



Johnson C. Smith University Early Childhood Development Center presented Beverly Watson, Salvation Army Representative, with 6,750 pennies which will be used to help the homeless.



Child Watch

With Marian Wright Edelman

In just one day, here on the most affluent nation on earth ...
 ... 1,287 teenagers give birth. All too often, too early parenthood will make it much more difficult for either parent or child to have a decent future.
 ... 72 babies die before they reach one month of life. Many of these tiny, fragile lives could be saved if all of their mothers had access to cost-effective prenatal care.
 ... 27 children die because of poverty. For many, poverty is a temporary hardship to suffer and endure. But for the youngest and most vulnerable among us, it can be fatal.
 ... 8 children die from guns. Homicide is the fifteenth leading cause of infant death.
 ... 1,868 teenagers drop out of school. Without a high school diploma and the ability to read and work, our young people will find it difficult to be able to find a job. And any job they do find will often not pay them enough to enable them to raise a family out of poverty when they are ready.
 ... 988 children are abused. Parents who cannot cope with their problems, which often stem from poverty, frequently vent their frustrations on their own children. The resulting scars can last a lifetime.
 ... 3,288 children run away from home. Today, what they then run into is often a life that involves drugs, prostitution, and the threat of AIDS.

This shameful list amounts to public child abuse and neglect on a national scale. Before one more such day goes by, we must ask our political leaders, churches, businesses, friends and neighbors as well as parents to work toward a day when...
 ...every American child has enough to eat and a decent home to live in.
 ...every American child receives adequate health care beginning before birth.
 ...every American child is attending a decent school.
 ...every American child is safe from the threat of violence, either at home or in the streets of his or her neighborhood.
 ...every American child has a future worth waiting for.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.

Miss Wheelchair Pageant

The 11th Annual Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina Pageant will be held at the Holiday Inn - Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, N.C., July 21-24, 1988.
 The Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina Pageant is not a beauty contest. It is a pageant of achievement stressing personal accomplishment, personality, intelligence, and the capability of the physically disabled to compete with their able bodied peers. What we stress through awareness are the needs of the disabled in order to bring about a better understanding for the ongoing need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers

in today's society.
 Contestants from all over the state of North Carolina will come to Charlotte to compete for the title of Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina 1988. During the four-day weekend when the contestants are not in judging sessions, they will be attending workshops relating to self-esteem, sexuality after disability, career planning, legislation updates, and communication skills.
 For additional information, contact: Sandy Honbaler, Director of Public Relations, 105 Smith Lane, Mt. Holly, NC 28120, 704-827-9463.

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