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PATCHES e-News

December 2009

Oh my! . . .It's Santa!!!!

With excitement and anticipation the children were gathered and waiting for the "Jolly Ole Elf" to walk in, and when he did, you guessed it....the yelling, and screaming of his name "Santa" could be heard all over the nursing center. The Patches Santa Party began! Wrapped presents galore were handed out by Santa to every child as he called them by name. First National Bank again helped Santa out this year as they have done every year since PATCHES opened. They made sure Santa had toys to light up the eyes of every child! Santa was very busy and loving it! The children were thrilled that Santa was able to visit them at such a busy time of year. Before they knew it, it was time for Santa to head back to the North Pole. And as he strolled out of sight, he waved

good night and gave out a big Ho Ho Ho! When lunch time rolled around the children enjoyed one of their favorite treats... Wendy's Kid Meals thanks to the donation by Wendy's Restaurant in Homestead. A special thanks to Bob Brinley who was the man in red. Thank you to Rose Williams, Manager of Wendy's Restaurant on US1 in Homestead. And of course a big thank you from PATCHES (and Santa) to First National Bank who takes the time to get just the right toy for each and every child every year!

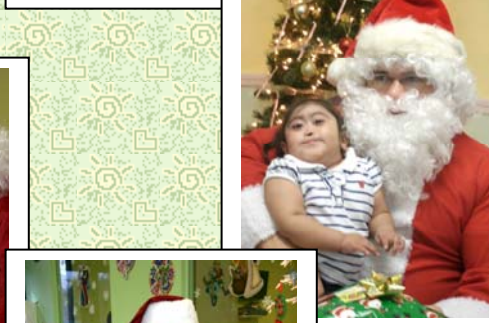
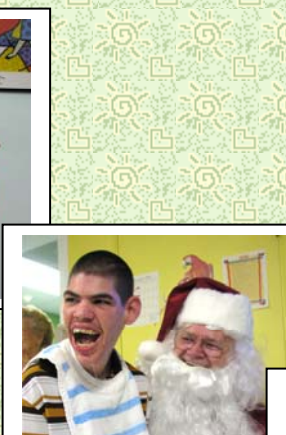
It was a fantastic day thanks to so many who made it possible with their generous donations of toys, food and money. We want to thank all of our special guests who came and participated in the Santa Party. PATCHES wants all of you to know that every single

one of you is special and helps make PATCHES a special place for our kids.

PATCHES in Fort Pierce held it's own **Jolly Holly Day** celebration. The children were treated to a special concert given by Gerrard Adams on flute and Ali Embry on violin, both of whom are children of nurses working at PATCHES. Needless to say all the kids were delighted with gifts from Santa!



Our hard working Jr. Advisory Board



Christmas Caroling at Patches

December 1st Patches had an amazing group of visitors from L.I.G.H.T., a Christian co-op of Homeschooling families. They came and sang Christmas Carols with the kids and staff. Ten adults and twenty-six kids came for the afternoon along with their President Sandy Wagner. They wore bright holiday colors and heads adorned with Santa hats. They handed out jingle bells and tambourines to our kids so they could be a part of the musical entertainment. Everyone played, danced and sang to all the Christmas tunes. Before this special group said their good byes, they gave out presents to each child. It was a special time at Patches, not only for the kids, but the staff as well. We all enjoyed the wonderful afternoon.

We wish to thank Sandy Wagner and the whole group from L.I.G.H.T Homeschooling for starting our Christmas season with such joy. We hope you will come back and see us again.



“A Place Called Patches”

By Sharon Fields

Store #205 at Prime Outlet Mall celebrates... **One Year Anniversary**

This store came into to our lives as a “blink of an eye”. It wasn’t planned. The Founders were in the planning stages with their Advisory Board concerning other projects that would allow us to raise money and awareness for Patches, because the needs at the nursing center are great. Yet, here they were, the Founders of a nursing center for children with extreme medical needs in the middle of a retail home décor store in the outlet mall. Talk about a roller coaster ride. Now nearly one year later, we are celebrating our One Year Anniversary.

