



Cher's Family Retreat Celebrates Its Eleventh Year

On June 27-30, 2001, families from twenty states and seven countries converged at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Atlanta, Georgia for Children's Craniofacial Association's "11th Annual Cher's Family Retreat." During this retreat, CCA's largest to date, these families spent their weekend sharing their unique experiences, while renewing old friendships and making new ones. The weekend was nothing but sheer delight! Special guest, Tina Wesson and her husband, Dale, joined us. Tina is the million-dollar-winner of the television show, *Survivor Australian*



Cher takes a moment during the ice cream party to have a picture taken with the Vonderwells.

Outback. Tina attended the retreat because she had planned to join in the "Believe Ride" at the Sturgis motorcycle rally and she wanted to get to know Cher's special kids before her trip to South Dakota.

The festivities began on Thursday evening with the traditional ice cream party. The folks this year enjoyed an uplifting, enlightening and entertaining talk from **David Rouche**, inspirational speaker. Aside from this treat, Cher, CCA's National Spokesperson, joined us. She spent hours meeting new friends, visiting with individual families, and catching up on what had been going on with her old friends. Cher's compassion was again evident as she discussed the medical progress of each child and got a feel for how each family is coping emotionally. As a special surprise, Cher had designed tee shirts proudly bearing her sentiments about these children and their families— "Cher's Kids."

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Message from the Chair



As CCA starts its 2001-2002 fiscal year we look back over the

past year with great satisfaction. We moved into new donated office space in January, and hired Judy White our development director as a result of a challenge grant. With the guidance and hard work from Rose and Fried Seitz and George Beaver of Directed Technologies and CCA Board Member Robin Williamson of Williamson Creative Services, we are online with a great new Web site which is full of valuable information and gives donors the ability to make donations online.

In May we held the 11th free clinic in conjunction with Region 18 Education Service Center in Midland, Texas. We reinstated our newsletter and, thanks to a grant from Smile Train, reinstated our financial assistance program. We received grants from The Brave's Wives' Foundation and Cher spoke at their annual Coffee Talk event on our behalf.

In July we received a grant from the **Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities** to publish a book for children with craniofacial conditions. The object of the book is to uplift and empower children with facial differences. We have hopes of replicating this book on a national level. In June we held the **11th Annual Cher's Family Retreat** in Atlanta, GA.

We are implementing a new database which will help us better serve our families.

We are pleased with the support we have received from our families, volunteers and

see **Chair**, page 11



*Jerrod Swanson "kisses the living daylight" out of winner of *Survivor II*, Tina Wesson, who visited the families during the retreat*

CCA's 2001 Dallas Holiday Christmas Party

On December 1, 2001 more than 400 kids, parents and health care providers celebrated the holiday season at CCA's 12th Annual Holiday Party in Dallas, CCA's national headquarters.

KSCS Radio personality Brad

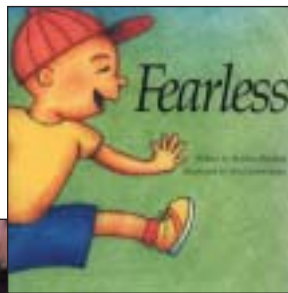
Wright Emceed the event for the seventh straight year. This year, Brad was joined by **Radio Disney DJ Sheryl Brooks**. Sheryl and her group

entertained the kids with songs, games, prizes and much more. The children decorated holiday cookies and made various holiday crafts.

The highlight of the party was a surprise visit from **Santa Claus**. Each child had his picture taken with Santa and received a special present.

We also unveiled CCA's new book, ***Fearless***, written by **Bradley Harding** and illustrated by **Dan Gremminger**. Bradley and Dan were on hand to autograph books for the kids. (For more information, see "News and Events" on page 12.)

CCA thanks **Medical City Hospital of Dallas** for donating the beautifully decorated space, refreshments and sponsoring **Radio Disney**.



Cher and Wives of Atlanta Braves "Team Up" for Charity

Imagine chatting with Cher over a cup of coffee. That is exactly what happened on June 28, 2001, when Cher sipped coffee with wives of baseball players from the Atlanta Braves during the "Atlanta Braves Wives' Seventh Annual Coffee Talk." Cher was in town to attend the "11th Annual Cher's Family Retreat" sponsored by the Children's Craniofacial Association (CCA) of Dallas, Texas.



