

happy holidays

The Chowan Herald

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Toys for Tots drive a success

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Nearly 200 local children took home toys Saturday morning, thanks to the generosity of Chowan County and Edenton businesses and the dedication of organizers and volunteers who put together "A Day With Santa" at D.F. Walker Elementary School.

When a toy drive began earlier this month, organizers hoped to sponsor every eligible child on their list. According to event co-chairman Gwen Brown, every child who walked in the school's gymnasium Saturday morning went away with a smile.

"This morning at 10 a.m. it was full force," Brown said early Saturday afternoon. "The only way a child didn't get a toy of some kind was if they didn't show up. It turned out much better than we expected it to."

In the first hour, at least 300 people - children, adults and volunteers - packed into the gym. And not only did children receive toys and clothing for Christmas, but they also had the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus (Town of Edenton

employee Gary McCann.) Edenton Police Officers Jonathan Slegel and Curtis Liverman provided free photographs for any child who took a turn in Santa's lap.

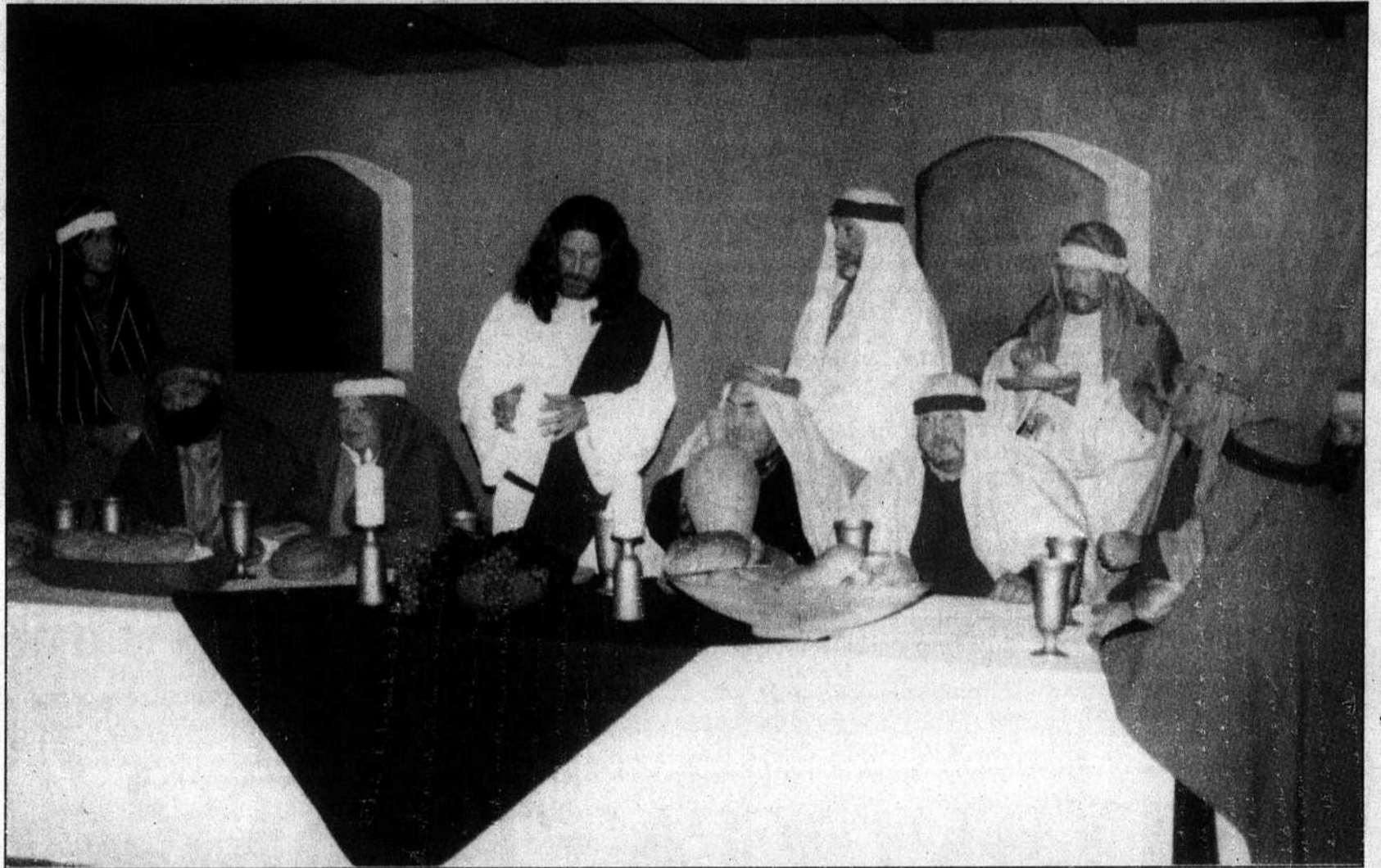
Along with 15 brand-new bicycles, a host of girls' and boys' though, toys were distributed to disadvantaged children in the community. Brown said Monday morning that donations will continue to be accepted through Christmas Eve.

