-BEAR is a source of comfort to our most vulnerable children under the utmost difficult

circumstances. At Community Health Care children with their first painful bout of dental surgery receive HUG-A-BEAR to soften the trauma. Hug A Bear expresses love from of Rotary Club and all of the HUG-A-BEAR supporters to our area children in time of need. I urge everyone who reads this to buy tickets and support the HUG-A-BEAR event on Saturday, April 17 at Centerton Country Club.



Bridgeton Rotary Club Active Membership List: Theodore E. Baker, Esquire, Gladwyn D. Baptist, MD, Anthony Buono, J. Stephen Carnahan, Randolph L. Clour, Deanna Davis, Teresa Delp, Burton Doremus, James Curtis Edwards, Gregory Facemyer, CPA, Douglas H. Fisher, Austin P. Gould, Brent Hankins, Janet Halter, Carola Hartley, Carolyn Heckman, Denise Higbee, Diane Holtaway, Christopher Jespersen, Dale Johnston, David Kolman, Diane Kolman, Thomas C. Lane, IV, Justus H. Livingston, William D. Lomberk, John Neff, Tobi Olusa, James Owens, Chester Peterson, Sidna Prickett, Paul J. Ritter, III, Ted Ritter, Anna Shimp, Gary F. Simmerman, Wade R. Sjogren, Roy Spoltore, Joe Stanger, Anthony Stanzone, Ashley Timmons, Michele Torchia, MD, Noberto Torres, Marlene Urban, Gil Walter, Frederick W. Weber, William F. Whelan, Lynn Williams, David Wilson, J. Alan Woodruff and Robert A. Woodruff.

Co-Host Soroptimist International of Cumberland County

Soroptimist International of Cumberland County Active Membership List: Carolyn Abbott, Mary K. Arnold, Paula Austin, Andria Balicki, Andrea Bianco-Rieti, Donna Callihan, Shirley Carmen, Audrey Carter, Susan Casper, Barbara Clark, Mary Corvaia, Mary Voorhis Cossaboon, Rosalia Dionisi, Florence Evans, Nancy Ewing, Robin Freitag, Jeanne Garrison, Peggy Gentile-Van Meter, Gloria Greganti, Iris Halter, Karen Hayes, Karen Hepner, Jody Hirata, JoAnn Hovermann, Carol Hutton, Denise Johnson, Donna Johnson, Diane Kolman, Linda Lawhun, Edith Linder, Diane Rizzo-Lodge, Marie MacDonald, Joanne Marghella, Carol Martin, Janet Mayhew, Mildred McGowan, Donna Melvin, Betsy Nitshe, Donna Pearson, Zina Peterson, Christine Pompper, Linda Quay, Joni Resides, Darlene Richmond, Dorothy Robinson, Celeste Riley, Maria Rottkamp, Leona Salvatore, Barbara Sanza, Mildred Scull, Paula Shannon, Stephanie Shoemaker, Shelby Smith, Barbara Travis, Sandra Turner, Judith Uber, Marlene Urban, Jocelyn Valentine, Linda Vanaman, Dorothy West, Janet Christy, Susan Lucas, Nancy Cannone, Myrna Durand, Anna Davis, Rosalind Whitmore, Fran Spinelli and Terry Williams.

A Message From . . .

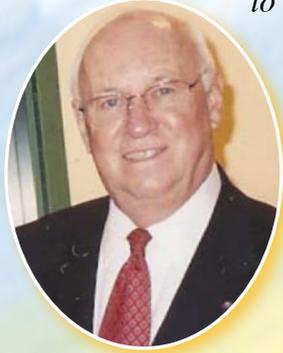
PEGGY VANMETER

President, Soroptimist International of
Cumberland County

My goodness! What better way to reach children and help comfort them at some very crucial times! I have always admired HUG-A-BEAR and what it stands for. I have supported HUG-A-BEAR for many years. Both personally and professionally. As the adviser of Key and Leo Clubs at Cumberland Regional High School, the students from have been involved for several years. As president of Soroptimist, I was thrilled when HUG-A-BEAR invited our organization to be a part of such a worthy cause! Many of the women who are members of Soroptimist have already supported the program, but now, we have the wonderful opportunity to really be an active participant with Rotary. I feel it is very important for community service clubs to work together on joint ventures. It is a win-win situation. Soroptimist Cumberland County is very lucky to have Diane Kolman as one of our active members. Diane has always praised the HUG-A-BEAR Program that she is responsible for organizing and running. Diane has been a guest speaker at our dinner meetings and has enlightened many of our newest members. I am honored to have Soroptimist Cumberland County Inc. become an active supporter of HUG-A-BEAR!



WE WILL CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN AND CROSS THE DEEPEST BLUE SEA TO KEEP THE HUG-A-BEAR PROGRAM IN PLACE FOR OUR CHILDREN.



With 52 years in Rotary, I am proud to lead this wonderful HUG-A-BEAR Program. We have touched the lives of thousands of children. We have all of the children in our hearts. HUG-A-BEAR is about making a difference for our children.

~ Alan Woodruff,
President
Bridgeton Rotary Foundation



It is rare that something as simple as giving a stuffed bear to a child in imminent need can have such a profound impact. That is why I support the Rotary Foundation's Hug-A-Bear program. Please come out and support the Hug-A-Bear event at the Centerton County Club on April 17. You will have a nice time and help children in need.

~ Wade Sjogren,
Secretary
Bridgeton Rotary Foundation

“Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things in which smiles and kindness and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort.”

– Sir Humphry Davy



Our Goal is to get a Little HUG-A-BEAR into the arms of Every child in a Heartbreaking Traumatic Situation. The little Bears are Hugged and serve as a symbol of comfort and security. We will secure and preserve HUG-A-BEAR for today's children and future generations. THE BEST IS YET TO BE!



~ Diane Kolman,
Executive Director
Bridgeton Rotary Foundation

The Testimonials and Letters of Gratitude are Heartwarming. We know the Great Energy and Effort of HUG-A-BEAR is in the Right Place.



~ William Lomberg,
Treasurer,
Bridgeton Rotary Foundation

The need for HUG-A-BEAR is Tremendous, and always will be. We need to Brighten the lives of our children. Today's Children are Tomorrow's Leaders.



~ Frank Baitinger,
Trustee
Bridgeton Rotary Foundation

HUG-A-BEAR: The Universal Communicator

Supporters Of The HUG-A-BEAR Program Honored At Appreciation Luncheon

Heartwarming testimonials from law enforcement first responders, health care professionals, students, and court system officials. They acknowledged the value of the HUG-A-BEAR program and the tremendous need that will always be there.

❖ *Erica Hooven from Millville Rescue Squad said ...* “These mighty little bears help the child to understand we are helping them. It is a ‘security blanket’ and allows the technician to accurately access and treat our little patients. Stocking teddy bears on our ambulances is as important as having gauze on hand. The little HUG-A-BEARS become an instant friend; they become the child’s very own superhero!”