Paula Guzzo, Judy White, Karen Hartstein, Aaron and Scott Guzzo at the Braves' Wives Luncheon

Cher is CCA's national spokesperson and has actively supported the organization for many years. She is the founder of the family retreat. This annual event provides an opportunity for children with facial disfigurement, as well as their parents and siblings, to share their unique experiences, resources, and support in a non-threatening, relaxed and fun atmosphere.

This year's "Coffee Talk," which was held from 1 to 3 p.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Buckhead, Georgia, benefited CCA and the Atlanta Braves Foundation. Brenda Woods, a news anchor from WXIA-TV, facilitated the coffee klatch. As many talk show hosts have discovered when interviewing Cher, there is no way to anticipate Cher's candor. Ms. Woods and Cher chatted on a range of topics from the days of Sonny and Cher to her philosophies of life. Cher willingly fielded questions about love and her feelings regarding television programming.

Guests at the coffee, which included a couple of CCA's families and board members, enjoyed delectable desserts while learning

about craniofacial conditions suffered by both children and adults. Although the discussion centered on a very serious topic, the entire group enjoyed a lighthearted afternoon with CCA's favorite celebrity.

Our thanks go out to the Braves Wives' Foundation and the team's Community Relations Department for an opportunity to



Atlanta Braves' Wives enjoy a decadent dessert while waiting for Cher to arrive.

share CCA's mission and a special thanks for the generous donation.

Regional Craniofacial Clinic Held in Midland, Texas

Region 18 Education Service Center and Dr. Jeffrey Fearon, Chairman of CCA's Medical Advisory Board, conducted the eleventh "Annual Craniofacial Clinic" on June 2, 2001. Fifteen patients were evaluated at no charge during this Saturday clinic. The clinic goals are to provide craniofacial patients with a free-of-charge medical consultation, initial evaluation, ongoing evaluation, second opinion, or referral, if needed. These services are especially important in this remote and predominantly rural area of West Texas, where qualified craniofacial treatment centers, and even airports, are hundreds of miles away.

As a matter of information, Texas educators are served by twenty regional education service centers, which are designed to support educational excellence by providing schools with a variety of services such as professional staff development, technical services, and direct student services. The area served by Region 18 ESC is the largest and most sparsely populated of the 20 regions. Region 18 covers 37,553 square miles and includes 19 counties, 33 school districts, over 6,300 educators and approximately 81,000 students. The craniofacial clinic is a unique service provided by this particular ESC.

Since 1991, Children's Craniofacial Association and Region 18 Education Service Center have been providing a free-of-charge clinic for residents of West Texas. The clinic

was first established as a collaboration between Dr. Ian Munro, a now-retired physician from Humana Craniofacial Institute of Dallas, Carolyn Johnson, Chairperson of CCA's Parent Advisory Board and Instructional Consultant, Region 18 ESC, and Charlene Smith, CCA's Executive Director. Upon Dr. Munro's retirement, Dr. Fearon stepped into his shoes to continue this most important service. The beauty of this clinic is that it has a "non-clinical atmosphere," in which all of the child's shareholders (teachers, parents, speech therapist, etc.) are invited to be involved in seeing that quality care is provided in every area of need. Professionals in the areas of child development, speech, and hearing are available to screen patients if needed. A bilingual interpreter is also provided. In addition, the waiting area is set up as a play area with toys and art supplies and provides a very informal atmosphere for families to freely discuss concerns, challenges, and successes. Parents are also provided with educational materials and can consult with a representative from the Texas Department of Health to discuss services to assist with medical and travel costs.

CCA thanks clinic facilitator, Carolyn Johnson, for her dedication on this project. If you are interested in the possibility of setting up a clinic in your area, contact Carolyn, Chairman, CCA's Parent Advisory Board, at 915-567-3234 or by email (cjohnson@esc18.net).

Meet Tiffany Kerchner

Q. Where were you born?

A. Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Q. Where do you live now?

A. Fleetwood, Pennsylvania.

Q. What grade are you in?

A. Seventh.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. I enjoy dancing, playing softball, singing lessons, singing in the church choir, watching sports, hanging out with my friends, collecting angels and beanie babies, going on the Internet and talking on the phone.

