

A knightly gift

Council 10852 raises funds, donates to Holy Angels

by KEVIN E. MURRAY

editor

BELMONT -- Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 10852 of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte recently made their largest single donation to Holy Angels in Belmont.

The knights toured Holy Angels Jan. 15 and presented an \$18,000 check. The money was raised through the Knights of Columbus' Operation LAMB campaign to help people with mental retardation.

"We saw there was a need for the funds," said Greg Argenas, a co-chair of the council's Operation LAMB campaign. "The work they do is incredible."

"We've had a long standing relationship with the Knights and they've always been so generous," said Dennis Kuhn, Holy Angels' vice president of human resources. "This is an extraordinary gift ... and we're deeply appreciative of everything they've done for us."

Holy Angels is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides innovative programs and services for its residents -- children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile.

"The money we've received will help with the operation and needs for medical equipment and services we provide to the children and adults with mental retardation," said Kuhn.

The same day the knights also visited Joshua's Farm in Charlotte, where they saw a riding exhibition and made a \$6,000 donation.

Founded in 1996, Joshua's Farm is a working farm exposing disabled children and adults to therapeutic horseback riding, animal interaction, sensory gardens and accessible nature trails.

The 11-year-old Council 10852 singly raised more than \$55,000 for the LAMB Foundation of NC in 2004, the first time in the now 32-year history of the foundation that an individual council in North Carolina has exceeded the \$50,000 mark in one calendar year.

"A lot of people worked very hard to accomplish this goal," said Argenas.

The Knights of Columbus raised the funds for their Operation LAMB drive through corporate and private donations and their famous Tootsie Roll campaigns at area retailers. Since its inception in 1974, Operation LAMB, named after the biblical quotation, "... whatsoever you do to the least among my brethren, that you also do to me" (Matthew 25:40), has raised more than \$14 million to assist citizens of North Carolina with mental retardation.

"We were pleased to raise the amount of money we've raised this year," said Richard White, co-chair of the Operation LAMB campaign. "It allows us to increase what we do."

Other local and statewide organizations to benefit from Council 10852's fund-raising include Special Olympics, Mecklenburg ARC, St. Matthew Church, Allegro Foundation, Easter Seals, Life Span, Carolina Computer Access Center and Christian Adoption.

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