



Eveline Rivers Christmas Project

www.evelineriversproject.org
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November 2011



Backbone of the Coatroom
 Loretta Redmon/Sallie Amason



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Help them today..... encourage them for tomorrow

....she stood patiently in the long coat line outside of the Christmas workshop, holding her sleeping little girl, while the other two girls waited at her side in order to get into the coat room. As she filled out her paper work for coats I "kidded with the girls, and visited with the Mom about life in general". She was a single mom and no job at the moment. I touched on how her children were doing in school, and both Mom and girls immediately told me that A's and B's were on the report cards. I then asked Mom if she had her high school diploma, "No" was the answer, and "No" she did not have her GED...she had stopped at the 8th grade. (I'm not positive what "spurred me on" to ask questions about her education)

It was then time for the girls to pick out their new winter coats....and what fun they had. Each girl picked out a new coat with fur around the hood, and a hat and gloves to go with the coat. The all hugged me as they left the coat room, and, although it was 75 degrees outside the girls were zipped up to their chin and had the new hats on as they left with big smiles on their faces.

As I drove home that night, I could not get that Mom and her children off of my mind. Her sweet, quiet manner and wonderful patience with her girls stuck with me. And I remembered at one point in our short conversation, of asking her if she had ever thought about going to college, and she said "I dida long time ago", and I asked, "Into what field would you go" and her answer was "education".

Something had compelled me to look on her paper work for a phone number, so the next afternoon I called her, and after a short conversation about the girls, I asked her point blank about getting her GED. She told me that she had the study book, but that she did not have the money in the past to pay for the tests. And she also said that she has dyslexia so that

interferes with her reading. I then asked her" if I paid for her testing, would she study and take her GED tests". In her very quiet, soft voice she told me that she would. That was all that I needed to hear....I was on a mission.....(well.... another of many missions). I gathered information from several sources that could help her study for her GED, and found out the times for registration for one of the classes and then left the information on her answering machine. I impatiently waited several days before calling her back. When I asked her the question about the information that I had left on her answering machine, in her very soft voice she said, "I'm going to registration on the 20th and I'm excited.... and I'm scared". **Oh my, music to my ears!**

Not one thing says that her path to higher education is going to be easy....single mom, no money, three children to raise, dyslexia and on and on....BUT at least she has taken the first step, and with "baby steps" and determination (and I am going to push... some!!!) hopefully she is at the threshold of a life changing experience for both she and her girls. **Life is good!!!**

Gentle Blessings,

Eveline

Adopt a family

IF you enjoy spreading Holiday Cheer by "adopting" a family for the season, then I am sure that we have a family that you could **warm their hearts** for the holidays, and in helping them you will also **warm your own heart**. Possibly, you, family and friends would like to go together and sponsor a family for Christmas, or even your business or all of the employees in your business would enjoy putting a smile on a family of faces for the holidays.



Volunteer is a wonderful word to me. I think of those who give of their time, talents, energy and monetary means in order to make life better for someone else. Please let me introduce to you Karlena Barry. Karlena loves to sew and she chose us in order to use her talents. Finishing the edges of the fleece blankets that we pack into our Christmas boxes for the children, became her passion. Her wonderful husband of 50 year, Jerold (her gopher), would come to the Christmas Workshop, sometimes twice a week in order to fill his truck with bags of unfinished blankets and return the finished ones at the same time. Sewing on 250 blankets a week seemed easy for "our wonderful seamstress", and with that thought in mind, 3000 children will be warm this winter due to her efforts. (I am sure that they "stole" time to enjoy their 6 daughters and 17 grandchildren) I am not certain that her sewing machine will ever be the same, but we are extremely grateful and appreciative of Karlena's efforts in making our children smile. **Thank you Karlena for a job well done!**

8th Annual Santa in the Summer

Needs List

New/Gently Used
Stuffed Animals 18-24 inches
New/Gently Used Coats
Reading Books K-12
School Supplies-
Crayons, notebook paper, spiral
notebooks
Cleanliness Items-
Shampoo, Soap,
Toothpaste, Deodorant & Toothbrushes

Other Needs

Monetary means in order to purchase specific items of clothing for children who are in school & need "self esteem bulders" in order to keep moving forward

Workshop Schedule for the Holiday

Nov. 7th – Dec. 8th
Mon., Tues., & Thurs. 7PM – 9PM
Saturdays 9:30AM – 12 noon
We will be CLOSED the whole week of Thanksgiving
November 21nd -26th

Delivery Day

December 10th
We don't care if you have a bicycle or a truck hauling a horse trailer, please come and enjoy the gift of sharing, by helping to deliver the gifts we have wrapped, to over 10,000 excited children in our area. Avoid the registration line this year by calling 372-3985 to pre register for Delivery

Santa in the Summer this year was incredible, as has been in the past. This Fund raiser is a tremendous amount of work taken on by many people. Chairmanship was untaken by Brenda Graham. The event was enhanced by an outstanding silent auction and a "Christmas Corner", Wonderful Music provided by "Insufficient Funds" & Kevin Clowe, a fabulous dinner prepared by the "Coors Cooking Team", A great Live Auction, and a fun time was provided in the Casino area. This event is one of the backbones of our fund raising efforts....the proceeds from this is definitely used toMAKE A CHILD SMILE. Thank you to the many people who worked tirelessly in order to make this a success, and also to the many people who came to enjoy the event. Mark your calendar now—**Santa In the Summer 2012** will be held Saturday August 25th.



St. Thomas Casino Group



Chairperson Brenda Graham and husband Jerry Graham

32nd Annual Eveline Rivers Toy Run

A Huge Thank you goes out to everyone at Tripps Harley Davidson, American Classified, Budweiser, and the Harley Owners Group for putting on the upcoming "Eveline Rivers Motorcycle Toy Run". This effort brings in a wonderful assortment of toys, coats and monetary donations that are put to good use at the Christmas Workshop. **Sunday November 20st** is the day picked for the stream of motorcycles to wind through the streets of our city to The Courts of Amarillo, all for a good cause and lots of fun at that.

32nd Annual Eveline Rivers Christmas Project Toy Run

Sunday November 20, 2011
Bikes leaving from
Tripps Harley Davidson
at 1:30PM gathering at
The Courts of Amarillo
on Hollywood Road.
Come and bring you favorite
toy or monetary donation and
enjoy the ride!

KVII Tall Tower Open Golf Tournament Presented By Happy State Bank

It was the hard work & merriment of the volunteers from **Happy State Bank & KVII** that helped to get the golfers on their way to a wonderful golf tournament. By Sunday night as the sunset and the golf carts were put back into place the **Eveline Rivers Christmas Project** had benefitted greatly by the efforts of this tournament. A huge thank you goes to everyone at **Happy State Bank, KVII TV** and **Sherwin Cox** and his staff at **Ross Rogers Golf Course** that came together in order to **Make a Child Smile.**

Thank you for supporting Eveline Rivers Christmas Project

___\$500 ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 \$_____ Other

Name:_____

___One Time Payment

Address:_____

___Monthly Credit Card Payment

City/ST/Zip:_____

Method of Payment:

___Check ___Visa ___MC

Card Number_____ Exp Date:_____ 3 Dig SEC #_____

Please make checks payable to: Eveline Rivers Christmas Project*PO Box 53178*Amarillo TX 79159-3178