Q. What other activities do you enjoy?

A. I enjoy field hockey, cheerleading, shopping and listening to music.

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. A cosmetologist.

Q. What kind of craniofacial condition do you have?

A. I have Moebius Syndrome.

Q. How many of Cher Family Retreats have you attended?

A. I have been to three: Florida; Denver, Colorado; and Atlanta, Georgia.

Q. Which retreat was your favorite?

A. I'd say Atlanta because I knew everyone and I had a really good time.

Q. What has growing up with a craniofacial condition taught you?

A. It's taught me that someone that is "too fat," or "too skinny," or "not pretty" or their



clothes aren't exactly in style or may not be the smartest kid in the class, might be different on the outside, but on the inside they need a friend just like everyone else. I've learned that I should treat people with respect and even if no one else likes them, that I should.

Does Your Company Have a Fall Workplace Fundraising Campaign?

would like to remind all of our faithful supporters to please remember CCA as you make your Fall Workplace Campaign pledges.

CCA receives extremely appreciated donations each year from workplace campaigns that enable CCA to continue to grow and expand programs and services to families with children who have Craniofacial differences.

If you would like to represent CCA in one of your campaign fairs, please call or email Char Smith at 800-535-3643 or CSmith@ccakids.com and she will send you everything you need.

How can I help?

United Way Campaigns:

If your company participates in a United Way Campaign that allows donor choice options, you can ask to designate your contribution to CCA, 12200 Park Central Drive, Suite 180, Dallas TX 75251.

Your Company's Matching Gift Program:

Many companies—like Prudential Insurance—provide a 100% match on gifts to the charity of their employee's choice. You just indicate a monthly payroll deduction be made to CCA and the company will match it.

Combined Federal Campaign:

Federal employees can designate CCA by locating CCA in your directory under Children's Charities of America.

State Employees Campaigns:

Many state employees can find CCA listed in the directories. Find us and choose us.

Our most sincere thanks—in advance—for choosing CCA!

L.A. Event Scheduled for 2002

CCA will be the beneficiary of a fundraising event to be held in Los Angeles in the Spring of 2002. This event is for pre-teens and teens with Craniofacial conditions. It will be a day of beauty and sports for affected children and their siblings. Young ladies will enjoy a day of beauty at the well-known Toba spa where celebrities will help with make-up and hair styling. Our young men will participate in sports clinics and just plain fun with well-known sports figures. There will also be a barbeque and a mini concert.

If you would like to participate, please call Char Smith at the CCA office at 800-535-3643 and register to attend. Space is limited and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.



CCA Biker News

Special Insert to the Newsletter of the Children's Craniofacial Association
CHER—Honorary Chairperson

Fall 2001

Hi, this is Robbie, CCA's (Children's Craniofacial Association) ambassador.

We had a great time during our fundraising trip to Sturgis, SD (August, 2001) where we went to the annual Harley biker rally. This was the second year in a row that I represented the charity at the rally. Last year we spent most of our time at the Buffalo Chip Campground, where we raffled a Harley Sportster. **Rod "Woody" Woodruff**, owner of the Buffalo Chip Campground is our host and primary benefactor during the rally. This year we raffled a Harley Davidson Fat Boy® and I was able to spend time downtown, because we sold tickets there. I really liked seeing all of the bikes. I couldn't believe how many there were and so many different custom bikes. It was so cool!

The first night I was in Sturgis, I spent time with **Buddy Miles** who was in concert at the Buffalo Chip Campground. I had talked

with Buddy a lot on the phone and was glad to meet him face-to-face. Buddy was the drummer with the Jimi Hendrix Band. He is now on his **Buddy Miles Express Tour** and has raised funds for CCA. I was also excited to meet **Sheryl Crow**, **Montgomery Gentry**, **Grand Funk Railroad**, **Paul Revere**, **Greg Allman**, and the band **"Abby Someone."** I met **Arlen Ness** who makes famous custom bikes in Sturgis. I also met **Willie G. Davidson** at the convention center in Rapid City and got to see Harley Davidson's new model, V-ROD.

