



Cheer Fund

Nov. 18

\$200 Thomas & Karen Hazelwood

\$200 Donald M. Sparrow

Current total
from donations: \$6,450

Cheer Fund is neighbors helping their neighbors

BY JEFF MOORE
STAFF WRITER

For Councilwoman Shelley Butler-Barlow, neighbors helping neighbors is of utmost importance.

It's what has drawn her to become involved with Cheer Fund for the first time this year. Butler-Barlow said she believes it's important for people in the community to do things that have a local impact.

"I think it's more meaning-

ful and it's more impactful if the money you are donating is staying in your community and helping people that are your neighbors, even if you don't know them personally."

With the 2022 fundraising drive underway, the Cheer Fund is gearing up to provide gifts under the Christmas tree for many families with its goal of \$40,000.

Christmas is a very special time of the year and some-

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Cheer: Neighbors have the chance to help neighbors

Continued from page 1

thing to be thankful for, Butler-Barlow said. It's a time for families to be together, to have fun and to share the magic of the holiday.

For children, one of the most special parts of the holiday is the fun of seeing what awaits them under the tree Christmas morning.

"I think that's another important part...to get some fun things, a toy or something special that brightens your day," she explained, not just necessities such as shoes or underwear.

"I think it's wonderful to be able to take some of that burden off the family" she said.

She said it's a simple thing to write a check and donate money. But then the real work comes, with volunteers, such as her, joining to go out and gather the items for children and then to get them into the hands of the folks who need them.

"It's a lot of work, but a lot of impact," she said. "We certainly know there is a lot of need in our community. And it's not always easy to find the folks that are in need. Some people don't want that known."

Butler-Barlow said she is delighted that there are efforts such as the Cheer Fund that can help make Christmas special for children in the community.

While this is her first year of involvement with the Cheer Fund, she has long worked in the Chuckatuck community to help bring smiles to children's faces at Christmas. Butler-Barlow has worked in the past through programs at her church, with the Angel Tree and with the Civic League to meet the needs of others.

"The Cheer Fund is fulfilling a real need," she said. "There is something so special about getting a name, a list and gender and going to purchase the items for each child."

She recalls a recent year when she and a friend took 10 children's names from the Angel Tree and did the shopping for the items on their lists.

"It's just an amazing feeling," she said, recalling they purchased two or three bikes, a skateboard and several other items.

"It was so much fun," Butler-Barlow said. "I think everyone gives out of the goodness of their heart. I think the anonymity of it is appealing to me."

With inflation making

family budgets tighter this year, she said she knows there is need in the Suffolk community.

Butler-Barlow said that just prior to the interview Thursday, she was at the food distribution in Chuckatuck, where she is a volunteer. They were distributing food just in time for Thanksgiving to help with their holiday meals.

"I can tell you there was a long line this morning," she said. "There's no doubt there are folks struggling to meet their basic needs."

And she said she is sure they did not have enough to provide food items for everyone who wanted their help.

She said it's just not clear whether they are busier due to better publicizing the distribution or if there is more need.

"I do think that I've heard as I've talked to people in the community, with the higher cost of things, maybe you can afford your groceries or the gas for your car, but then there is nothing left for any of the extra things," she said. "I think people are covering their basic necessities, but there's nothing left after you do that."

This is where the Cheer Fund comes in to help.

In the strange times we are living in, through the past several difficult years, Butler-Barlow said the world appears to be a different place.

Her hope is the Cheer Fund can help change that so people in the community can connect to have good relationships and conversations with their neighbors.

"Maybe we start that here at a local level in Suffolk and it spreads outward from there," she said. "I think we need to all find ways to be kind to each other and to help each other so we can get back to a better state of affairs. Rather than everyone being mad at each other all of the time."

She said it's a great opportunity to help build on a goal of hers — to see everyone being kind to one another.

Butler-Barlow shared some wisdom from her 93-year-old mother.

"She always tells you if you are in a funk or if you're in a bad mood or things aren't going well, the best thing to do to lift you out of that is to do something good for somebody else. And she's very right on that."

Butler-Barlow recommends that anyone who is feeling like Scrooge this Christmas should

donate something to the Cheer Fund.

"I think it will give them a lift," she said.

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.

