

Volunteers Play Easter Bunny For Ronald McDonald Children

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny lives in Brunswick County...and Santa too. At least that is what the Ronald McDonald House of Durham thinks.

Groups of Brunswick County residents have adopted this Ronald McDonald House in a big way. Men and women from all over the county are putting their talents and skills to work helping sick children and their families in a crisis. Their handiwork goes to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Durham.

The House is a temporary home-away-from-home for families of seriously ill children being treated at Duke University Medical Center. Different groups of Brunswick craftspeople send wonderful toys, stuffed animals and dolls; quilts; and pajamas and slippers for the Ronald McDonald House children all year long.

Exquisite handmade decorations appear for every holiday. These generous Brunswick County volunteers make sure the Ronald McDonald House is festive during every season of the year. Spooky Halloween decorations come in October and plenty of red, white and blue on the 4th of July! At Christmas time the group provided a large tree decorated with handmade ornaments, festive decorations and a tiny tree for each of the 20 bedrooms in the House. Valentine's Day brought heart-shaped pillows. Colorful Easter baskets arrived this week as well as Easter-egg colored quilts.

Elsie South of Ocean Forest subdivision, Calabash, helps to organize and coordinate the efforts of these

groups. She is a tireless volunteer.

"We came home from a trip recently and found boxes of quilts and other goodies for the Ronald House on our back porch," said Mrs. South. "They are from people I don't even know!"

The individuals and volunteer groups come from Calabash, Shallotte, Leland, Long Beach and all other areas of Brunswick County. The Brunswick volunteers raffled off a beautiful full size quilt to benefit the house. They also sell Ronald McDonald House T-shirts and sweatshirts and, in addition to the time and love they give to their creations, they give generous amounts of money toward the operating cost of the House.

Each child who stays at the Ronald McDonald House goes home with a quilt from Brunswick County made with love.

"Sick children can never receive enough love and support," said Marjorie Hardee, Ronald McDonald House staff member. "The Brunswick County volunteers make such a difference for our families and we couldn't do without them."

For information on how your group can volunteer, contact Mrs. South at 919-579-7083 or the Durham Ronald McDonald House at 919-286-9305.

Look out Easter Bunny, and Santa too! The Brunswick County Ronald McDonald House volunteers spread joy at the Ronald McDonald House of Durham all year long!



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Brass Quintet Entertains

Classic Brass, a quintet of brass musicians from Florida, Alabama and North Carolina, will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at Brunswick Community College. The group will play jazz, popular and show tunes, as well as classical selections, with background information about the music. They will also demonstrate historical instruments. There is no admission charge for the event, which will be held in the Administration/Learning Resources, Student Center (ALS Building) on the main campus in Supply.

Lower Cape Fear Chapter Of Romance Writers Meet Saturday

The Lower Cape Fear chapter of Romance Writers of America (RWA) will hold an organizational meeting Saturday, April 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. p.m. at Brunswick Community College in Supply.

The organization offers its members up-to-date market information, the opportunity to meet other writers, editors and agents, a bi-monthly news magazine and a yearly writing

contest and conference.

For more information, write to the Lower Cape Fear Chapter of RWA, c/o 6302 E. Yacht Dr., Long Beach, N.C. 28465.

The new chapter will hold monthly meetings offering the membership opportunities to hear speakers on topics touching all aspects of writing.

Plans are being made to present a writers' seminar in May, featuring historical romance author Julie Tetel; Laurie Rosen, editor of four best-selling series; and Hugh Zachary, author of more than 150 novels and two best-selling series.

RWA is a non-profit, international organization of independent writers, currently numbering more than 5,000 members who are authors published in a variety of fields, as well as those still awaiting their first sale.

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