Another highlight of my trip was that I went on my first "ride," led by **Tina Wesson** from the second Survivor show in the Australian Outback. Her husband **Dale** was there too. I got to ride with **New York Myke** (San Diego Harley Davidson). We started at the Radisson Hotel in Rapid City, rode passed Mt. Rushmore and stopped at the Crazy Horse memorial; then through Spearfish Canyon and ended the ride at the Buffalo Chip Campground. I thought the Crazy Horse memorial was really awesome. On the way back we had to stop for a couple hours because of rain. It was neat because we all had a chance to really get to know each other. I became good friends with **David Curtis** who lives near my home. We had a lot of really nice people on our ride.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Journey Museum. I couldn't believe the cool bikes that were on display there. And the photographs were really neat too. **Goat Boy** from **KSQY** was doing a remote at the museum and promoted our raffle tickets sales.

Each night we sold raffle tickets at the Buffalo Chip and showed everyone the bike we were raffling off, a purple Harley Fat Boy, autographed by CCA's National Spokesperson, **Cher**. My best buddy Woody helped me draw the winning ticket on Friday night. Many of the vendors out at the Chip took me on rides and helped raise money for CCA as did the Chip staff. I met a lot of great people who support our charity and like I've always said, "Bikers are the best." We're going back next year so I hope to see everyone again.

Thanks, Rob

About Robbie

15-year-old Robbie Gorecki was born with a facial cleft caused by Goldenhar's syndrome, which is one of numerous craniofacial conditions. A craniofacial condition affects the head and face. Craniofacial conditions are most often caused by birth defect, but can be the result of disease or trauma.

Robbie met Cher (Honorary Chair for CCA since her role in the film, *Mask*) and became involved with CCA in 1990, when his mom, Jill testified on behalf of people with facial differences before the House Budget committee in Washington DC.

Since then Robbie's family has attended ten of the eleven Cher's Family Retreats. The retreats are held each year in different parts of the country in order to touch as many families as possible. Past retreats have been held in Orlando, Phoenix, Indianapolis, Boston, Chicago, San Diego, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, and Atlanta. These intimate gatherings allow each member of the family to share experiences and support. Over the years, Robbie has enjoyed playing with the multitude of kids across the country who, like himself, are affected by craniofacial anomalies.

Now that Rob is older, he attempts to return the favor by acting as an ambassador for CCA, encouraging public awareness and providing inspiration for other kids like himself who have to "face" the world.

Each year at the Family Retreat, Robbie visits a local Harley Davidson dealership collecting patches, pins and other Harley gear. Because of his particular affinity for Harley Davidson motorcycles and bikers Robbie was a natural choice as "poster boy" for the Harley raffle fundraiser.



Believe Ride II



Survivor II *The Australian Outback* winner Tina Wesson led the second annual Believe Ride in support of Children's Craniofacial Association on August 8th in Rapid City, South Dakota during the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally. Tina was the perfect choice for the ride since she made

it known on national TV that she is a motorcycle enthusiast.

Tina and Colby Donaldson placed bets on the games they played during their time in the Outback. When they became the last two survivors on the popular TV show they made one last bet. "Whoever wins the show has to buy a Harley-Davidson for the other one. I won, so I had to buy Colby a Harley," Tina said. Tina and her husband Dale who accompanied her on the ride often ride their motorcycles in the Tennessee mountains.

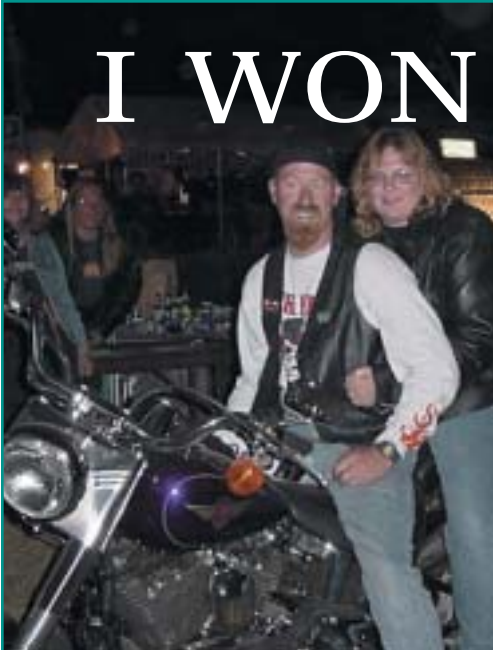
The Believe Ride started in Rapid City at the Radisson Hotel, continued past Mt. Rushmore and on to the Crazy Horse Memorial where the riders had lunch. After lunch they continued on through the beautiful South Dakota countryside, but were forced to make an unscheduled stop due to heavy rains. After a couple hours, the soggy bikers forged on and the ride ended at the Buffalo Chip Campground. The day ended with dinner and concerts by Sheryl Crow and Montgomery Gentry.