❖ *N.J. State Police Sgt. 1st class Gerald Kuhar said ...* “The little HUG-A-BEARS given out serve always to bring about a calming effect upon the children we encounter in a crisis situation. HUG-A-BEAR always accomplishes that.”

❖ *Nicole Chiarelli, children services coordinator of MatriArk, presented a piece of framed artwork from the children and said ...*

“HUG-A-BEARS go a long way in the comfort of the children when they arrive. They



snuggle with their little bear. It helps them to adapt to their new and different surroundings.”

❖ *Ben Maldonado of the American Red Cross said ...* “HUG-A-BEARS bring about smiles; children open their arms for the little bears when all else fails.”

❖ *Battalion Chief Todd Bowen of the Bridgeton Fire Co. EMS stated ...* “In addition to bringing smiles and comfort to the children, little HUG-A-BEARS help bridge any gaps in the multi-lingual settings in which we work. HUG-A-BEAR is a universal communicator!”



❖ *Seabrook Rescue Chief Joe Parsons said ...* “HUG-A-BEAR is the best ever program.”

❖ *Phil Van Leer of Upper Deerfield Fire Co. said ...* “It has really been unbelievable to see what those little bears can mean to children in a difficult situation.”

❖ *William Loew said ...* the Loew children: Casey, William, Josh, and Sara were honored for their help with HUG-A-BEAR. They are the fourth generation to support the HUG-A-BEAR program. Outstanding young people. William described the benefit of HUG-A-BEAR. He was a recipient of one three years ago when he broke his arm.



The Loew children, Casey, William, Josh, and Sara were honored for their help with “HUG-A-BEAR.” They are the fourth generation to support the HUG-A-BEAR program.

❖ *Little seven year old Alyson Lupton was honored for her contribution to HUG-A-BEAR. She donated all her birthday gifts to HUG-A-BEAR. What an amazing little girl.*

❖ *Danielle and Dominique Musso were honored for their years of helping HUG-A-BEAR. Starting in high school and now ready to graduate college, they are still working with HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR to strengthen the social skills and etiquette of the bears. They are amazing.*

❖ *Dr. Frederick Goos of HospiceCare said ...* “Children of HospiceCare embrace the little HUG-A-BEARS. It is very comforting to see how wonderfully the children’s eyes light up when someone helps them by presenting the HUG-A-BEARS.”

❖ *South Jersey Healthcare’s Lissette Ruiz, representing Regional Medical Center, Pediatrics, Elmer emergency and Bridgeton emergency, said,* “I can only begin to tell you how much impact the little bears have made in the care we are able to administer when given to our child patients.”

❖ *Diane Kolman thanked all of the 35 honorees for their dedicated work with HUG-A-BEAR. She stated...* “We are passionate about getting a little HUG-A-BEAR into the arms of every child experiencing trauma or heartbreak. The bears are hugged and serve as a symbol of comfort and security. We started with twenty bears, and now we have distributed thousands. Little by little, we are building a foundation for future generations. I promise you, ‘We will climb the highest mountain and cross the deepest



blue sea to keep the HUG-A-BEAR program in place for our children.”

I would like to share a HUG-A-BEAR poem.

*“HUG-A-BEARS are made not born,
They grow from seeds of love,
Into the threads of caring that HUG-A-BEAR
Fabric is made of,
They are stuffed with the softest angel down
From heaven (or close by)
And stitched with silver needles from
Cloud linings in the sky.
Their noses are roast chestnuts from
Many a years past.
Their eyes are favorite marbles
Children long ago have cast.
But a HUG-A-BEAR is not a HUG-A-BEAR
Until he belongs to you.
Until he’s shared your fears and joys and tears
And loved you long and true.
For no matter where they come from
However soft they feel,
It’s love that makes a HUG-A-BEAR
And love that makes him real!”*

~ Author Unknown

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*We are proud to support
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HUG-A-BEAR Program*

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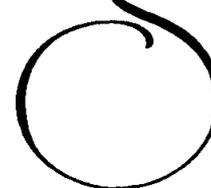
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Thank You To The Rotary Club, The Community And The HUG-A-BEAR Committee For Their Commitment To This Wonderful Project

Special Thank You To The Woodruff's

Alan and Gussie Woodruff have given their dedication to HUG-A-BEAR in Every capacity. They have chaired the Fundraising Event and performed at the Event. They deliver Bears to children in Traumatic and Heartbreaking Situations. Alan is the President of the HUG-A-BEAR Foundation. They generously give Personal Financial Support and Raise Funds for HUG-A-BEAR. All of these deeds are done from the heart and they do not want any recognition. The Foundation wants to say Thank You for all that you are to us and All the Children!



Gussie and Alan Woodruff Praise Rotary's HUG-A-BEAR Program Seeing First Hand Its Effects on Children Brings Tears to their Eyes.



Alan Woodruff & HUG-A-BEAR



Gussie Woodruff and husband Alan were moved by the experience of delivering bears. The parents and children were thrilled to meet HUG-A-BEAR and appreciated the small huggy bears for the children.



Gussie Woodruff holds a bear that was given to a child in need through the HUG-A-BEAR Program.

*We Have All The
Children In Our
Hearts!*

~ Alan & Gussie Woodruff

We proudly support the HUG-A-BEAR Foundation in its efforts to provide the comfort of a “huggable” bear friend to children during stressful times, and a positive memory to reflect upon.

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**Every Child
is a Star to the
HUG-A-BEAR
Project**



Thank You Bridgeton Rotary!



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Wade Sjögren, President

**CCS Cheers for
Hug-A-Bear!**

The varsity cheerleaders at Cumberland Christian School in Vineland provided a helping hand to the Hug-A-Bear program sponsored by the Bridgeton Rotary Foundation. The cheerleaders clothed hundreds of bears in Bridgeton Rotary T-Shirts and readied them for new homes. Now complete, the bears are ready to be adopted by a child in need. Under the Hug-A-Bear program, the stuffed bears are provided to first responders and others to give to children during a time of crisis. Something so simple as a stuffed bear brings great comfort and joy to a child in distress.



(Above)
Cumberland
Christian School
Varsity Cheerlead-
ing Co-Captains
Taryn Riggs (left)
and Kayte Rossi
(right) led the
effort.



Basketball Players and Staff at CCS Join the Cheerleaders in Hugging Bears.

• To learn more about the HUG-A-BEAR program and how you can help, contact Diane Kolman at 455-6633.

Meet And Greet Is Night Of Renewed Enthusiasm For Community Involvement

The Public Relations and Membership Committees invited guests for an evening of sharing the enthusiasm of making a difference in our community and having some fun along the way.