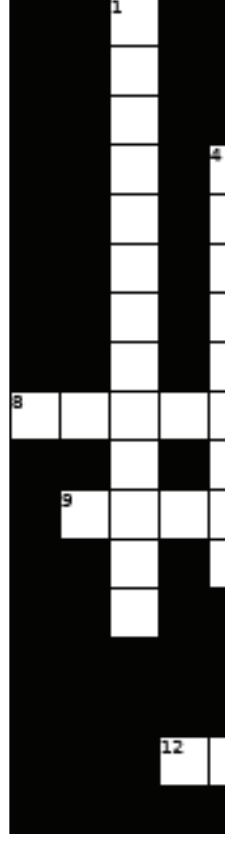
To donate to the Cheer Fund, send a check to P.O. Box 1220, Suffolk, VA 23439 or bring it to the newspaper office, 157 N. Main St., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. We will list your donation in the newspaper, but it can be marked "anonymous" if you like.

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.



Everyone
Make a
a little b

1. The entity that distributes toys purchased with Cheer Fund money (2 Words)
2. The entity that does all of the publicity and bookkeeping for the Cheer Fund as a community service (3 Words)
3. The organization that helps make Christmas happen every year (2 Words)
4. The holiday celebrated on December 25
5. Thousands of them find presents under the tree thanks to the Cheer Fund
6. Everyone is happy to find these under the tree
7. Every dollar donated to Cheer Fund helps children in this city
8. What we need from the public to make Christmas happen
9. The Cheer Fund started during this 20th-century period (2 Words)
10. What the money from Cheer Fund purchases
11. The Cheer Fund is helping make these happen for lots of Suffolk families
12. A round, orange object that is one of our most popularly selected toys



Enjoy the
donor

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SNEHAL DAMLE, MD



DANIEL ATIENZA, MD



CYNTHIA SILE, MD

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Nov. 27

\$250 Kings Fork Ruritan Club

\$50 Frank & Bobbie Piland

\$25 Gordon Merica

In memory of Carol & Scott Bristow

\$2,000 Richard Bennett Trust

\$250 Chuckatuck Ruritan Club

\$100 Cheryl U. O'Connor

In memory of Thomas J. O'Connor IV

\$100 Nancy Martin

In memory of Sue Ann & Ronnie

\$50 Lola Saunders

In memory of Jerry Saunders, with love

\$50 Anonymous

\$75 Ruth Wiggins

In loving memory of Horace Wiggins

Current total
from donations: \$9,400

www.suffolknews Herald.com

Radio Control Club encourages Cheer Fund donations

BY JEFF MOORE
STAFF WRITER

The Hampton Roads Radio Control Club has long supported local programs that ensure children in Suffolk have toys at Christmas.

Club member Mills Staylor said the group started contributing to the Cheer Fund about five years ago. That's when the local man overseeing the Toys for Tots drive retired. The radio control club had worked with that program for about 15 years and wanted to continue

to help children have a Merry Christmas.

He said club members opted for the Cheer Fund because of its long history in the Suffolk community.

"The Cheer Fund for years and years has helped less fortunate children to experience a good and safe Christmas," he said.

The radio control club's fundraiser is the fly-in, which is open to both the public and other area clubs. People either

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Cheer: Club encourages donations to help this holiday

Continued from page 1

pay \$10 to fly their planes or donate a new toy.

Additionally, he said the club accepts donations, has a raffle for a radio controlled plane, has donation boxes for toys and raises money through its sale of hot dogs and hamburgers at the event.

Staylor said this year members raised \$3,700 at a fall fly-in and added \$300 from the club to contribute \$4,000 for the Cheer Fund.

Additionally, the club filled two collection boxes with toys. The boxes are 3-feet wide by 4-feet tall.

Staylor said in recent years people appear to be donating more money instead of toys, as they had in the past.

With all that is happening this year, he said there is no question of the local need where the Cheer Fund can help.

A combination of continued shutdowns due to COVID-19 and the increasing cost of items due to inflation have made the need great in Suffolk.

“It’s a prime year to get as many in our own city to make donations to the Cheer Fund,” Staylor

said.

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.

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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

www.suffolknewsherald.com

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 rocking 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

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Cheer: Donate today to benefit children

Continued from page 1

auktion, we raise funds to be used by Cheer Fund in

ing
Event
00 A.M.
OLIDAY HOURS:
0 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,
Monday - Friday
00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.,
Sunday
57.686.0006

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.”