Many thanks to Tina and Dale, our bikers, Jim Walczyk who organized the ride and Rod Woodruff who donated dinner, skull caps and the concerts tickets.

Harley Raffle 2002

Another beautiful Harley will be raffled at the Buffalo Chip Campground in 2002. In addition we will also be giving away other great prizes! We will be announcing the model soon so check Children's Craniofacial Association's web site at www.CCAKids.com for developing news on the bike.

We will have our 2002 bike soon and will begin selling tickets online at www.CCAKids.com. If you or your club would like to volunteer in a ticket booth at Sturgis, sell tickets in your community, or if you have other ideas, please call the CCA office at 800-535-3643.



A proud and excited Mike Loveridge and his wife sit on their new ride at the Buffalo Chip where their winning ticket was drawn by Robbie Gorecki.

Sponsored by: Buffalo Chip Campground & Harley Davidson of Dallas, TX

I WON the Harley Fat Boy® Autographed by Cher!

The results are in and the winner of the 2001 Harley Fat Boy autographed by **Cher** is **Mike Loveridge** from Hamilton, Montana on a ticket drawn by **Robbie Gorecki**, CCA kid and son of CCA Board Member, **Jill Gorecki**. Robbie loves Harleys and bikers and hopes to have one of his own one day. He'll be back at the Chip next year! Mike and his wife who were attending the Buffalo Chip Rally were thrilled to find out they were the winners of this year's drawing. A special thanks to everyone who made this year's event possible: **Cher, Harley Davidson of Dallas, Buffalo Chip Campground**, and **Rod Woodruff**, Buffalo Chip Owner who

cheerfully and generously provided everything from admission passes for volunteers, a trailer, security, advertising, promotions, his stage and staff, and of course his warm support and friendship. Also CCA would like to give a special thank you to **Tony Davis**, CCA Board Member and Chairman of the Sturgis/Buffalo Chip fundraising team. Tony's relentless efforts and endless enthusiasm has made this an annual event that we hope grows to be a major source of funding for CCA's programs!!!



Three Cheers for Volunteers

CCA ended its second annual motorcycle raffle in August. This project was only possible with the help of many kind and generous people. And, we had lots of kind and generous volunteers who helped with this endeavor. Thanks to dedicated board members and friends this event benefited the charity in many ways. CCA Board member **Dr. Tony Davis** conceived the raffle idea in 1999, spent endless hours organizing this event for the 2000 rally and duplicated his efforts again this year for the 2001 raffle. Tony also gave up a week out of his dental practice to travel to Sturgis and keep things organized and sell tickets. Last year in his quest to connect with the motorcycle community, Tony found **Rod "Woody" Woodruff** who owns the **Buffalo Chip Campground**. Woody took CCA under his wing and donated the first Harley. He went the extra mile again this year and provided a place for CCA to base the raffle, headed up the **Believe Ride** and donated passes to the ride participants and CCA volunteers. In addition, Woody along with Buffalo Chip professionals **Brad Coombs**, Head of Production; **Tom Kingsbury**, Audio/Visual Director; and **Steve Owen**, Stage Manager actively promoted the raffle throughout the week. Public relations professional **Michael Sanborn** generously gave of his expertise and **Jim Walczyk** efficiently organized and staged the Believe Ride. Woody's wonderful wife **Carol Woodruff**, daughter **Toni Jo Woodruff** and office assistants **Patty Pierce** and **Beth Greene** graciously and patiently helped all of CCA's volunteers register and sign in at the Chip. **Kyle Cottrell** saw to it that CCA folks were able to go back stage. **Corey Nelson** had the Believe Ride skullcaps printed and sold tickets in the t-shirt booth at the Chip. **Dave Vice**, **DQ** and **Beth Roberts** moved our bike numerous times and kept

it secure while out at the Chip. A huge thanks to each of our friends at the Buffalo Chip Campground!