“A Place Called Patches” is staffed by volunteers only. Steve Smith, has been our “main guy” since the day the store opened. If it wasn’t for Steve and his dedication to Patches the store would not have made it. The other amazing volunteers are Founders/R.N.’s Joanie, Kyle & Jane. After putting a full day in at the nursing center they would work the 5 till 9 shift and weekends at the store. For a while we were blessed to have Max and Becky High who helped out on Friday nights so Steve could have the evening off. We are thankful to have had some part-time helpers come to our rescue from time to time. Since September I have joined in and call Patches my home away from home. Because of this store, we have had the opportunity to share our hearts and love for Patches with so many people. Some of our customers want to know how they can help. Some of our customers can relate to having sick children and understand the needs Patches has as they wipe tears from their eyes as they share their stories with us. There have been a couple of people who could not wait to tell others about Patches because they thought their child might benefit from the nursing care that is provided there. We have met some amazing people...please read about Kathleen Higham below.

A year has nearly come and gone since the Opening Day of February 28th, 2009. As we approach our **One Year Anniversary** we ask you to mark your calendars that you might **join us the afternoon of February 27th when Something Special is Happening at “A Place Called Patches”.** **World known Christian author and poet, Kathleen Higham** has donated copies of her second book called **“The Window To God”** to Patches and she will be at the store for a book-signing that afternoon. Kathleen has the ability to take someone’s story and turn it into poetry which touches your heart and soul. We have sold numerous copies already because they make lovely, heart-felt gifts. Kathleen came into the store on December 18th and after learning about Patches she has become one of our very Special Friends. We hope you will come and meet Kathleen. She is a woman who knows sorrow first hand but also knows who holds her life in the palm of His hand.

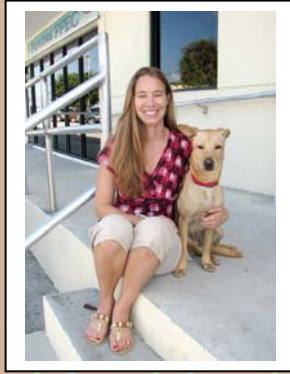


AND, there may be Something Else Happening at “A Place Called Patches”; more news to come in early February.

We want to thank our faithful customers for shopping with us and for spreading the word about the store.

“Goldie the Golden Lab”

December was a month of excitement. You can imagine the children’s eyes when they saw Goldie the beautiful Golden Lab. Goldie and her owner, Charelle Burgess, visited PATCHES. The children could not wait to pet her. Charelle spoke to the children about how soft Goldie’s fur is and answered a bunch of questions while Goldie just relaxed and enjoyed all the petting, and rubbing....after all someone had to do the hard job . . right?! They fell in love with Goldie.



Charelle we want to thank you for coming to Patches and for bringing Goldie to visit the kids. We hope we will see you both sometime soon.

Congratulations..... Larry Roth

Larry Roth serves on the Advisory Board of Patches and he is one of our valued volunteers. We applaud Larry as he is the recipient of the Homestead/South Dade Chamber of Commerce “Citizen of the Year” Award which was presented to him during the December Chamber luncheon. Hip hip hooray! The Patches Family is so proud of you.



Health Council of South Florida presents -

“Jingle Mingle”, an annual fundraiser for HCSF Scholarship Award. HCSF selected PATCHES to be the beneficiary of this years toy drive during the holiday event in downtown Miami. Their toys helped to make the holiday season a happy one for many of our children.

The Women of Patches wish to thank the Health Council of South Florida for selecting them as their recipients of the Toy Drive for this years Jingle Mingle. A special thank you goes out to Marisel Losa and Shelley Glasgow who made this possible.

American Legion Post #43/American Legion Women’s Auxillary of Homestead visits Patches

Rebecca Jones, American Legions Auxiliary President heard about Patches while shopping in “A Place Called Patches” at the Prime Outlet Mall in Florida City. While in the store the volunteers who work there shared the “heart stories” about the children of Patches. Touched by what she learned, Mrs. Jones brought a group of caring

individuals from the American Legion and American Legion Women’s Auxillary Post#43 to the nursing center to see what they could do to help. After their tour and after speaking with the founders about the many needs the families have, They presented a check to the Founders for PATCHES. And they provided food and toys for 10 patches families! What an amazing group! Thank you all! We wish to thank the American Legion Post 43 for their generosity and look forward to working with them in the New Year.