President Elect Gil Walter welcomed everyone. Tony Stanzone presented a DVD of memorable moments in Rotary. Diane Holtaway gave an overview of Rotary and introduced the speakers.

Speakers Sidna Prickett, Dale Johnson, and new member Dr. Michelle Torchia spoke about what Rotary has meant for them. Comments from each follows:

Sidna: "I joined Rotary in 1991 and served as president from 1996-1997. I have made business contacts as a result of my membership... for this I am grateful... but I want you to know that my greatest value has been in knowing that the club has given me the opportunity to serve others... not only have I established great business relationships, but I have discovered that the membership has developed into a wonderful group of close friends. My life has been greatly enhanced as a result of being a part of the Rotary Club of Bridgeton."

Sidna chairs the Food Banks and Toy Collection projects. For information, please call (856)455-0681.

Dale: "I moved here and fell in love with the area. My relocation was to serve as the Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. I spent twenty-seven years there until retirement three years ago. I have always enjoyed the friendships of associations I found in my years of Rotary. I have a profound appreciation and sense of gratitude for the opportunities to meet people serving in other professions. Through such contacts, I found that my membership in Rotary has helped me to be a more effective pastor. I appreciate the respect that the members of Rotary have for one another. Respect for one another serves to promote one's own sense of well-being and confidence. I found this to be true when I had the privilege to be president. The component I find to be so admirable about Rotary is the opportunity for service within our

community and worldwide."

Dale chairs the Rotary Youth Leadership and international Group Study Exchange. You may reach him at (856)358-0542.

Michelle: "I have been a member for nine months. I am an ob/gyn physician. I have three daughters and a husband; I am in graduate school. I wasn't sure how to fit Rotary into my schedule; I knew I wanted to be a part of Rotary. Upon attending the weekly meetings, I found it was something I looked forward to. Each week I enjoyed a speaker and engaging conversation at the table with other members. Community service has always been important to me. I feel I fit well with this service club."

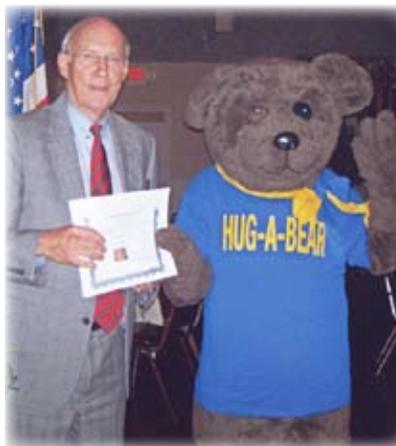
A surprise visit from "HUG-A-BEAR," the club's signature program, HUG-A-BEAR helped Diane Kolman present honors to Woodruff Energy and Doctor Donato Terrigno.

Presenting the award to Robert Woodruff Sr. and Robert Woodruff Jr, Kolman said, "In life, we see so many Human Needs."

The Woodruff's recognized the tremendous need for "HUG-A-BEAR" and the comfort it could bring to the children in unfortunate situations. The Woodruff's stepped forward as "Major Sponsors" to help make it happen.

We thank them.

Diane Kolman presented an award to Dr. Donato Terrigno. "Dr. Terrigno is America's Emergency Room Doctor. He takes care of his



The Woodruff's recognized the need for HUG-A-BEAR and stepped forward to make it happen.

patients with superior skill, kindness, and passion. He has been instrumental in implementing the "HUG-A-BEAR" program at South Jersey Healthcare emergency rooms. We thank you, Dr. Terrigno.

Dr. Terrigno remarked, "The little 'HUG-A-BEARs' are one of the best developments in medical care for children. Children come into the emergency room frightened, screaming, and needing many levels of care. The little bears offer comfort and security. They help allow our medical teams to administer the care needed in emergency situations."

Guests were treated to lovely Hordoeuvres and Epicurean deserts, baked by Rotary members.

The entertainment was the Richardson children. They delighted everyone with Irish music. Haley and her band Towheads:

- Haley, six years old on the violin
- Dylan, eleven years old on the guitar
- Newt, thirteen years old on the drums

Haley won first place in the twelve and under solo fiddle division at the Mid-Atlantic regional competition in New York on May 30, 2009. She competed against children ten to twelve years old from all over the United States and Canada. This qualifies her to compete in Tullamore, Ireland on August 22, 2009 representing the United States. Good luck Haley!

Bridgeton Rotary "Service Above Self"

"HUG-A-BEAR": Our signature program. HUG-A-BEAR provides cuddly little HUG-A-BEARs to children experiencing trauma and heartbreak. Rotarians raise funds to purchase, outfit, and distribute the bears to first responders and state police, fire departments, rescue squads, emergency rooms, American Red Cross, pediatric centers, and child advocate offices. Our goal is to get a little HUG-A-BEAR into the arms of every child experiencing trauma and heartbreak. The children hug the bears; they serve as a "symbol of comfort and security."

Other projects include:

- Adopt-A-Road Project
- Bayshore Discovery Project
- Bridgeton Area Food Banks
- Bridgeton Invitational Baseball Tournament
- Bridgeton Public Library Support
- Bridgeton Main Street Association Projects
- Bridgeton Police K-9
- Career Days-Vocations at High Schools
- Cohanzzick Zoo
- College Scholarships to students from area high schools
- Cumberland County 4-H National Congress
- Literary Project- Free dictionaries to hundreds of kids
- South Jersey Regional Medical Cancer Center
- Treatment Center Gardens
- InteractClub - Youth Rotary Organizations
- International Group Study Exchange
- Nail House Museum Maintenance
- Polio Plus Program- Eradicate polio in the world
- Rotary District Projects- orphanages, wells, etc.
- Rotary International Foundation- Paul Harris Fellowships
- Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly-RYLA
- Rotary District's strikeout hunger with the Phillies

In partnership with Bridgeton Area Join Service clubs:

- Bridgeton Pal
- Arc of Cumberland County
- Bridgeton Library
- Salvation Army
- Katrina Relief Fund
- Margaret Winchester Center for the Blind

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR WORLD.

- For information on membership and HUG-A-BEAR, contact Diane Kolman, HUG-A-BEAR director, at (856)455-6633, Anna Shimp, incoming membership chair, at (856)455-5594, or any Bridgeton Rotary Club member.



"The little HUG-A-BEARs are one of the best developments in medical care for children. Children often come into the emergency rooms frightened, screaming and needing many levels of care. The little bears offer comfort and security. They help allow our medical teams to administer the care needed in emergency situations."

~ Dr. Donato Terrigno



(L-R) Michelle Torchia, Denise Higbee and Carola Hartley.

Haley Richardson is an award-winning violinist and longtime friend of HUG-A-BEAR.



Dear Diane



I would like to thank you for the beautiful HUG-A-BEAR you gave to Olivia.