Thank you to **Karen Hartstein** for donating airfare to CCA staff, board members and volunteers. Many thanks to **New York Myke** owner of **Harley Davidson San Diego**, for supporting CCA throughout the week, promoting raffle tickets and recording several clever public services announcements. Thanks also to **David Curtis** whose son was born with a cleft lip and palate and his father **John Curtis** of Pewaukee and Elm Grove, Wisconsin respectively, who joined the Believe Ride and the CCA family.

We appreciate the help of **Megan Bennett** of Spearfish who stepped up to the plate and sold tickets in Spearfish, South Dakota, and **Jodi Klemann** who sold tickets in Pier, South Dakota. A special thanks to **Larry** and **Susan Johnson** of Alvarado, Texas, who after trucking the Fat Boy® to Sturgis, donated their time to help with ticket sales each evening at the Buffalo Chip. Thanks to **Glade Jones**, former Executive Director of Western Resources For Dis-ABLED Independence for recruiting volunteers and all of our volunteer ticket sellers including **James** and **Wendy Van Loan**, **Mary** and **Mike Parsons**, and **Lori DeSalvo** all of Rapid City, South Dakota. Thanks to **Alan Gorecki** and **Janice Hagen** from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, who actively sold tickets before and during the Rally week. Thanks to **Fred** and **Rose Seitz**, and **George Beaver** all of **Directed Technologies** who made it possible for online ticket sales. Thanks to **Bruce Williamson** and board member **Robin Williamson** of **Williamson Creative Services, Inc.** for donating their creative talents for designing all the logos, posters, tickets, etc. And a very special thanks to all of the **CCA families** who sold tickets in their hometowns.

In addition to Dr. Davis' efforts, the raffle couldn't have been accomplished if not for the

help of CCA Board Chairman, **Terry Carmichael** and board member **Jill Gorecki**. Terry and Jill both sold tickets prior to the Rally and throughout the week in Sturgis. And, a special thanks, to Terry's husband **Phil Patterson** who packed up the "Silver Twinkie" (1961 Airstream) and drove to South Dakota, endured the group's antics and helped with everything from cooking dinner to selling tickets for 6 very hot days!

Finally, special thanks to some VIPs who made our 2001 raffle special: CCA's resident Biker Dude, motorcycle enthusiast, **Robbie Gorecki**, who is our inspiration and ambassador; **Tina Wesson**, winner of \$1,000,000 from the Survivor II: Australian Outback TV show, and her husband **Dale Wesson** who were absolutely incredible in supporting our kids, and for leading the Believe Ride; and to **Cher**, our generous spokesperson, for signing the Fat Boy® that we raffled off.

On occasion volunteers come to CCA when they are least expected and most needed. Such was the case during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Most of the volunteers mentioned in this article were unknown to those of us at CCA before last year. Look at us now! Thanks to each and every one of you. We greatly appreciate all of your help! Three Cheers for the Sturgis Rally Volunteers!

Share the Magic!

Send flowers for the holidays!

Call **1-800-OUR GIFT** (687-4438)

or visit **www.OurGift.com**. Every time you order flowers through Our Gift, 10% of your purchase is donated to CCA.

We Need Your Help! or...Let's Party!

As Robbie says, "Bikers are the best!" We talked to numerous members of local clubs while we were in Sturgis and heard wonderful stories about the money they raised for local charities. We salute you for your community spirit.

In 2002 we will be selling raffle tickets in Sturgis, Rapid City, Spearfish and at the Buffalo Chip Campground. We know you do a lot for charity during the year, but ask that you take a couple of hours out of your trip to help Robbie and kids like him from all over the United States.

We need volunteers to help us sell tickets. It's a great opportunity to meet and swap stories with fellow bikers from all over the United States while doing a great service. **And to thank you for your help, we are throwing a kickoff party for our volunteers out at the Buffalo Chip Campground!*** There'll be lots of food, drink and much more! So don't delay! Sign yourself up for a three-hour shift or better yet, sign your club up by calling 800-535-3643 or emailing us at csmith@ccakids.com.

Thanks for your help!

* The party is funded by sponsors and will not take away from the funds raised for the kids.

Got A Good Idea?