Homestead-Miami Speedway visits Patches



Mrs. Claus and staff from the Homestead-Miami Speedway spent an afternoon at Patches spreading holiday cheer. Mrs. Claus and her helpers called each child by name a number of times. The dedicated volunteers assisted Mrs. Claus until every child was loaded down with an arm full of gifts to enjoy. Their generosity brought holiday cheer to all.

Thank you Homestead-Miami Speedway for the joy and happiness you brought to the children, their families and the Patches Team this Christmas season.



From left to right on the floor Hope Mees, Edward Williams
From left to right standing (Lauren Heunis, Juanita Lopez, Bonnie King-Moran (Mrs. Claus), Jay Fraioli, Melanie Stansel and Nathalie Salas

Bonnie King-Moran (Mrs. Claus)

So Many generous Hearts....

"Thank you for your recent donations of
time, money & services"

You make a difference

A BIG *thanks* goes to –

Insurance Handiman - Soni Kiarson gives Christmas Gifts in honor of Vito Strano and Phyllis Ernst. Gracie Conde gives Christmas Gifts in honor of Stephen Rossman, Charles Baumberger, Alex Rebozo, Howard Spier, Lincoln Connolly and in Memory of Karen Rossman. Jennifer Guy, Deborah Hutchins - Speech & Language Pathologists of Region V Dade County Public School, Post #43/American Legion Women's Auxillary, Sheila Chippall of Professional Registered Nurses, V.M. Janik, Rhonda & Bruce Irvine, The Tuck Family, The Acker Family, The Little Angels Foundation, Poinciana Girl Scouts, National Council of Jewish Women Kendall Evening Section, Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Porco, Florida City Investment Group, Rep. Dwight Bullard, Bob Levy, Jose Diaz, Lynda Bell, Barbara Socarraz, Ocean Waves Chapter National Quilting Association, Tina Rogers Leeden, Pamela Kurilla-Girl Scout Troop 908-Ambassadors, Judy Momenzadeh, Diane Raulerson, Melody Champman, HCSF-Health Council of South Florida, Marisel Losa, Shelley Ann Glasgow-Wilson, 1st National Bank of Homestead, Grant award from Walmart Corp., Keyes Co. Realty, Kiwanis- Homestead/South Dade, Bob & Debbie Brinley, Wendy's Restaurant on US1 Homestead, Delgado Family, Renata Lossano, Speedway Church, Ronald & Nanette Elenbaas, Larry & Kathy Geier, and Kathleen Higham.

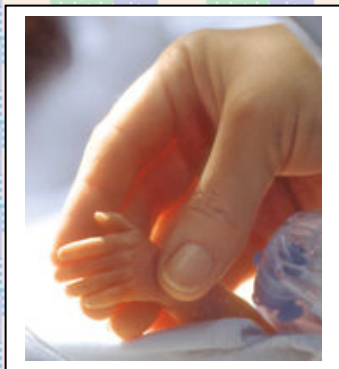
PATCHES is honored and thankful to be chosen as the recipient of a generous grant by the Charles G. Wright Foundation for the second year in a row..

Your gifts of love and support have allowed us to provide some of the much needed items for Patches, our children and their families. We are blessed to have a community that cares. Thank you!



Joanie's Thoughts On Blessings.....

By Joanie Ippolito



In everything there are blessings. That sounds so supercilious, so pious. Yet true. They are there. If you don't see the blessings in your life, look again, look harder. I once was blind, but now I see a little better. Every day I see blessings all around me. When the mother leaves her sick child in the care of the nurse I see. Her eyes are grateful. When my dear friend is in pain I see. She is comforted. When the young girl and her children barely have food to eat I see. They are given food. When the family wonders how to keep a roof over their heads I see. They are given work. When he is struggling but pretends all is fine I see. He is encouraged. When the love of her life is

gone and she's in deep sorrow I see. Her friends are beside her. When a child dies I see. Their sorrow is shared. If you don't see, you're not really looking. Look again, look harder. You say, where's the blessing in all this?