Both Chris and I have been deeply touched by the outpouring of support we have received from your community. Receiving this gift from you has meant so much as the work you do is nothing short of God's work.

Chris and I shine in the glory of Olivia as she is God's perfect creation and His promise to me as a mother. In reaching out, you shared with us your love and support. Again, I thank you and praise your work.

Sincerely,
Jenn and Chris Jespersen

HUG-A-BEAR Touches The Lives Of Many Children

Dear Diane,

On behalf of the MatriArk program at Seabrook House, thank you for including us in the HUG-A-BEAR recognition program. It was truly humbling to be in that audience and realize all the good work being done by so many in our area and that HUG-A-BEAR gets to participate in every act of kindness.

We probably have all had the experience of seeing how a soft, cuddly bear can help calm a frightened child, making it possible to provide much needed, and often painful treatment. But the Bridgeton Rotary and HUG-A-BEAR do more, you make it possible for the neediest of children to receive this "friend" at just the right moment. Thank you for HUG-A-BEAR.

Sincerely,
Marcia L. Schmidt,
Assistant to the President, Seabrook House



HUG-A-BEAR makes a surprise visit to the MatriArk Program at Seabrook House to say goodbye. Unfortunately, the program ended on Dec. 31 after 17 years due to funding. The program allowed mothers recovering from substance abuse at MatriArk to have their children in residence.

Nicole Chiarelli, (pictured right), is the Director of Children's Services there.



Proud to support the
the Bridgeton Rotary Club
and their work with the
"Hug-A-Bear" project

— Peter R. Spigel, Esq.

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LETTERS OF THANK YOU SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HUG-A-BEAR PROGRAM

Hello!

I just wanted to say something about HUG-A-BEAR. I'm glad that there is a program like HUG-A-BEAR for kids that are hurt and need something to cheer them up or just something to hold and have when they need it.

When I was younger, I broke my wrist and was very thankful for the HUG-A-BEAR that I received. I really liked it and it meant a lot to me to just have something to hold. So I thank everyone who really wants to help little kids in the HUG-A-BEAR foundation. Thank you a lot.

Sincerely,
Billy Loew



Dear Diane,

On behalf of myself and the Vineland Police Department, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to participate in a meaningful and worthwhile community project. I appreciate the dedication and look forward to future endeavors with your organization. The little HUG-A-BEARS certainly make a world of difference for children in a difficult situation.

Sincerely,
Timothy Codispoti
Chief of Police
City of Vineland



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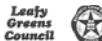
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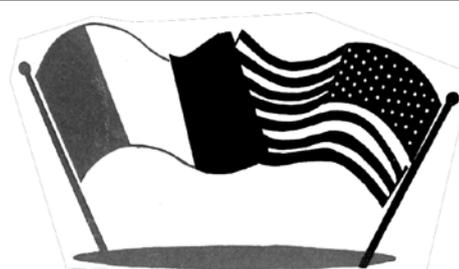
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Millville Rescue Is Thankful For HUG-A-BEAR Program

For a child in an emergency, an ambulance is usually a scary place. The child may be injured, confused, or traumatized as unfamiliar uniformed personnel try to assist them. EMT's undoubtedly have more difficulty evaluating a child who is disoriented, intimidated, and afraid. The comfort and well-being of our patients is our primary concern.

When we arrive at a scene or facility and we hand over little HUG-A-BEARS to the child that we are transporting, their disposition changes almost instantly. It helps to ease the child's fears about the hospital and whatever type of injury or sickness they might have. These mighty little HUG-A-BEARS help the child to understand that we are doing our best to help them feel better. This simple step can make a world of difference to the child who is otherwise lost. This "security blanket" of sorts requires little extra on our part and pays off exponentially when the technician is able to accurately assess and treat our little patients. Stocking HUG-A-BEARS on our ambulances is as necessary as having gauze on hand. These little bears become a child's instant friend, their very own superhero. This small gift is one of many ways to show the quality of care that we provide as well as serving the mission of Bridgeton Rotary HUG-A-BEAR Foundation and their "Service above Self" culture. Millville Rescue Squad is proud to be a participant in this community partnership program.

Sincerely,
Erica Hooven



HUG-A-BEAR helps Soroptimist member Donna Callihan (left) as she delivers gifts sponsored by the Soroptimists to Humble Hearts Shelter. HUG-A-BEAR has abear for each child.

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Best Wishes to "HUG-A-BEAR"

Rotary Breakfast Club Upcoming Events

- May 2, 2010 – BBQ
- June 7, 2010 – Circus at Dutchneck Village

*Millville
Police pose with
bears from the
HUG-A-BEAR
Program that will
be given to children
in stressful
situations.*



Vineland Police Accept Bears From HUG-A-BEAR

Children in Cumberland County benefit from the HUG-A-BEAR Program because First Responders are able to provide them with instant comfort in sad situations.



A Lesson In Giving Taught By 7-Year Old Alyson Lupton

From time to time, adults are blown away by the things children do or say.

We wonder where that comment, that question, that little altruistic deed could have come from.

Perhaps adulthood corrupts simple goodness over time.

Whatever the reason for our bewilderment, many here were impressed by Alyson Lupton's birthday wish.

Alyson, a township resident and student at Bridgeton Christian School, on Central Avenue, recently turned 7.

Her mother, Janice Lupton, asked her if she wanted to receive gifts from her friends for her birthday or have them given to a charity.

Janice said she went over some organizations with her daughter, as possible recipients.

Alyson decided to forego the gifts and have party guests give to the Bridgeton Rotary Club's Hug-A-Bear Program.

"Giving is good," was Alyson's reasoning, Janice said.

Although very shy at first, Alyson eventually explained her choice.

"When kids are in the hospital, the bears give them a hug," she said quietly.

The program gives stuffed bears to children caught up in trauma or tragedy, often by way of emergency response professionals, hospital emergency rooms, the American Red Cross, county surrogates, and child advocate offices, among others.

The idea is to provide some comfort and sense of security in a time rough enough for adults, let alone kids.

The program has two adult-sized mascots, the male Hug-A-Bear and female Honey-A-Bear, who often visit kids themselves at events.

The duo came to Alyson's party Saturday at Skate 2000, on Burlington Road.

Children stopped skating and lined the low brick wall around

the rink, leaning over it to get a good look at them.

Others who were off the rink crowded around to meet the locally-famous pair.

Alyson Lupton, front, with her family, HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR at Skate 2000. Alyson unselfishly decided to have her party guests give to the Bridgeton Rotary Foundation's HUG-A-BEAR Program.



