

P.A.R.K.

Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids

**DONALD W. REYNOLDS
FACTORY**

P.A.R.K. A WINNER AT 2003 TEAM AFFILIATED CHARITY CLASSIC

A ticket sold for P.A.R.K. had the winning number for a new V-Rod Harley Davidson in the recent Team Affiliated Charity Classic's "Golf Ball Drop". Dow Worsham of North Little Rock purchased the ticket from Delana Green, Crystal Slaughter, and Melissa Roden of Market Café.

The Annual Charity Classic is given by Affiliated Foods with the proceeds benefiting area charities. This year's Classic, dubbed "Cookin' it Up Cajun Style" was a huge success thanks to many folks. As usual, our extended family at Affiliated Foods Southwest outdid the previous years' festivities, feeding 500 guests. It was a most incredible Cajun' feast, and everyone in attendance had a wonderful time!

The annual Charity Classic is given by Affiliated Foods with the proceeds benefiting area charities. In addition to P.A.R.K., this year's beneficiaries are ACRC, Arkansas Hospice, Baptist Schools of Nursing, CARTI, Centers for Youth and Families, Dorcas House, and Youth Home. The charities help in ticket sales for the very popular Golf Ball Drop where balls are dropped lottery style to form a winning number for the motorcycle. Each charity keeps all the money it raises for the Golf Ball Drop and shares in money raised for the sales to the event itself. P.A.R.K. led the pack in sales this year, raising an additional \$8000 from Golf Ball Drop tickets.

A highlight of this year's event was a special birthday presentation for Shirley Davis that included an absolutely spectacular ten-layer birthday cake made by Sue Dunlap from H. C. Scruggs, a Harvest Foods supplier. And special auctioneer guests Gaylen and Kayla McGee auctioned a Bichon' Frise puppy donated by Rita Landry of Reese Brokerage.

A very special thanks goes to Jerry Davis and our Affiliated Foods family. We are grateful for the continued love and support AFS shows us. Thanks, too, to all of you who helped with ticket sales and to all who bought tickets. And to Dow Worsham, congratulations! We hope you enjoy the "HOG"!

MISSION STATEMENT

Within a positive atmosphere built on love, nurturing and discipline, P.A.R.K. strives to enrich the lives of Central Arkansas's at-risk youth. Specifically, P.A.R.K. exists to build the confidence, self-esteem and spiritual awareness in its members, to ensure academic achievement, to expand their horizons, and to instill in them the importance of helping others.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
SHIRLEY
DAVIS!!**



Gaylen and Kayla McGee serve as SPECIAL guest auctioneers for the 2003 Team Affiliated Charity Classic

Photo by Shawn Covey
Affiliated Foods Southwest

Don't forget Keith Jackson's 2nd annual Super Bowl Party at Clear Channel Metroplex



Keith's Corner

New Year's Wishes, By Keith Jackson



*I wish P.A.R.K. had an endowment. Raising money every year is tough.

*I wish I could pay the employees (teammates) at P.A.R.K. more money. They probably get tired of hearing charities will pay off after a while.

*I wish not for toys, but for full-ride scholarships for each of our students who want to go to college.

*I wish there were more single parent mothers like Gloria Williams who has two daughters in college. Her oldest, Rachel Williams, graduated from P.A.R.K. in 2000 and will be the first P.A.R.K. student to graduate from college. For her to go from a 2.0 to a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University is a long way.

*I wish our educational system would stop being just a job opportunity and become a ministry to ALL teachers again.

*I wish The Father would increase philanthropists one-hundred fold return, so they can continue the good work.

What does Keith Jackson wish for himself at New Year's? Nothing!
"I have the greatest family and friends that most people can only dream about. I might be the richest man in Arkansas."
That's a strong statement to make considering the fact that there's several billionaires in this state. Well, listen to this. I get to ride in a pickup truck with a farmer in rural Arkansas. I get to fly on a jet with businessmen around the United States. I can drive into the inner city and toughest neighborhoods and find commonality and respect. I'm able to give my opinion to politicians, business people, superintendents, teachers and counselors. I hardly ever pay for lunch and am always invited out to dinner. I get to sit beside arguably the nicest man living today, Paul Eells, and broadcast the Razorback football game into every home in Arkansas. More important than all of that, I get to be Melanie's husband and Keith Jr's, Kenyon's and Koilan's DAD. I am able to look in the eyes of a scared young student and promise them that tomorrow will be better.

*Okay, I do have one New Year's wish, Peace on earth and good will toward men.

SUPER BOWL P.A.R.K. Style

Keith Jackson's 2nd annual super bowl party will be the place to be on February 1, 2004, and this year promises to bring the most exciting Super Bowl Party Little Rock has ever seen. 20 x 30 foot screens with a state of the art sound system will be the highlight of the evening to be held at Clear Channel Metroplex. A wonderful southern cuisine meal is planned and we hope to have a record crowd. The festivities start with a pre-game show with surprise sports celebrities and we have a fabulous silent auction with rare sports memorabilia. Please come and help support P.A.R.K. If you have not made your reservations or need more information, please contact Gayle Orr or Melody Sims Stanley at 501-562-5223.

Hope to see you there!!



College Student Update: Miss Karen Goode

By Monique Palmer, Education Outreach Coordinator

Karen Goode entered the P.A.R.K. program a quiet teen. Sometimes her mood almost seemed dark. She wore dark clothes everyday and proudly displayed her lip piercing. Her grades matched her appearance with a D average. But, talk about a change coming...Karen visibly showed how a positive atmosphere changed her. She graduated from high school with a 2.7 grade point average. During her senior year, she expressed an interest in the medical field, specifically radiology. She is now a college freshman attending Pulaski Technical College where she is earning nothing but A's and B's.

