



The Wills' Wire

January 2007



Howdy from Atlanta and Happy New Year! It was great to see most of you as we were in town for the holidays and we are glad to know that you are all behind us as we embark on the last half of our journey. This year our newsletters will be slightly different. Since most of you are familiar with what exactly we are doing here in Atlanta we felt it would be more enriching and uplifting for you to know who we are doing it with. We will focus each month on a few stories of people who are directly impacting our time here in Atlanta so that you may put a face and name with your prayers and generous giving.

After our first Christmas at the Andrew P. Stewart Center, our worksite, our perspective was forever altered. At first it seemed as if the season had little to do with the savior of the world who came in the person of Jesus Christ and more to do with how people could relieve some of their guilt from the year. People who had seemingly been non-existent the first 11 months of the year suddenly showed up with a passion to help and serve, and donations came from people who had been dormant all year. We began to be worn down by the number of groups who came to shower the kids with gifts and then disappear back into their own worlds filled with their own problems. However, in the midst of all this was a story that brought us hope and we feel is one worth sharing.

The story begins somewhere around last fall when a 3 year old girl named Maddie said to her parents that instead of gifts for her birthday she wanted her friends to bring gifts for kids less fortunate than her. And so her parents honored that wish and collected a shoe box full of gifts for each and every kid at the Stewart Center. Fast forward one year to this Christmas. Yet again little Maddie decided she wanted to give her gifts away so she did. As we were beaten down and ready for it all to be over, Maddie showed up with her parents and a wrapped box for each kid. She didn't stop there. She also came to spend her time with them playing, running, and laughing and enjoying the true meaning of the season. Maddie is the perfect example of what Jesus Christ came in this world to do. Just as He came to give of Himself, so Maddie came to the Center to share what she had been blessed with. She warmed our hearts and brought hope and meaning to what we do on a daily basis at the Center.

If you find yourself led to give, please send your tax deductible contributions made payable to D.O.O.R, a Mission Year partner that handles our finances, to 430 West 9th Ave, Denver, CO 80204. Please make sure to designate your donation towards us by writing our names in the memo section of the check as well as our city, Atlanta. You will receive a receipt for each gift given.

Prayer Request

- Our Neighborhood (The girls are starting an aerobics class on Saturdays. Please pray for a good turnout and a good time.)
- Our Safety
- Our daily impact on the children
- Financial Support (Currently we have raised \$1,965 out of \$19,000 a great improvement!)

Ben and Sara Wills

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**love God.
love people.
nothing else matters.**