If you have an idea to help Children's Craniofacial Association raise funds, please share it with us!

You May Be a Winner!

Hey Guys! We're giving a prize away! If you bought a ticket for the 2001 Harley Fat Boy® giveaway, you may have already won a bonus prize! Just go to our Web site and see.

While you're there take a look at the Harley we will be raffling in Sturgis next year. Tickets are now available for purchase on the Web site, by emailing CCA at CSmith@CCAkids.com or by calling 800-535-3643. Don't wait! GO NOW TO www.ccakids.com and click on the motorcycle.

Robbie



NY Myke, San Diego Harley Davidson dealer, and Arlen Ness with his fellow Hamsters load the purple Fat Boy after tickets were sold at the Journey Museum in Rapid City.



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Retreat, cont'd from page 1



On Friday morning, the group rose early and boarded buses for Sci-Trek to participate in many hands-on activities. Some of these activities included: the Cyber Playground, which traces the development of the computer game; the Color Factory, which among other things allowed us to "freeze our shadows"; the Electric-Magnetic Junction, which let us close a circuit with our own bodies; and many other fascinating experiences.

After this mental and physical workout, we were off to Atlanta's historic Grant Park for an old-fashioned picnic. Kids, young and old, participated in activities including a vigorous softball game, bubble blowing, and tossing Frisbees. A delightful clown, who cranked out balloon animals for the kids, also entertained us. Our thanks go out to Jenny Weiss, co-owner of Anytime Party Pizzazz, and CCA's new friend, who so generously provided our lunch.

Friday's fun-filled day was capped with a dinner on the hotel's twenty-fifth floor, which provided an incredible panoramic view of the city. After reminiscing about the day's stimulating activities, everyone trekked to the swimming pool for one more dip and yet another chance to visit.



The late evening did not prevent us from rising bright and early the next morning for a trip to the zoo. We enjoyed beautiful pandas up close and personal, were entertained by a baby gorilla, as well as a frisky teenage gorilla and their watchful parents. We also laughed at the antics of the playful otters. We truly enjoyed our zoo experience with its special displays and the usual elephants, giraffes, and reptiles.

Despite the tiring, yet fun-filled day, nothing could keep this group off the dance floor!



Partygoers dined and danced the night away singing to several renditions of "Believe," sung by CCA's hero and friend Cher, as well as hoofing it up to the Chicken Dance" and the "Locomotion," which was led by Scott Guzzo.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end and Sunday morning brought hugs, tears, and promises to stay in touch until we meet again for the 2002 Retreat in St. Louis, Missouri.



see **Retreat**, page 10

Thank You!

Thanks to all our supporters since the last newsletter. We need you, we appreciate you, and we thank you again.

In Honor of:

- Dr. Jeffrey A. Fearon by Dianne M. Altuna, M.S./CCC-SLP
- Janet Novak by no-fault claims dept @ Statewide Ins. Co.
- Grace & Irwin Lebow by Sonya & Paul Hackel
- Myra Silverman by Karen, Leopold, Rose and Samantha Sher
- Aileen & Bruce Levine by Evan Levine
- Cher by Karen Hartstein
- Gracen Lynn Smith by grandparents Charlene and John Smith

In Memory of:

- Patrick Kemp by James & Kathryn Kemp

CCA's Legacy Circle

Planned gifts, such as bequests and charitable trusts, no matter how large or small, are an excellent way to ensure CCA's financial future. Please let us know if you have named CCA in your will or trust. We would like the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and to include you in our Legacy Circle.

☐ I have included CCA in my will or trust; please feel free to list my name publicly.

☐ I have included CCA in my will or trust; however, I wish to remain anonymous.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please return to CCA: 12200 Park Central Drive, Suite, 180, Dallas, TX 75251

Charter Membership in the CCA Legacy Circle is open to all who join in the year 2001 – 2002.

