

UAMS/KIDS FIRST Focus on Fort Smith

January 2010

Vol. 5 Issue 1

KIDS FIRST Names Two Employees of the Year

Each year the KIDS FIRST staff votes for the person they feel has earned the title of Employee of the Year. Competency, attendance, attitude, and the willingness to go beyond "the call of duty" are all attributes we look for in this award. For the first time in KIDS FIRST Fort Smith history, there was a tie for this honor. This year's Employees of the Year are Angela Scoggins and Lisa Ewald. Angela is the supervising teacher for the Old Owl's Nest and the Kanga's Roos. She is a certified teacher and has



worked for KIDS FIRST for 12 1/2 years. Lisa is a Child Care Technician in the Pooh's Corner and has



been with KIDS FIRST for 9 months. Both

these women exemplify the spirit of KIDS FIRST. The dedication and care that they show for the children in our center is evident in every aspect of how they do their job. Congratulations to both Angela and Lisa. They are assets to the KIDS FIRST program.



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

This month's Employee of the Month is Tessa McGuire. Tessa is a Caregiver in Rabbit's Garden. Tessa has been with KIDS FIRST since October 2009. When not working Tessa enjoys going out to eat and watching movies. Make sure to congratulate Tessa when you see her.



Bikers Return to KIDS FIRST

Once again, KIDS FIRST was lucky enough to be visited by the Bikers Against Child Abuse motorcycle



club. For the second year in a row, they provided toys for all of our children. The children had a wonderful time and we would like to thank all

the bikers who gave of their time. BACA's mission statement in part is..." BACA exists with the intent to cre-



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Families,

Happy New Year to everyone! It is hard to believe that it is 2010. As we start a new year I would like to remind families of a few things that help our services go smoother for your children.

- Make sure your child has a change of clothes at all times.
- Anytime you have a change in your address and/or phone number please let us know. We need to be able to contact you *immediately* in case of emergency.
- If your child wears special equipment such as shoe orthotics, please bring them with items on already.
- In case of inclement weather overnight, you can obtain information on closings on Channel 40/29 and Channel 5.

As always, if you have any questions, please let us know. Happy New Year!

Karen Tyler, Administrative Director, M.Ed., CDA

ate a safer environment for abused children. We exists as a body of Bikers to empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live." For more information on BACA visit www.bacausa.com.

SANTA CLAUS CAME TO TOWN

Santa stopped by KIDS FIRST Fort Smith to check his naughty or nice list. While he was there the children (and some of the staff) got a chance to sit in his lap and let him know what they wanted for Christmas. Santa handed out presents to all the children (provided by BACA). A special thanks goes out to Santa for his



years of help with this special day. He comes back every year to the delight of

the children and the staff. We know how busy he is at this time of the year and appreciate that he gives his time for our kids.

Thanks Santa!



Perfect Attendance

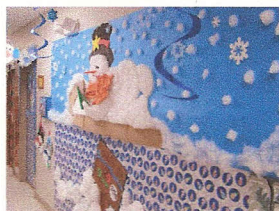
Fifteen children achieved perfect attendance for December: Chuy J, Kaitlyn M, Brandie B, Guy R, Allee L, Chris C, Gage M, Ariel J, Ella T, Clyde S, Wilson T, Alejandro O, Cameron S, Michael S, and Roberto E. This month's winner of a collection of books is Alejandro O. Congratulations to all who made it here every day!

January Birthdays

This month's birthday list is short, but very sweet. Children celebrating include, Yovani A., Dyovion F, Ariel J, and Naomi T. Staff celebrating birthdays are: Terrye McGuire, Caregiver in Eeyore's Hideout, Norma Smith, ECDS and Lisa Ewald Caregiver in Pooh's Corner and Employee of the Year. We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to all the children and staff born in January!

KIDS FIRST WINTER WONDERLAND

This year the staff of KIDS FIRST Fort Smith transformed the clinic into a holiday winter wonderland. Each treatment room chose a theme and decorated the door and hallway to match their theme. An open house was held on Friday, December 11, with families, the community, and the media invited. Cookies, punch, and "wassail" was served. Everyone who attended was given a tour of the facility and a



brief history of KIDS FIRST. A special thanks goes out to the extremely talented women who spent their own time, money, and effort to create such a magical atmosphere for our children. While the Christmas



themed decorations will be taken down soon, the snowflakes and other winter decorations will remain up through the month.

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The staff of KIDS FIRST would like to thank all our parents who brought presents and food to us during the holidays. Your kind words are always appreciated.



Nurturing Idea for January

It is important for infants and toddlers to know that their parents will be faithful to them in love and care. Demonstrate—through play—the care of a shepherd for his sheep. You act as the shepherd and choose a sibling or other caregiver to play the wolf. Your child and remaining siblings are the sheep. Put all the sheep together and guard them. The wolf (playfully) tries to grab one of the sheep (by touching them), but the shepherd must run him away. If the wolf gets one of the sheep, the shepherd must run after him and rescue the sheep.

Project Nurture

WHAT IS PROJECT NURTURE?

Project Nurture is KIDS FIRST's Infant Mental Health Program. Our goal is to promote the social and emotional well-being of KIDS FIRST infants, toddlers, and families through secure and nurturing relationships.