Reprint from The News of Cumberland County
By JOE GREEN jgreen@sjnewsco.com

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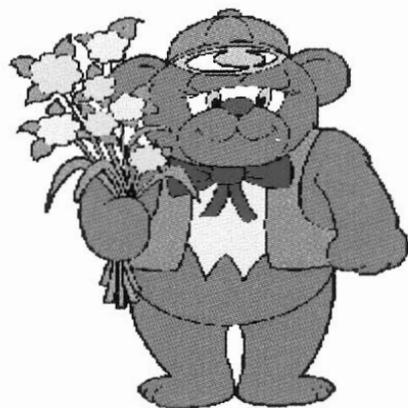
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WalMart, Century Savings Bank, Woodruff Energy, and South Jersey Healthcare Embrace HUG-A-BEAR

Bridgeton Rotary Foundation presents "Let Us Entertain You, a HUG-A-BEAR Production." As the April 17th event date approaches, corporate sponsors open their arms to embrace one of the greatest Humanitarian Efforts in the entire region: "HUG-A-BEAR," a 501C-3 organization.

Since 2004, HUG-A-BEAR has had a fundraiser bi-annually to support the program. We started with 20 BEARS and an idea; we have since distributed thousands of bears to make a difference for children in heartbreaking and traumatic situations. The two live mascots, HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR, along with first responders such as the state police, firefighters, EMS, Hospicecare for children, court appointed special advocates, emergency staff, pediatric centers, American Red Cross, police departments, county surrogate, and child advocate organizations provide the little HUG-A-BEARs to children needing that extra HUG.

"Let Us Entertain You, A HUG-A-BEAR Production" is presented on April 17th at the Centerton Country Club at 6 PM. Featured entertainment is seven year old award winning violinist Haley Richardson. Haley has performed and competed both nationally and internationally. The lovely Jessica Bauer will sing "We're young and Beautiful" by Carrie Underwood and "If I ain't got you" by Alicia Keyes. In addition, there will be a dance performance by HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR with the assistance of the Wilmington Academy of Dance. There will also be a musical tribute by Dr. Gladwyn Baptist. The legendary Jack Neff Band will be performing all evening.

A delicious buffet will be served, followed by sumptuous desserts.

There will be hourly door prizes and Chinese/silent auctions.

The ticket donation is \$45. This includes the dinner, deserts, entertainment, and a fun evening.

Corporate sponsors have made significant contributions to support the HUG-A-BEAR program. Their generosity is greatly appreciated!

X Premier Sponsor Walmart's Manager Janet Halter shares the passion for HUG-A-BEAR:

"Having a special passion for children and bears brings us to a full circle of understanding of the HUG-A-BEAR program. The level of security and comfort felt when a child in a crisis snuggles with a little HUG-A-BEAR is beyond measure. The little face glows with contentment.

"Walmart and Store Manager Janet Halter are proud to embrace HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR and all the little hearts they touch through first responders, emergency rooms, Red Cross, child advocate organizations, state police, fire, rescue squads, and military families. It is heartwarming to know these great needs are being nurtured by the HUG-A-BEAR Foundation."

X Bob Woodruff Sr., vice president of major sponsor Woodruff Energy has stated:

"Woodruff Energy is very excited to once again be a sponsor of the Bridgeton Rotary Club's HUG-A-BEAR major fundraising dinner. Over the years, this project has provided wonderful caring support to young children in traumatic situations with the distribution of these cuddly little bears. The reaction and stories from caregivers and from the kids are very heartwarming, and we are very happy to help

support things like this."

X Major sponsor Century Savings Bank's President and CEO David Hemple shares his views:

"We are committed 'Community Banking Plus,' which means giving back to the families in the neighborhoods we serve. We are proud to assist the Bridgeton Rotary Foundation in achieving their goal of putting a HUG-A-BEAR in the arms of every child in a difficult situation. Although our hope is that no child experiences trauma in their young life, Century Savings Bank is honored to sponsor such a wonderful evening and support HUG-A-BEAR, a worthy cause that touches young lives throughout Cumberland County by providing comfort when it is needed most."

X South Jersey Healthcare First Responder and Bear Sponsor Chet Kaletkowski, President and CEO, states:

"In a hospital setting, where there is often good reason for a child to be sad, frightened, or both, any source of comfort is a blessing. That's why South Jersey Healthcare is grateful to be a recipient of dozens of HUG-A-BEARs each year. Each time a nurse hands a HUG-A-BEAR to a young patient, we are making the hospital experience a little more bear-able."

The Bridgeton Rotary HUG-A-BEAR Foundation has received countless heartwarming letters of gratitude and testimonials from law enforcement, first responders, health care professionals, students, and court system officials acknowledging the value and tremendous need of the HUG-A-BEAR program. They describe our little HUG-A-BEARs as a friend, buddy, superhero, God's Angel, universal communicator, and medical assistant. The dedicated Board of Trustees: Alan Woodruff-President, Diane Kolman-Director, William Lomberk-Treasurer, Wade Sjogren-Secretary, and Frank Baitinger have pledged to Preserve, Protect, and Secure the HUG-A-BEAR program for today's children and future generations.



Tickets for "Let Us Entertain You" are available at Weber's Candy on Laurel Street, Woodruff Energy on Water Street, Swansea Vineyards on Main Street in Shiloh, or by calling either 455-6633 or 451-1890.





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Thank You For Recognizing "HUG-A-BEAR"

HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR are one of the Greatest Humanitarian Efforts in the entire region. Bridgeton Rotary started with 20 Bears and an idea. We have since distributed Thousands of Bears. We created Mascots HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR. We formed a foundation to secure the funds for today's children and future generations. The Foundation Board of Directors has pledged to the communities "We Will Keep The HUG-A-BEAR Program In Place for generations of children." The letters of gratitude and testi-

monials describe our little HUG-A-BEARS as a friend, a hero, the mighty one, God's angel, a universal communicator and a medical assistant. When children in emergency and heartbreaking situations Will Not respond to anyone or anything, they open their little arms for a HUG-A-BEAR to HUG as a symbol of comfort and security. That Changes Everything For These Children !

Little by little we are accomplishing our goals. We are right on target for our Five Year Goal !!!

As we move forward in the next few months we will be memorializing our pledge to the communities to keep the HUG-A-BEAR program in place forever. It will be with a Historic Ceremonial Platform. All communities are invited.

In April 2010 is our HUG-A-BEAR Event, "LET US ENTERTAIN YOU". The Historic Ceremonial Platform will be in late Spring, "THE BEST IS YET TO BE".



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HUG-A-BEAR and the Communities . . . A Perfect Partnership

In 2003, during the Presidency of Rev. Dale Johnston, the Bridgeton Rotary had an idea to do something for the children in our area.

William Lomberk had an idea to provide Teddy Bears to children in traumatic situations.

The newspapers and television stations were reporting how children were in various unfortunate circumstances. Children were being left on buses, several tragic house fires, auto accidents, serious medical emergencies, and other incidents involving children.