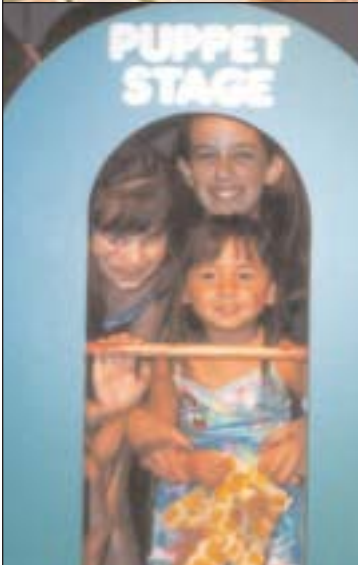
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The **Cleft Palate Foundation** is holding a conference for parents of children with cleft and craniofacial conditions May 4, 2002 in Seattle, WA.

For details please check their Website at www.cleftline.org or call 919-933-9044, or email them at cleftline@aol.com.

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Chair, cont'd from page 1

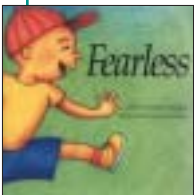
supporters during the past year. CCA families participated in the **2x2 Campaign** and sold tickets for the **Harley Raffle**. We began our 2001-2002 fiscal year with the Harley Raffle during the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally. (see "Three Cheers for Volunteers" and other biker articles for more information). The raffle gave us the opportunity to accomplish important public awareness while recruiting many new friends and volunteers in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Public awareness through print media was also accomplished. News and feature articles for 2001 have appeared in: *The Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *The Rapid City Journal* and *Buffalo Chip Gazette* (South Dakota) newspapers. Magazine articles appeared in April *Teen People*, May *Allure*, and Spring 2001 *Abilities* (Canada). CCA is also featured under "Family and Friends" and "Cher's Official News" on Cher's official Website.

The board and staff of Children's Craniofacial Association thank each and every one of you who helped make 2000-2001 a banner year. We invite you all to be part of the coming year.

Terry Carmichael
Chairman of the Board

News and Events



Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)

Thanks to a generous grant from **RMHC of Greater North Texas**, CCA has published a book designed to empower children who have facial differences. This unique, engaging children's book will help kids cope with their differences and give them a more positive perspective about themselves. It will illustrate there are others like them and they are not alone. It will encourage them to discover their own special gifts and admire the unique individuals they are. The book will also help educate the general public about craniofacial disorders and generate more tolerance for differences. Additionally, the book will serve as an introduction to CCA and its resources and services. After its introduction in the North Texas region, it is CCA's goal to make this valuable book available nationwide.

2002 Retreat

The 12th Annual Cher's Family Retreat will be held in St. Louis, Missouri June 27th through 30th, 2002. This annual retreat weekend is for the immediate family members of a person who has a craniofacial condition. It provides a relaxed environment for family members to share resources and support while having a fun weekend. Families are responsible for transportation, lodging and some meals. Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us in St. Louis. More info will be available after the first of the year.

Cher Convention 2002

Cher Convention 2002 will take place July 12-13 at the beautiful Riviera Hotel on the Las Vegas strip. Judy Didelot, Jody Cantwell, Kim Werdman, Linda Alamprese, Robyn Fisher, Diana Fields, Mike Werdman, Brad Wright, and honorary staff member Char Smith join forces to produce this exciting event. Jeffrey Thomas will kick off the convention Friday evening with his rendition of Cher's hit, "BELIEVE." Following dinner, attendees will be entertained by Cher impersonators and have the opportunity to bid on Cher memorabilia in a live auction. On Saturday, conventioners will enjoy exploring many facets of Cher's illustrious career. There will be an audio and video montage, a Cher trivia contest hosted by **Mary Ladd**, Cher music seminar hosted by **Ward Lamb**, and a career seminar hosted by **BostonQ**. There will also be Cher Karaoke, a Cher museum, Cher songs as sung by **Wayne Smith**, **Jeffrey Thomas**, and **Amy Hohimer** plus many other Cher-related, fun things to do. The convention culminates Saturday evening with a dinner, dance and mock Sonny & Cher Show including Laverne and "The VAMP." The show will feature a special guest star: Elvis Presley as portrayed by **Mark Hussman**! As a grand finale, Cher Impersonator, Wayne Smith, will perform "The National Anthem." Best of all, the proceeds benefit Children's Craniofacial Association. For registration and additional information, please visit the Cher Convention Website at: www.cherconvention.com.

2002 Motorcycle Raffle

Watch upcoming CCA newsletters and CCA's Website at www.ccakids.com for breaking information about the 2002 Motorcycle Raffle!

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Cher

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