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Cheer Fund



Dec. 11

\$500 Parr Funeral home
\$150 Nansemond Pre-Cast
Concrete Co., Inc.
\$75 Eure Heating & Cooling,
Inc.
\$100 Coastal Insurance
Agency Inc.
\$500 Scott, Bradshaw &
Rawls, P.C.

To honor Steve Huber,
Paul Huber, Everett Birdsong,
Charles Birdsong, George
Birdsong
\$1,000 Supreme Petroleum
Inc.

\$100 Suffolk Iron Works, Inc.
\$200 Betty Bunch

In memory of the Bunch &
Mann families
\$100 Donna Carroll
\$100 Shirley & Anthony (Ricky)
Barnes

In memory of our deceased
loved ones.

\$100 Rick & Debbie DeLugo
In honor of our brave fire-
fighters

\$250 Carr Investment Group
\$100 Rachel E. Tyler, L.C.
In memory of Robert &
Rachael Ellis
\$100 Right of Way Acquisitions
& Appraisals, Inc.

In memory of Rachel E.
Tyler, Malcolm & Robert
Stephen Daniels by family
\$1,000 Birdsong Trust Fund
In memory of John C. Harrell
\$50 Bettye Umphlette
In memory of L. Carrol
Umphlette
\$200 William & Carolyn
Freeman

In loving memory of Mrs.
Lessie and Betty Freeman
\$50 Barbara Rodham
\$250 Cedar Point Country Club
Ladies Golf Association
\$50 Robert S. Jones
\$2,500 Billy Chorey

Current total
from donations:
\$20,920

Magical memories for Christmas

BY JEFF MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Christmas time is
filled with magical
memories for Billy
Chorey from his
days growing up in
Suffolk.

Chorey, owner/
broker of Chorey and
Associates Realty
LTD, said he is hop-
ing this time of year
that provided many
of the best childhood
memories of his life

is the case for all
youngsters living in
the city this year.

By sharing some
of his fondest hol-
iday memories, he
is hoping local resi-
dents, businesses and
organizations will
step up and support
programs like the
Cheer Fund, which
is working to raise
\$40,000 this year to
ensure there are toys

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Cheer: Smiles on children's faces

Continued from page 1

under their Christmas trees.

He said his mother and father would always take him and his brother to local stores to see Santa Claus, most likely at Montgomery Ward.

"I had to be sure to be on my best behavior or Santa may not show up on Christmas morning," Chorey said. "I can remember one or two white Christmases where it either snowed on Christmas Eve, or the ground was already white with snow, which made the season even more magical.

He said Santa never disappointed him or his brother with presents, which is one reason he thinks it's imperative that the Cheer Fund be successful to allow the local children who may not be as blessed as he was to "not be disappointed" during this special season.

Chorey said includes

The magic of Santa, presents, great food and lots of visiting family — along with getting a break from school and homework — makes Christmas a special time of year.

"The obvious reason for Christmas being special now is the fact that we celebrate the birth of

Jesus Christ, and what that birth means for mankind, with peace and goodwill to all people," he said. "Sadly, the real meaning of Christmas sometimes gets "lost" in all of the busyness that accompanies the season, but I always pray that each of us can slow down, relax and remember what the season is really all about."

Chorey said he has been blessed to be a part of local boards here in Suffolk that give funds to worthy organizations.

"Serving on those boards has given me a keen 'reality check' of all the needs right here in this community in my hometown of Suffolk," he said.

And the need is great here for many families, he said, noting the time are tough for a lot of people.

"Prices are sky high with inflation, budgets are tight and many people are literally paycheck to paycheck with their bare essential needs," Chorey noted. "All of this affects the hundreds of children who sadly may come 'last' in the pecking order of receiving toys or those special extra gifts."

But with the help of the Cheer Fund and Toys for Tots, youngsters have the opportunity to flash bright smiles Christmas

morning.

"Now, 2022 especially, is a time that we all should try to help one another get through these difficult economic times, and we should show that love for one another both in word and deed, the latter perhaps being represented by a generous gift to the Suffolk Cheer Fund and Toys for Tots," he said. "Life is short. Let me encourage my fellow citizens to help those in need without the thought of receiving anything in return. You will feel much better and God loves a cheerful giver."