We started with twenty BEARS and quickly

realized we needed to have a major fundraiser to purchase bears to give to state police, rescue squads, fire departments, the American Red Cross, first responders, police departments, hospitals, and other organizations who can provide the BEARS to children.

In 2004, we had a fundraiser called "An Evening in Tuscany." It was a wonderful success. The community embraced HUG-A-BEAR. We were able to purchase BEARS, outfit them with t-shirts. We also purchased duffel bags for the first responders to keep the BEARS safe during transit.

With first responders and child advocate organizations, our little HUG-A-BEARS were delivering comfort and security to many children. We were receiving letters of gratitude for the great level of satisfaction with our HUG-A-BEAR program.

Rotarian Diane Kolman was always thinking of how to do better with HUG-A-BEAR. She thought of creating a HUG-A-BEAR mascot to help give the little bears to these children needing a special Hug.

Wow, what a great idea! With a lot of love and care, HUG-A-BEAR was created as our mascot in December of 2004. With HUG-A-BEAR, it was love at First HUG.

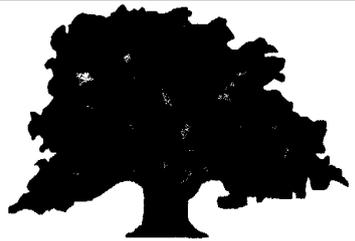
To insure the supply of BEARS, we needed to have a fundraiser every two years. In 2006, we had Dance Dazzle, a successful fundraiser with the Vineland Regional Dance Company, Jack Neff Band, County Star Dancers, a delicious dinner, and an exceptional silent auction.

In 2008, we had guests from all over South Jersey come to celebrate "A Magical Evening with HUG-A-BEAR" featuring the amazing world renowned illusionist Anthony Salazar. The Jack Neff Band was among many special features present that night. Award winning illusionist Anthony Salazar had the guests spell-

bound with his illusions. His grand finale, before everyone's eyes, was the creation of HONEY-A-BEAR, our second mascot to help HUG-A-BEAR with his tremendous duties. The communities were thrilled with the event.

HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR are the love of the communities. The BEARS are very active, winning several awards for community service. Some of the events HUG and HONEY have participated in are Children's Day, Lunch with Santa sponsored by Soroptimist, RMC Pediatrics, emergency rooms, parades, Rotary 100th Anniversary, Fly Eagles Fly, EMT day, community day, Bridgeton Invitational Baseball Tournament, First Responders Appreciation Day, HUG-A-BEAR birthday parties, and other visits and guest appearances. HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR are serving numerous organizations throughout Cumberland County and part of Salem County. There are additional organizations that have expressed the need for our HUG-A-BEAR program. HUG-A-BEAR and HONEY-A-BEAR's ultimate duty is to bring a smile to the faces of little children in tough situations by giving them a little HUG-A-BEAR to Hug. HUG-A-BEAR delights the hearts of those from one year old to a hundred years old!

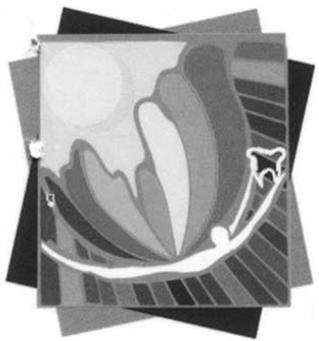
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Rotary Club Sponsors Students For Conference



Pictured left to right, Rotarian Sldna Prickett; students, Meredith Wuzzardo, Bridgeton High School, Shayna Perella, Cumberland Regional High School, Kelsey Branch, Bridgeton High School, Jaleesa Brooks, Bridgeton High School, Gabriela Contino, Cumberland Regional High School, and Rotarian Dale Johnston.

The Bridgeton Rotary Clubs sponsored six students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference. The Rotary Club is proud to support these outstanding students.

After the four-day conference, the students came to share their experiences with the club; each student described the impact of the speakers and the challenge of working with a large group of leaders. They spoke about how their views had grown through the people they had met. The six said they had learned so much about themselves and their own potential. They each felt the value and participation of team-building activities was beyond measure. It is something they would carry through college into their careers. The students thanked the Rotary Clubs for giving them the opportunity of a lifetime.

LET'S SING THE HUG-A-BEAR SONG . . .

To the tune of "Til' We Meet Again"

*HUG-A-BEAR, you mean so
much to me.*

When I'm Sad, you

always make me glad

When the trials of life descend

*Then I know-you are my
friend.*

*So HUG-A-BEAR gives
thanks to Rotary.*

*They're the ones who raise
the funds for me.*

*And thank you all who give a
gift to support the cause.*

— Words by William Cassidy

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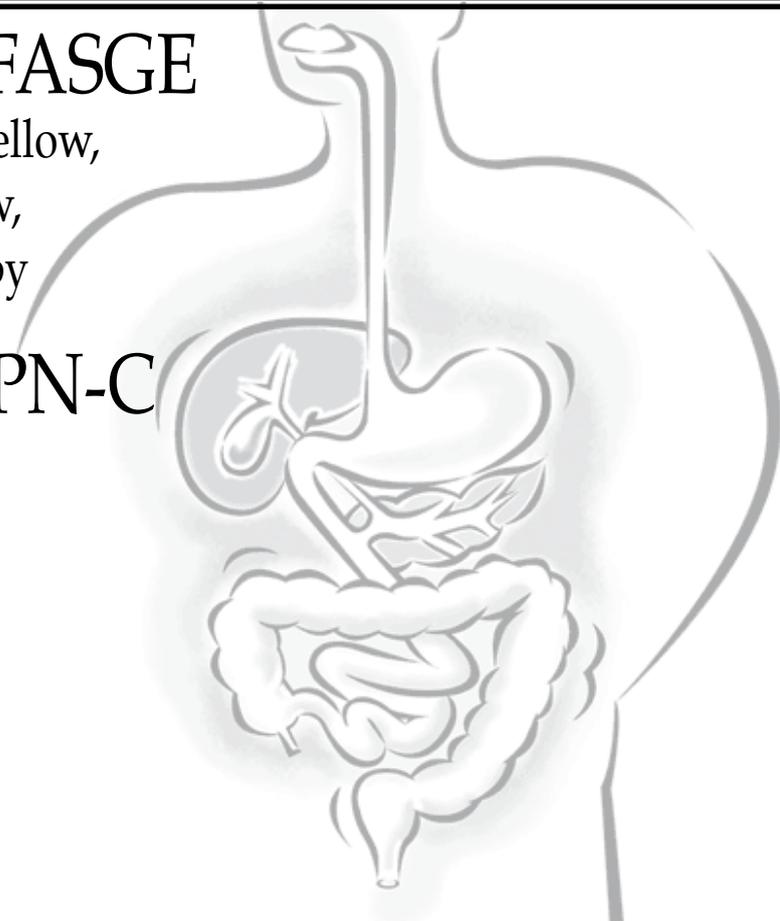
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Hospice Care Children's Bereavement Camp Receives Surprise Visit From HUG-A-BEAR

Dear Diane & Bridgeton Rotarians,

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and campers who participated in Camp Kaleidoscope 2008, I want to thank the Bridgeton rotarians and especially Diane for bringing HUG-A-BEAR and Honey Bear to comfort and delight our campers and staff. Your "bears" deserve much credit for their "forebearance" in being willing to come in such hot weather.