I knew there had been a transformation the day Karen's mother called me to thank P.A.R.K. for all that we had done for Karen. That day Karen had received her first college exam back with an A! Her mother went on to tell me that she LOVED college and had even stopped dressing in her black clothes! When I talked to Karen herself, she echoed the same sentiments as her mom. With enthusiasm bubbling over in her voice she thanked the P.A.R.K. family for always seeing in her what she could not see. With this newfound belief in herself the Sky is the limit. Way to go Karen!



Happy Holidays from
P.A.R.K.
Students & Staff

P.A.R.K. Gives Staff Some 'Thing' to Talk About

By Blenda Downs, Curriculum Coordinator

When I first stepped foot on the grounds, I knew there was something special about Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids, warmly referred to as P.A.R.K. I couldn't put my finger on exactly what that "thing" was, but I knew it was something of which I wanted to be a part. It didn't take me long to find out that other people felt the same way. After talking to my co-workers, I found out that the big "thing" about P.A.R.K. that attracted me to it was its patient atmosphere, kind helpers, and preserving spirit. I found out that the "thing" that attracted me to P.A.R.K. was love in the truest sense of the word.

Program Director Kareem Moody felt similar about the "thing" at P.A.R.K. that seems to keep the whole team committed to its purpose. "There is just something about this place that keeps me here. I feel like this is where I'm supposed to be. So, I will stay here and continue to contribute."

Echoing the belief that the "thing" at P.A.R.K. is in essence "love," Chief Student Life Manager Tamra Patterson said that everyone has a passion for being helpful and kind to the children the organization serves. "We all have a passion for wanting our children to have the best possible future. We all want to contribute to the preserving and motivating spirit that is

a big part of who we are at P.A.R.K.," says Patterson.

For Jacinda Jones, Student Life Manager, the "thing" in the building at P.A.R.K. fuels the compassion she feels towards the students she helps. She says, "I can identify personally with some of the obstacles our students face. And I know I can make a difference in their lives, because I wish someone had been there for me when I was their age." She adds that the atmosphere at P.A.R.K. is one that helps her to create, to nurture, and to have genuine care and compassion for P.A.R.K. students.

Te'Kima Cole, Group Leader for the Angels Group, also has had a similar pull towards P.A.R.K. for she, like Jones, can personally identify with students. "I know what it's like to need help and not ask," says Cole. "I would have loved to have a program like this when I was in high school." Now, Cole enjoys building relationships with P.A.R.K. students by ensuring that they know they are loved and encouraged to become productive members of the community.

The "thing" in the atmosphere at P.A.R.K. also keeps Kim Lang, a Little Rock School District teacher, motivated to work for P.A.R.K. after working with a classroom full of students all day. "I am very passion-

ate about seeing these students succeed and helping them reach their full potential. There's something about P.A.R.K. that brings me here after working with my own students everyday," says Lang, who works as a Group Leader for Packers Group.

Charnley Conway, Group Leader for the Lions Group, says that, "P.A.R.K. embodies the whole adolescent in all aspects and affects them in a positive way." It is this embracing of the whole adolescent that keeps him motivated to encourage his students. "Being a part of the wonderful some 'thing' that is P.A.R.K. motivates me to push our kids to a higher level of excellence," says Conway.

Having had a special something draw them to P.A.R.K., the staff at P.A.R.K. all agree that the "thing" is all that is needed to keep them here for a long time. Monique Palmer, Education Outreach Coordinator, says, "I started working at P.A.R.K. because of the special something that makes it a great place to give back to my community. Now, I am totally committed to P.A.R.K., and I will be here until God tells me otherwise!"

Margie and Alan Duncan Host Christmas Party for P.A.R.K.

Longtime P.A.R.K. friends Alan Duncan and our newest P.A.R.K. Foundation Board member, Margie Duncan opened their hearts and lovely new home to P.A.R.K. on December 4, 2003. A wonderful time and fellowship was had by forty or more new friends of P.A.R.K. Poignant stories were told by Keith Jackson and Kareem Moody about the program. We offer many thanks to Alan and Margie for their commitment to P.A.R.K.

Development NEWS

What's Happening!

February 1, 2004

Super Bowl Party at Clear Channel Metroplex

HOW CAN YOU HELP

- **Volunteer to help with data entry**
- **Sponsor a class ring for \$175.00**
- **"One Child at a Time" sponsor**
- **Special Event volunteer**
- **General office volunteer**

Tis' the Season for P.A.R.K. from Bill and Una Smith

Bill and Una Smith hosted a wonderful Christmas celebration in honor of our "One Child at a Time" campaign. Guest were treated to wonderful food, and piano entertainment from Una's sister Kathleen Cuccia. Special guests included P.A.R.K. graduates Marquese McFerguson and Rachel Williams. Rachel will be the first P.A.R.K. student to graduate from college this year at Ouchita Baptist University. Una is a new P.A.R.K. Foundation Board member. We appreciate your kindheartedness to P.A.R.K.

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Open Hearts

By, Melanie Jackson

Open your hearts then you will see
that true love, God's love exists in you and me.
We ALL share one commonality.
No, not race, culture or diversity,
but our heavenly Father created each of us
in his own image. Thus,
LOVE unconditional being the Masters plan
that we walk together and talk together hand in hand.
Put aside the differences and stop labeling each other
then with open hearts embrace your sisters and brothers.
A variety of colors is what we see on the outside.
But when you look within,
our blood is still red no matter the skin.

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P.A.R.K.

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