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Dec. 18

\$2,000 Womble
Generator Service, Inc.

\$500 Suffolk Chapter
5 Disabled American
Veterans
\$250 Cross Realty
\$1,000 Birdsong Peanuts
\$200 James L. McLemore
Bible Class
\$100 Gail F. Pruden
From Pops & GG
\$100 Hugh & Lynn Cross

In memory of Arthur
Butler, Wilbur Butler, Jean
& Harry Lee Cross
\$100 Charles & Lynn
Rose
\$100 John & Lorraine
Gayle
\$25 Mark McGahee

John 3:16
\$1,000 Ronald H.

Current total from donations:
\$31,175

Williams
Two bicycles City of
Suffolk Treasurer's Office
Employees
\$2,000 Griffin Oil &
Propane
\$1,000 James White /
Chesapeake Pool Builders
\$250 Margaret & Mark
Wiley
\$5 Wanda Sannicandro

\$100 Benita & Randy
Rhodes
In honor of Robert & Betty
Rhodes
\$100 John S. Kirk Jr.
\$250 Jim & Becky Habel

In memory of Lewis, Mary
Helen, Tubby & Allie
\$50 Anonymous
\$1,100 Suffolk Business
Women
\$25 Wayne, Joyce &
Ashley Carroll

Season is the time to unite, express the love of Christ by helping others

BY JEFF MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Gary Newsome loves the pageantry of Christmas with all the lights and gift giving.

It's something he hopes residents of Suffolk will help share with those in need this year, particularly local children.

Despite the chang-

es in the world during his lifetime, Newsome, chaplain and director of spiritual life at Lake Prince Woods, believes Christmas gives everyone the opportunity and pause to first be thankful of the things they do have versus the things they don't have.

"It gives the oppor-

children.
See CHEER, 7

Cheer: Children should have good memories

Continued from page 1

tunity for us to give of our time and resources to truly demonstrate the love of God not only to our immediate family but to strangers and neighbors,” he said. “Moreover, in a digital, coded world of communication, we are challenged to express our appreciation for each other in a close way, face-to-face, closeness and intentional words that uplift and encourage. This season of the year is not the happiest for many, so we must do what we can as united humans and express the love of Christ in the simplest form.”

This is what the Suffolk Cheer Fund is working to do again in 2023 as it aims to raise \$40,000 to ensure all children have toys under their Christmas trees.

Now a resident of his parent’s hometown of Waverly, Newsome grew up in Brooklyn, New York where he had opportunities to enjoy special holiday memories in person that many only see on television.

“At the start of the Christmas season, my mom and dad would take my brother and I to Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan to see the Christmas tree with all the lights and pageantry,” he said. “This included taking pictures with Santa Claus, window shopping at Macy’s, and seeing the ice skaters in Lincoln Center.

But his first thought of Christmas now is how it has changed and evolved over the centuries. At his home as a child, he recalls how his family transformed it into a warm

place where friends and family gathered.

“At home, my dad would have the music of Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and big band era icons playing Christmas songs in the backdrop,” Newsome recalled. “My mom would have this enormous Christmas tree with hazelnuts and hard candies in bowls located in the living room. The house would have the aroma of fresh rolls, turkey, and sweet potato pie that we would have for Christmas dinner.”

He recalls how their doorbell would ring constantly from neighbors, friends and relatives dropping by to spend some time and to give his family well wishes for the new season.

“People seemed to love our house because they were welcomed and valued,” he said. “As for my brother and I, it was the great anticipation of toys and gifts that we requested on Santa’s list. We ‘stumbled’ onto them in various hidden locations around the house but that’s another story!”

For many families today, Newsome’s wonderful experiences at Christmas in his childhood are mere dreams.

Newsome said helping children in Suffolk, and even those nationwide, is a huge endeavor and it should be a major focus for those who care about the community.

“8.4% of Suffolk, Virginia residents had an income below the poverty level in 2019, and this rate is 14% in all of Virginia, he said. “These alarming

statistics affect the children in a big way, hindering growth and development in our schools, and makes an impact on the total well being of our kids, especially now with the increasing cost of living and inflation that we are currently experiencing.”