I received much positive feedback from our staff as to how much the campers enjoyed meeting them and receiving the adorable bears to take home. I would appreciate any thoughts you might have about your experience and how we might gain an even greater benefit from your participation.

Please keep us in mind for future camps as we are already talking about Camp Kaleidoscope 2009.

Sincerely yours,
Fred Goos, Camp Director



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Thank You To All Students Who Volunteer In The HUG-A-BEAR Program

John Toth (right), is an outstanding young man that has volunteered to help HUG-A-BEAR since high school. He is now a sophomore in college and still volunteers to help when he can. He was recognized with a scholarship for his dedicated service.



Twins **Danielle and Dominique Musso** were honored for their help with HUG-A-BEAR since High School. They are now in college and will be graduating in 2011. They are always happy to lend a hand.

The dedication of all young adults in our community is commendable and an important part of keeping the HUG-A-BEAR Program alive in the future.



HUG-A-BEAR and Honey-A-Bear visit children at the Regional Medical Center and leave cuddly bear friends behind to comfort patients and bring smiles to their lives.

HUG-A-BEAR helps CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) by giving bears to comfort the children.



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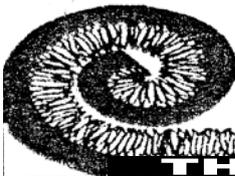
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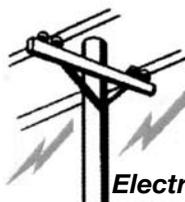
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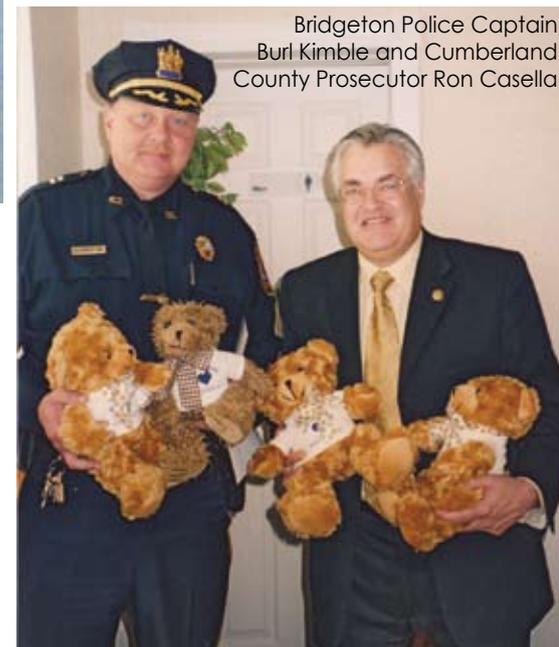


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The Hug-A-Bear program has been a huge success in the community. Police officers, hospitals, fire stations and other organizations have embraced HUG-A-BEAR as a tool used to help children and families cope with stressful situations.

Bridgeton Police Captain
Burl Kimble and Cumberland
County Prosecutor Ron Casella



The reactions of the children when they are presented with a bear shows that the program is very worthwhile.



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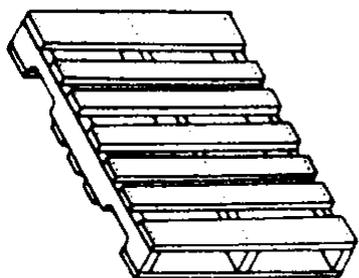


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Vineland Pediatric Unit Gets Visit From HUG-A-BEAR And Honey-A-Bear



HUG and HONEY visit RMC in Vineland and give each patient in the Pediatrics unit a hug and a little HUG-A-BEAR.



Play Ball . . . HUG-A-BEAR throws out the first ball. (Below) Quinn Boss sang the National Anthem. She is pictured with her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Boss. Everyone enjoyed the day.

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Ellie of Ellie's Treasures is a great supporter of HUG-A-BEAR.



Randy of Randy's General Store generously donates bicycles for the children.

Bridgeton Rotary Honors Cumberland County Agriculture Community

Bridgeton Rotary Lunch Club hosted the Cumberland County agriculture community for a special luncheon.

Jack Rabin, associate director for farm programs at Rutgers' Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension, gave a light-hearted and fun presentation about asparagus research.

The research has been to develop asparagus that yields up to 6,000 pounds an acre. It previously yielded 1,200 pounds.

Rabin also talked about the change in Urban Fringe Farming for the past 40 years — 1967-2007.



N.J. Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher.

Rabin was accompanied by Dr. Larry Katz, director of farm programs at Rutgers. Katz's research has been in the behavior of deer.

Rotarian Diane Kolman presented some of the "The Virtues of Agriculture" by Thomas Jefferson.

* Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness.

* Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interest by lasting bonds.

* An industrious farmer occupies a more dignified place in the scale of beings, whether it be morals or politics. I would rather be judged by a farmer.

* Agriculture is the first in utility, and ought to be the first in respect.

* Those who labor in the Earth are the chosen people of God.

Thomas Jefferson preferred his farms to public life. He estimated it would take one man four working days to work one acre of land.

Jefferson's ideal society was a nation of landowning farmers, living under as little government as possible.



Members of the county's farming community gathered for a luncheon with Bridgeton Rotary Lunch Club.

