



Dec. 4

\$1,000 Knights of Columbus Suffolk Council
7363

\$200 Mary Anne Barnes

\$25 Ethel Brown

In loving memory of my beloved husband
McOlzer Brown 12/7/2020 "gone but not forgot-
ten"

\$200 Joe & Lynn Barlow

\$70 Merle Kay Blanchard

In honor of our seven grandchildren: Emma
Paige, Katie Ann, Timothy, Esther, Ezra, Luke,
Raena

\$50 Paul Buckwalter & Jon Walker

\$50 Shelton Webb, Jr.

In Memory of Jimmy, Johnny, Ronnie, George,
Jettie, & Laura Boswell

\$50 Shelton Webb, Jr.

In Memory of John Sylvia

\$100 Shelton Webb, Jr.

\$1,000 Thomas & Shannon Woodward

\$500 Saunders Supply Co., Inc.

\$50 C.A. & Sylvia Duck

In loving memory of Andy Duck. Love, Mom &
Dad

\$500 Suffolk Elks Lodge #685

\$125 H. Hunter Odom, Jr.

\$125 Robert House, Jr.

Current total
from donations: **\$13,445**

VanDorn encourages community to support Cheer Fund

BY JEFF MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Tamra VanDorn recalls tip-
toeing down the stairs with her
little brother to see what Santa
had left for them Christmas
morning.

It's her favorite childhood
memory and inspires her to join
with the Suffolk Rotary Club
in raising funds for the Cheer
Fund to ensure local children
have the same this year.

"I can still hear our gasps
of excitement," said VanDorn,
a Rotarian and Headmaster at
Suffolk Christmas Academy.
"My brother got a cowboy hat
and rocking horse. He was rock-
ing so fast; I thought the horse
would come off the springs."

Plus that year she said she got
her first bike.

"A visit from Santa was
more valuable than the gifts,"
VanDorn said. "It affirmed
I was a good girl and loved.
Every child deserves the same
affirmation and love."

She said this is why she
believes the Cheer Fund is so
important to support.

"It gives hope to children in
our community," she said in a
Thursday interview.

VanDorn became a Rotarian
five years ago and learned how
the club's commitment to the
Cheer Fund is an integral part
of its culture.

"During our annual Christmas

See CHEER, 14

Cheer: Donate today to benefit children

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at the auction, we raise funds to be used by Cheer Fund in



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Event

00 A.M.

HOLIDAY HOURS:

0 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,

Monday - Friday

0 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.,

Sunday

7.686.0006

the next calendar year," she said. "Members are encouraged to make personal contributions, as well."

It is local efforts such as these that help the Cheer Fund reach its \$40,000 goal to help provide toys under the tree for children in Suffolk.

With families continuing to face challenges on many fronts, VanDorn said she believes more families than ever are in need of assistance this year.

"Every child deserves to have gifts under the tree at Christmas," she said. "The innocence of children and the hope they inspire make this season magical. We should all do our part to lift up our families in need."

The Cheer Fund was started by the newspaper during the Great Depression to provide clothes and food for needy families. It eventually began providing toys

for children and teamed up with the Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army.

These days, this program of the newspaper is its own nonprofit, with an independent board, and each year collects roughly \$40,000 from individuals, groups and foundations in the community. This money goes directly to the purchase of toys by the Salvation Army.

To donate to the Cheer Fund, send a check to P.O. Box 1220, Suffolk, VA 23439 or bring it to the newspaper office, 157 N. Main St., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. We will list your donation in the newspaper, but it can be marked "anonymous" if you like.

Donations may be made in honor of or in memory of someone. If you bring the check to our office, we'll even take your picture as you hand it to one of our staff.