Newsome believes Christmas should provide hope and stability for the children and families.

For families in the city, he knows well and has personally experienced the outpouring of care and concern for the issues and challenges they face.

“Churches of all denominations, civic groups, grass roots organizations, school boards, and even retirement communities like Lake Prince Woods, have meaningful dialogues and programs to help,” Newsome said. “This is extremely important because it bands our community together for a common cause and we get to know each other in a fresh new way. The hope we have for Christmas we can put into ‘realtime’ not only for this season but for the years to come.”

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Dec. 25
 \$500 Jeffrey Overton
 \$100 Debbie & Lynn Johnson
 In honor of Harry Cross
 \$250 Lawrence Trailer Service Inc.
 \$2,500 Farmers Bank
 \$2,500 Suffolk Foundation
 \$50 Anonymous
 In memory of Sue, Marie, & Bob
 \$5,000 The Pruden Foundation
 \$250 Austin Darden Jr.
 \$1,000 Carl & Denise Farris
 \$100 Claudia Salmon
 \$250 Magnolia Ruritan Club
 \$100 Susan & Eddie Sharp & Sherry Matthews
 In Memory of Edward, Shirley, & Sally Matthews
 \$250 George Birdsong

\$50 John & Wanda Rector
 In memory of our parents
 \$350 Metropolitan Baptist Church Missions
 \$50 Nancy & Joseph Verdirame
 In memory of Dr. Edmund M. Clarke
 \$100 Arthalia B. Kahan
 In memory of my parents, Aaron & Edna Boone Savage
 \$100 Ed & Toni Taylor
 In honor of our grandchildren and great granddaughter
 \$500 Robert N. Baker III
 In memory of Lynell Oliver Baker, Love "Pop"
 \$50 Louvenia Milteer Luther W. Milteer Sr.
 \$25 Louvenia Milteer Lennis Collins
 \$25 Louvenia Milteer Curtis Milteer Sr

Current total from donations:
\$45,275

Cheer Fund exceeds goal with strong community support

BY JEFF MOORE
 STAFF WRITER



Head Elf
 Margie Wiley
 said she was
 thrilled to learn
 this week that
 fundraising has
 already passed the
 \$40,000 mark. As of
 press time Friday, Dec.
 23, the Cheer Fund has
 raised \$45,275 to provide
 toys for children

Residents, organizations and business-
 es in Suffolk opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to help this year's Cheer Fund exceed its goal before Christmas — the first time anyone involved can remember.

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Cheer: Donations year round

Continued from page 1

in need this year.

"This is the first time in memory of our board that we have reached this goal before the Christmas holiday," Wiley said. "It is truly amazing and we cannot thank the community enough for their generosity to others."

The Cheer Fund continues to accept donations through the end of January.

Wiley said it is important for folks to continue making donations.

"Some years are leaner than others for the contribution," she said. "Any funds above our goal allows us to use these extra funds to acquire more toys in preparation for the years that we do not do as well."

Suffolk News-Herald Publisher Betty Ramsey said she is grateful for the outpouring of support for the Cheer Fund.

"It is inspiring to see the generosity in Suffolk as we look to brighten the holidays for our children," Ramsey said. "Your support helps the Cheer Fund fulfill its commitment to ensure children have presents under the tree. I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who worked so hard this year to help us exceed our goal for the first time prior to Christmas day."

Wiley said she now hopes the city's children will feel safe and loved at Christmas. "For me, giving to others started early in my family. Our church parish would have a Christmas toy drive each year," she said. "My sister and I participated in the youth group in wrapping the toys and then helping Santa give them away. The memory of seeing my neighbors come and get toys from Santa has stayed with me and it is why I am honored to assist with the Cheer Fund each year."

Wiley said she also encourages families to have their children become involved in giving at an early age as hers did.

She said she wanted to especially send a thank you to the community leaders who shared stories of their childhood memories this year.

"It was truly special to read each one — Shelley Barlow, Mills Staylor, Tamra VanDorn, Gary Newsome and Billy Chorey," Wiley said. "I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season, and a prosperous New Year to come. And from the bottom of my heart, thank you again for helping us reach our goal!"

Ramsey also extended her appreciation to Head Elf Margie Wiley for all she does to support the Cheer Fund each year.

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.