Thank you to our HUG-A-BEAR Patrons

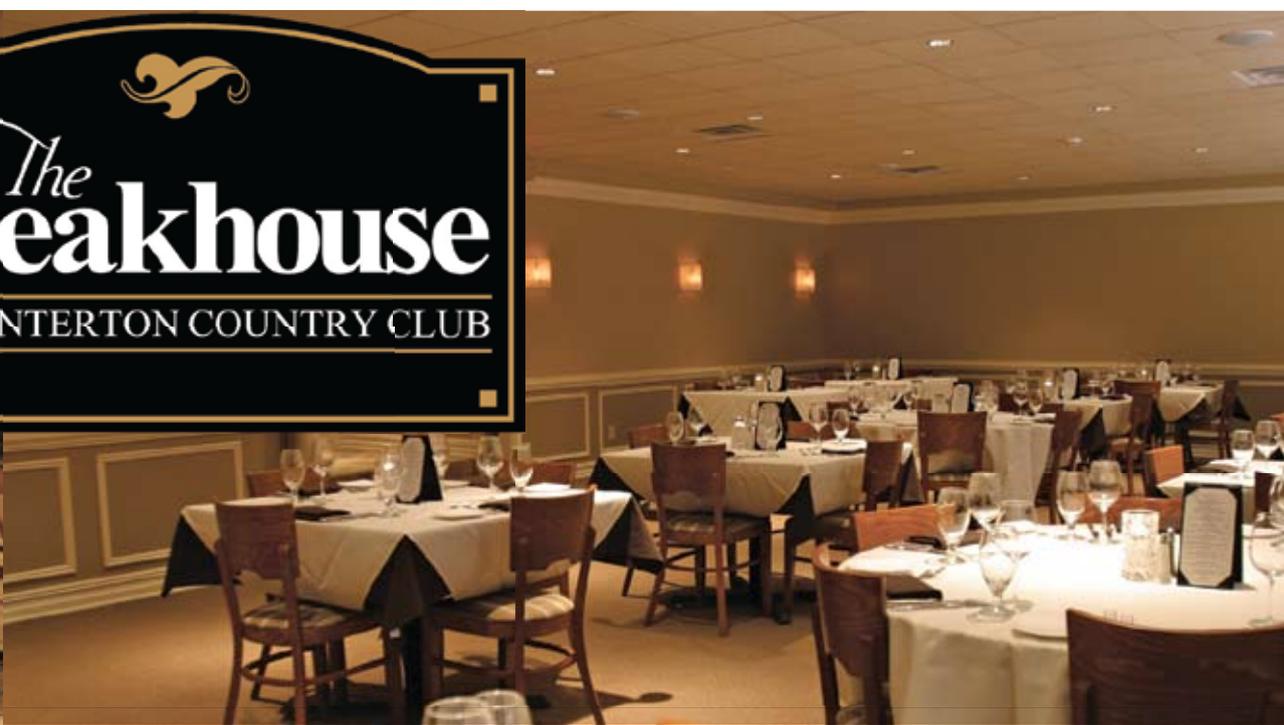
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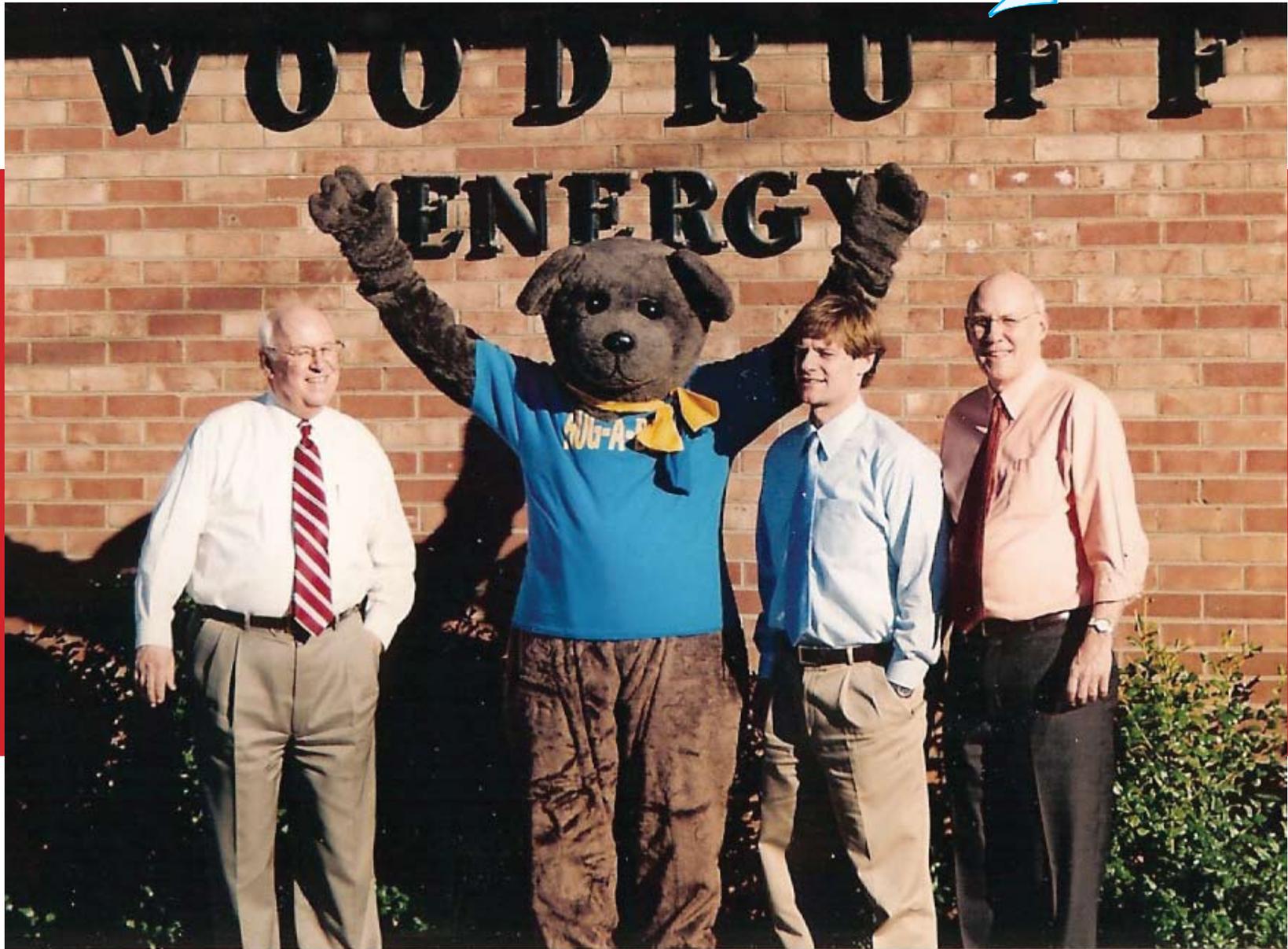


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J. Alan Woodruff, Co-Chair of the Bridgeton Rotary Hug-A-Bear Fund Raising Gala (left) and Robert Woodruff, Jr. and Robert Woodruff, Sr., Presidents of Woodruff Energy stand with HUG-A-BEAR as he celebrates the announcement of Woodruff Energy's generous support of the HUG-A-BEAR Program as this year's Major Corporate Sponsor.

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Bridgeton Wal-Mart Manager
Janet Halter



Taking a moment to pose are (back row) HUG-A-BEAR, Bridgeton Wal-Mart Manager Janet Halter, Honey-A-Bear and Wal-Mart staff. Wal-Mart is proud to support this very important program.

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(Above) Wal-Mart Manager Janet Halter (center) is helping HUG-A-BEAR deliver bears for the children of the Military families.

Wal-Mart employees and manager Janet Halter (front center) are involved in the HUG-A-BEAR program.

