

From Desk of the President

Dear friends:

I must start by apologizing for being so delinquent with this letter. I guess I could make some lame excuse, but the truth is that I just kept letting it slip; again, my apologies.

A lot has happened since I last wrote. I retired from my job in January. It took all of a day to get used to it! One would think that a new retiree would have more time on his hands than he could find things to do with it. No such thing! With the March Car Show coming up, I had plenty to do.

Then in February came the awful news that Carol Martin, the original Cruisers For Kids Vice President, and our strongest fundraiser had passed away suddenly. The shock of her passing hurt all of at CFK tremendously! But her love of the Kids in need and her strong desire to help them remained behind! Even at this time of unimaginable pain, her family decided that her work to help CFK help the kids needs to continue. In that spirit, they asked that donations be made to CFK in lieu of flowers. The result of that request manifested itself with phenomenal results! Cash and checks from all over the country filled our mailbox! Well over \$5,000.00 was donated in her name! This outpouring not only points out Carol's spirit, it also tell us how much she was loved by so many! The Cruisers For Kids Board of Directors dedicated the March 2006 Car Show to Carol's memory, and her beloved Model "A" sat proudly next to the stage. When it was all over, CFK had raised a sum of nearly \$21,000.00! This is by far a record for a CFK event, and I am confident that Carol smiled down on us!

One of the happiest moments of my life occurred shortly after the show. My wife, Joanie, and I took the CFK donation check to the Russell Home. We were welcomed warmly and informed about the goings on there. We were told that for the first time, they have residents confined to wheelchairs and there is no handicapped accessible in the house. My eyes filled with tears of joy, as I was able to hand them a check and say, "Here is enough money to fix that problem." God bless every person who donated even a dollar, worked an hour, or said a prayer. It took a tremendous effort on the parts of a lot of people coupled with Carol Martin's intervention to work this miracle!

Since I have retired, Joanie and I have decided to sell our home and move back to Tennessee. Many people have expressed concern for the future of CFK if we leave. We hope that we have convinced them that CFK is much bigger than Jack & Joanie Smith and will thrive well into the future without us. Mr. Don Howard will replace me as President of CFK and I am confident that, with your help, he will lead CFK on to a very bright future. I have agreed to return in December to ride once more on the CFK Santa Float in the Waterford Lakes Town Center Parade the first weekend in December and to attend the March 2007 show.

Over the past seven years many people have worked hard to make my dream come true and grow CFK from one man's dream to an amazing success. I cannot find the words to express my thanks to each and every one of you. I do though wish to extend to every member of the CFK Staff, past and present, a very special thanks to those people who believed so strongly in my dream as to do whatever was necessary to make it a reality. I know you all willing did all that I asked, and a lot of things I never knew happened. It truly was you folks who created CFK, and now I call upon you to carry it forward into an even more successful future

"Start your engines and help kids re-start their lives"

Jack Smith