

Joshua's Hope Presents...

*A Christmas Brunch
for Moms Who Have Lost
Children*

December 10, 2011 (9:30 AM-1:00 PM)

A Grace In The Wilderness Ministries Event



BLUE RIDGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

745 Wolf Creek Road, Pickens, SC 29671

Church Phone Number: (864) 855-9260

Sharon Hawkins (864) 380-2358; sharon@wildernessgrace.org

Marie Pritchett (864) 979-5281; marie@wildernessgrace.org

Tickets Available No Charge, Visit www.wildernessgrace.org for More Information.

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TICKET ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

TICKETS NO CHARGE--No. of Tickets Ordering: # _____

 I would like to receive the Grace In The Wilderness Women's Bi-Monthly Email Newsletter. Email Address Above. If no email, paper copies will be mailed.

I would like to receive the Gracie's Way Teen Girl Quarterly Email Newsletter. Email Address Above. If no email, paper copies will be mailed.

Please send TICKET ORDER FORM to: Grace In The Wilderness
139 Commons Way, Greenville, SC 29611 or Fax to (864) 295-9139

(Tickets will be mailed to the address provided above. Ticket orders received after December 6 will be held at the Registration Table at the Conference for pickup December 10, 2011.)

****Please include a photo of your child if you would like to have it included in our special slide presentation. (Please write the name of your child, date of birth, date of death on the back of the photo. If already provided previously, won't need to send again)****
May also be emailed to sharon@wilderness.org.

For More Information, Please Contact:
Marie Pritchett at (864) 979-5281, marie@wildernessgrace.org

Country Santa Toy Drive



We are collecting toys for Country Santa. The Country Santa, as he has come to be known, is John (Buddy) Cox. He doesn't care to be compared to St. Nick. "I am just one of his helpers," he says. Maybe so, but Cox's list of recipients is now over 3000 kids long.

It all started with one first-grade girl, shortly after Cox and his wife Nell moved from Greenville, SC, to tiny Pumpkintown in the northwest corner of the state. The girl arrived at school needing new shoes, and Cox, a water-waste equipment sales engineer, heard about her plight and brought her a pair. It was then that he noticed the tattered condition of her doll. So that Christmas, a replacement doll ("the biggest boxed doll I could find," says Cox) arrived under the girl's Christmas tree. The next year, with names provided by the elementary schools, Cox provided toys to 10 children. By the fifth year the list had grown so long that Cox began soliciting toys, new and used, from the area's more fortunate citizens. He signed up volunteer elves to help deliver them.

In 1986, he built a 900-square-foot warehouse to store toys, which are gathered from collection points throughout the year. The Country Santa building is also where all the toys are bagged for delivery. Before the Country Santa building was built, Cox's home doubled as Santa's workshop. Toys were stacked in every room in the house. The children's names come to Cox via local schools, churches, and social services agencies. Others find him, and he screens them himself. Country Santa doesn't limit the gifts to one toy per child. Each child gets several toys. Cox says he tries to give about \$50.00 worth of new toys but some may be used. If he has to give used toys, they have to be in excellent condition.

Cox draws inspiration from his own youth. When he was 10, his dad walked out on the family, leaving his mother to support Buddy and two older sisters in the rural South Carolina town of Cross Hill. "She got a job as a bookkeeper, making \$50 a week." Buddy says, "And, I know she struggled to put something under the tree for us at Christmas. I realized parents can hurt when they can't give their kids something." The big event starts in early December. First the toys have to be given, then collected. From there the toys are sorted and bagged in the Country Santa building. This all starts on the first weekend in December. The bagging will continue until Dec. 22nd. On Christmas Eve, the bags are loaded on trucks and cars and delivered to the children. For more information on how you can help, visit http://www.countrysanta.org/help_needed.htm.

Toys needed:

Baby Toys: Toys for \$5.00 or under, for ages 1 month to 3 years old

Balls (all types): Baseballs (bats and gloves), basketballs, footballs, soccer balls

Dolls and Doll Accessories, Legos, Puzzles (24 to 1000 pieces)

Games: Checkers, Hangman, Bingo, Battleship, Game of Life, Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, Sorry, Clue, Scrabble, Operation, Connect Four

Trucks (all kinds): Large trucks, Matchbox trucks, Small trucks (singles or packages)

Gifts for Teens (*Often Forgotten*): Curling Irons, Hair Dryers, Jewelry, Makeup, Manicure sets, Radios (small battery powered), Tools, Umbrellas, Wallets and Watches

Please bring an unwrapped toy to our Grace In The Wilderness Christmas Brunch on December 10 to donate to our drive!! For more information, please contact marie@benefitresources.biz or (864) 979-5281.