

The SMTA Space Coast Chapter finds it a privilege to support the following charity during our 2011 Expo and Technical Forum:



KIDS WITHOUT CHRISTMAS

"1997" In The Beginning...

A group of local friends learned of a Christmas giving tree that still had quite a few children's names left, only days before Christmas. When informed that the remaining children would receive gift certificates, this group of friends went into action.

Grabbing 8 names and promising to take care of them, they had to work quickly. The parents had filled out the cards with the children's needs for Christmas - (Example- pants size 36, shirt-med.) and the children filled out the wish part on the card. When we went through the cards we found a boy who wished for a hand held Nintendo game and a little girl wished for a new bike. The one wish that stole our hearts though, was a boy who wished for a new, (and he underlined new), pair of shoes. He could put anything in his wish area and all he wanted was a new pair of shoes.

Sitting around at the deli, this group of friends passed an empty mayo jug and collected \$800.00. All 8 children had both their needs and wants under their Christmas tree that year. The "House of Shoes" provided the shoes for that young man and for many of the other children.

Since then, our benefit has continued to grow; with the help of many local businesses and volunteers, we have raised almost a half a million dollars over the years. With that money, we personally shopped for thousands of Kids, buying not only toys from their Wish Lists, but clothing and other needed items as well. We then host an annual Wrapping Party where we wrap each of these gifts and prepare them for the families to pick up. A bag of food is also included to ensure a family Christmas dinner is enjoyable for them too.

The SMTA Space Coast chapter will present a check to Mike Kelly and "Kids without Christmas" for all donations made during this 2011 Expo and Technical Forum.

We are extremely grateful and appreciative for your donations. Please be sure to patronize these establishments, and thank them for their contribution. Their continued success in business ensures our continued success in helping needy children.

-Mike Kelly