"I've gotten a lot of calls this morning saying how great the event was," Brown said. "I know though that somewhere along the line we forgot somebody."

To donate a toy for "Operation Santa Claus", or to inquire about an applicant's eligibility, contact Brown at 482-5636.

Brown also thanked sponsors who donated for the toy drive. The sponsors included: Edenton-Chowan Parks & Recreation Department; John A. Holmes High School Biology and Key clubs; Rocky Hock Ruritan Club; D & L Home Improvement; Leary Plant Farm; IGA Family Foods; Winn-Dixie

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REMEMBERING THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

Jesus and his disciples are shown at the Last Supper in one of eight scenes from the life of Christ depicted as part of the Center Hill Baptist Church's Christmas panorama, shown nightly Dec. 20-22. With Pastor Don English portraying Jesus, the drive-through event has drawn large crowds of area residents this week to see the live actors and live animals act out the special production that serves as a compelling reminder of the real meaning behind the Christmas season. (Staff photo by Debbie Collins)

Local celebration of Kwanzaa principles begins on Dec. 26th

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

In today's fast-paced society, children learn of their ancestors' heritage, values and principles on the run - if they are taught about them at all.

More than 30 years ago, a Los Angeles, CA resident took matters into his own hands and held the first-ever Kwanzaa celebration with his own family and a group of friends. Neither a religious nor political nor patriotic holiday, Kwanzaa was initiated by Dr. Maulana Karenga on Dec. 26, 1966 to celebrate African-American culture through the Nguzo Saba, Swahili for "seven principles."

The seven-day celebration kicks off Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1, 1999. In Edenton, the annual Kwanzaa holiday will be publicly celebrated Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Fannie A. Parker Women's Club on West Albemarle Street. All local residents are encouraged to attend, said organizer Mildred Vanterpool. There is no cost to attend.



(From left) Malik Vanterpool, Mykel Vanterpool, Donovan Hill, Cierra Vanterpool, Nia Vanterpool, and Mildred Vanterpool will all take part in next Tuesday's Kwanzaa celebration at the Fannie A. Parker Women's Club building at 207 W. Albemarle St. The Vanterpools will also observe Kwanzaa throughout the week of Dec. 26-Jan. 1.

"It shows the principles and values that I think are important to African-Americans," said Vanterpool of Kwanzaa - Swahili for "first fruit of the harvest." The Nguzo Saba (seven principles) are good tools for today's youth to learn and utilize, she added.

"They help to develop principles in our young people. It's a good way of life to teach your children," said Vanterpool, who will continue her family's annual Kwanzaa tradition by having evening celebrations over the seven-day period.

Kwanzaa's seven principles are: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

And like other holidays, Kwanzaa has its own unique symbols. The seven basic symbols of Kwanzaa are instructional and inspirational objects that represent and reinforce desirable principles, concepts and practices. The symbols are:

Mazao (fruits and vegetables), Mkeka (place mat), Kinara (candle holder), Vibunzi (ears of corn), Zawadi (gifts), Kikombe Cha Umoja (unity cup), and Mishumaa Saba (seven candles).

Soon to enter its fourth decade of observance, Kwanzaa can continue to provide a positive influence to youth that are exposed to its purpose, said Vanterpool. The Edenton-Chowan Civic League is once again sponsoring next Tuesday night's Kwanzaa celebration.

"We gear our program towards youth participation," she said. "You really try to pull the young people in to it so they can become a part of the tradition."

Vanterpool and her family have been taking part in community-wide Kwanzaa celebrations in Edenton for six years, and Vanterpool said she began observing the holiday in the late 1970s when she lived in New York. Previously held at D.F. Walker Elementary

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Edenton Post Office to close its window early

The Edenton Post Office will close its public window service in the lobby at 1 p.m. on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve).

"If you have a package to pick up or want to mail an item overnight express,

please knock on the side door and someone will assist you," said Postmaster Linda Hodges.

"Thanks for your cooperation, and Merry Christmas," she added.

Chowan Herald will close for the holidays

The Chowan Herald will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, in order to allow our employees to celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families.

The newspaper will also be closed Friday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's holi-

day. News items and photos that are normally due in the newspaper's office on Friday (society and church news) will be accepted on Monday for publication in the Dec. 30 and Jan. 6 editions.

Happy Holidays!



Mary Partin accepts a check for \$5,000 on behalf of the COA Foundation from BB&T's board of trustees Monday afternoon. Partin said the money will go toward a number of projects and student scholarships at COA's Chowan County Center. Partin served as chairman of this year's fund drive which drew a huge public response.

COA drive draws huge response

College of the Albemarle Foundation raised over \$15,000 in its recent campaign in Chowan County, an amount more than ten times higher than last year's total.

Sandra Ray, executive director of the COA Foundation, recently announced the fund drive numbers to the college's board of trustees. Ray reported that the foundation has received \$15,645 from Chowan County donors compared to the 1997-98 total of \$1,140.

Campaign Chair Mary Partin, the former Dean of COA's Chowan County Center, said the difference in this year's campaign was the personal touch.

"I believe the success in this

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