



2003 Communities for Children Executive Summary

Thanks to the generosity of community members, particularly members of Dunwoody United Methodist Church and Transfiguration Catholic Church, more than 100 foster care children in DeKalb and Cherokee counties woke up this Christmas to the thrill of a new bicycle and helmet.



The goal of the Bicycle Campaign is to solicit individual donors and corporate sponsors to provide a bicycle for a child in foster care who requested one just their size. On December 19, several volunteer members of Communities for Children loaded a 26-foot truck with more than 100 brand new bikes, from tricycles to 26" mountain bikes, and played the part of Santa Claus for DeKalb and Cherokee counties.

At any given time, approximately 16,000 Georgia children are in foster care, either because they were abused, neglected or mistreated, or because their families were unable to care for them due to poverty, illness or crisis. While we are unable to serve all 16,000 children, the 2003 Bicycle campaign could not have achieved such a level of accomplishment without the commitment and dedication of the individual donors who made this program possible.

We are also very excited about raising over \$1,500 in 2003 for our annual Smooth Moves Luggage Campaign. Foster parents are only granted \$12 per day to care for these children, which does not leave enough money for a "luxury" item such as luggage. Through donations Communities for Children was able to donate new or gently used pieces of luggage to the local DFCS offices for children entering foster care. Smooth Moves helps to preserve a child's dignity and eliminate some of the stress of moving from one placement home to another. Our belief is that no child should have to carry their belongings to their new home in a garbage bag.



Communities for Children will continue working to obtain corporate and individual funding to improve the experience of children in foster care with our Bicycle and Luggage Campaigns. We hope to build on our programs each year to ensure all foster and newly adopted children in the State of Georgia will have a sense of dignity and experience some of the most basic, simple pleasures of childhood.

2003 Communities for Children



DeKalb County DFCS smiles for the camera as the bikes are being delivered.



Santa's Elves are ready to ride on their reindeer.



Henry County DFCS was grateful to be receiving brand new luggage for their foster children.



Santa's sleigh loaded with bicycles for all the good little boys and girls.