

# Volunteers

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Celebrity volunteer

Veteran newsman Walter Cronkite is the honorary chairman of this year's North Carolina Seafood Festival in Morehead City.

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Saving lives

## Philanthropist devotes hours and dollars to children



Jack Tate of Charlotte says helping children is one of society's most important jobs.

Photo by Robert Miller

Jack Tate, one of North Carolina's most active philanthropists, both in terms of dollars and hours devoted to charity, says his desire to help children, and his belief in helping others, motivates him to volunteer countless hours to community service.

BY KATHERINE NOBLE

He's not your typical grandfather. In fact, there's not much about Jack Tate that is ordinary, except perhaps his warm, southern smile and quiet, heartfelt laugh.

Tate is one of North Carolina's

premier philanthropists. In nearly a half-century of devotion to nonprofit service and leadership, Tate, 76, has helped start nonprofits, endow professorships, establish advisory boards and strengthen one of the nation's top schools of social work.

But sitting in the living room of the Charlotte home he shares with his bride of 10 months, Marjorie Warlick Tate, the humble Tate doesn't let on how far his philanthropic hand has reached.

"I was always taught to be thankful for what I had and to share it with others," Tate says with a shrug. "I'm just another guy."

It would be difficult - if not impossible - to find someone who would agree with that statement.

Tate has been honored with

numerous humanitarian and service awards, including the United Way of America's Centennial Alex de Tocqueville Award in 1987 for his outstanding volunteer service.

Tate and his late wife, Dolly, who died two years ago, received the award together. The current Mrs. Tate also figures prominently in the nonprofit world, and the two met while working at Child Care Resources in Charlotte.

From his chairmanship of the board of advisers for the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to his leadership role in the formation and design of the pioneer Charlotte-Mecklenburg Cities in Schools program, if Tate is involved in a project, it's a safe bet it will be successful.

And it will definitely focus, at least in part, on children.

Lack of care for disadvantaged children is the most critical problem facing society today, Tate says. Instead of caring for its needy youngsters, society has turned its back on them at their most critical stage - the first five years of their lives.

Pre-schoolers need a loving, nurturing and stimulating environment in which to develop self-confidence and a desire to learn - two crucial components for success in school and, ultimately, in life.

To ensure that all of North Carolina's children get the right start in life, Tate says quality child care that emphasizes pre-school education must be available to every child - not just those whose parents can

afford it.

"Government is going to have to set the standards," Tate says, and day care providers, private business and nonprofits, including churches, all are going to have to work together to bring quality child care to all children in the state.

"The development of these children is as important a function as anything in our society," he says.

Tate was the first president of Child Care Resources, an advocacy, referral service and day-care center for children in Charlotte. He's on the board of N.C. Child Advocacy Institute. And he's past president and currently vice president of the board of Cities in Schools.

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## Documenting hate Volunteers help groups track rise in gay bashing

Nonprofit groups such as the North Carolina Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality historically have been the primary source of reporting on hate crimes committed in the state. Now, those organizations - staffed largely by volunteers - are reaching out to police and social service agencies to improve documentation and increase public awareness of bias crimes.

BY BARBARA SOLOW

Mark Zumbach is working to make the invisible, visible.

Nearly three years ago, he helped set up the Gay and Lesbian Helpline of Wake County - one of several telephone hotlines documenting gay bashing and other hate crimes in North Carolina.

For the fifth year in a row, the state has led the nation in the number of hate crimes committed against homosexuals, according to tallies by local and national gay and lesbian groups.

The 578 incidents logged by the North Carolina Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality last year included everything from crank phone calls to assaults to murders.

The state's two-year-old hate crimes law mandates harsher penalties for crimes committed because of

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## Celebration of giving Volunteers pitch in



To kick off United Way annual fundraising campaigns in the Triangle, volunteers on Sept. 9 spent the day working at more than 80 United Way agencies.

United Way affiliates in Orange, Durham and Wake counties also collected clothes and school supplies for needy children. United Way affiliates throughout North Carolina hope to rebound this year from disappointing annual campaigns last year.

Photos by Harry Lynch



Photo by Scott Sharpe