



Blue Bars



BUCKEYE CORVETTE CLUB 1960-2010 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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Smiling Faces Warm Toes and Joyous Hearts

The Mid-Illinois CC, located in Dunlap, IL, has a unique tradition that brings smiling faces, warm toes and joyous hearts to young people in their community. About eight years ago, the Club made the decision to share some of the good fortune that has come to the members of the Club. The question was, "How do we focus that sharing so that the maximum amount of good could be accomplished?" Recognizing there is so much need, especially in hard economic times, members thought "How do you choose?" Fortunately, the answer was right at their feet.

Eight years ago, one of their members, Mourina 'Moe' Sweet, was meeting with the Principal of Pleasant Hill Grade School. Several times during the conversation, a young boy attempted to interrupt the discussion, seeking help regarding his shoes which had completely fallen apart. 'Moe' observed the little boy and his predicament. She began thinking about how the local Corvette Club could help. The school's Principal shared with her that many of the students came from homes with financial issues. In fact most of them wore shoes that were the same or worse than that particular little boy. It started with a tug on the Principal's sleeve by this child and ended with a tug on the heart of the Mid-Illinois CC to make a difference in the lives of the children at this school.

Now an annual tradition, the Club sets aside funds each year for taking a group of the neediest children from Pleasant Hill to a local shoe store for the purchase of shoes, boots and socks. Approximately 300 children have received new footwear in the years the Club has been involved in this project. They have also provided hats, gloves and scarves for the school, as well as books for their library. One of their goals of this project is that every time one of these children sees a Corvette on the street, the youngster will look at their shoes or hats and gloves and think, "These are awesome people. They care about us."

This might not sound like a typical activity for a car club. Putting smiles on the faces of those who need it

most and restoring a child's pride with new shoes and socks exceeds the gratification of driving a Corvette from zero to sixty in a couple of seconds!

On December 8, 2011, several of the Club members had the privilege of escorting 38 children to buy new shoes and socks. The kids were so excited to get boots because snow was in the forecast that very evening. Once again, this proved to be another successful shopping trip and resulted in happy kids with warm, dry feet just in time for winter.

On the left, members gather at the shoe store before shopping with recipients of their 2011 Holiday Shoe Project. On the right, children model their new shoes and boots so everyone can see what they selected.

Story submitted by Pat Clark, Blue Bars staff member.