The blessings are there, in the midst. In the midst of trial, In the midst of pain, In the midst of suffering, In the midst of daily toils & frustrations, In the doctor's voice, In the nurse's touch, In the therapist's hand, In the friend's shoulder Look in their eyes, In the midst, we see blessings we wouldn't otherwise see.

A child walks, but the docs had said never
A child talks, it's the best gift ever
A child tastes something yummy for the very first time
They laugh, they giggle
They learn to play
The pain goes away even if just for a little while
There is healing
There is care
There is life

There is love
There are blessings in every breath.
There are blessings in the midst. PATCHES has taught me that. I see them, do you?

My cup is most definitely overflowing with blessings. Sometimes I misplace my cup and when I do God has a way of reminding me of how blessed I am. PATCHES has taught me that.

Blessings are miracles and PATCHES is a place where miracles happen everyday. Come and watch.



This is the story I wrote for January's post. I write a monthly story and poem for about 200 readers. I thought I'd share it with PATCHES. kh

Through Her Eyes

By Kathleen Higham



I called this story "Through Her Eyes" because today I had the experience of touring the most amazing place called "Patches." I had already seen it, felt it, and loved it through the eyes of Sharon Fields. She is a fellow servant, volunteer, photographer, and probably so many things I have not yet learned. Let me just say that today my husband and I had the joy of touring what I would lovingly call, "The Hospital of the Lord." Patches is a licensed Pediatric Center, however the license for love will never expire.. Patches is a Pediatric Alternative Treatment, Care, Housing & Evaluation Service. This is certainly a mouth full of words that can be broken down into one word: LOVE. I met the CEO, the Founder, the Mayor, the Doctor, the Nurses, and an entourage of Therapists and Educators, but the most amazing encounter came from a little boy. He was barely a toddler and his little hand reached out to touch my face. A shy smile came with coaxing. These children each have some type of illness or affliction. Their struggles may seem insurmountable, but these people who have dedicated their lives to serving and helping the children have chipped away at their struggle and filled precious hearts with endless, unfailing love. My words are slow to come as I try to explain this monumental task that is the most amazing labor of love I have ever witnessed. In forty years of nursing I thought I saw everything, until today. Though these children suffer, there is a joyful atmosphere that clearly portrays God is the one true healer. His presence walked with me through every room. Sharon Fields who gave me the visual from her heart now gave us the tour in person. She was loaded down with cameras, as she took us through every room. I think Sharon is the spokeswoman from God. Through her eyes came the story, but from her lips she praises God and gives Him all the glory. This was truly a Divine appointment and as always God has expressed His thoughts through the Godliness of those I met today. Patches is more than a Pediatric Nursing Center. It is the loving hearts of caregivers and children patched together by His hand to depict the perfect and exquisite love of our Lord. It would be my prayer that anyone who feels God's call would visit their web site: www.patchesppec.org. If you do, I promise you your heart will never be the same...

To God be the Glory

Your continued support is very much appreciated. There are many ways in which to assist PATCHES.

- ♥ **Make a donation**
- ♥ **Shop through iGive or GoodShop**
- ♥ **Remember us in your will**
- ♥ **Honor someone -
Special tribute
Memorial gift**
- ♥ **Contribute -
to our Food Pantry**
- ♥ **Meet a special need of an individual child or common need of PATCHES**

**All gifts are tax deductible
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Flu Season . . . Prevent the Spread!

Probably the single most important thing you can do to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus, in addition to the common cold, is to **wash your hands** and keep them away from your face. Teach your children to wash their hands - and help them as needed.

Cover your mouth with a tissue if you cough or sneeze—and teach your children to do so, too.

If you do get sick, stay away from crowds and especially those people at high risk for the disease. Seek Treatment - Mom's wisdom applies for the H1N1 flu as well: stay home, get plenty of rest, and drink lots of clear liquids to prevent dehydration.



Be on the alert for signs of more serious complications of the flu requiring medical treatment:

If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, seek emergency medical care.

Emergency warning signs in children:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

Emergency warning signs in adults:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

The CDC suggests staying home for 24 hours after fever subsides.



Please add rkperki3@gmail.com to your address book to ensure delivery to your inbox.

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