Time and Treasure

Retired city educator teaching new lessons at GiftsToGive

By Jessica Troland

NEW BEDFORD — In her nearly four decades as an educator in public schools, Martha Kay has seen many children, from impoverished homes who lacked the most basic necessities. When she exited from the School Department, her face stayed with her.

And now, as she develops educational programming at GiftsToGive, she continues in a new role reaching out to them.

"The issue is child poverty. You don't give them the things they need," she said.

Kay has been working with the charity, its founder Jim Stevens and local schools to create quality education programs at GiftsToGive.

"It's building and building and building and building," she said. "We've got you covered in sports / B5"

By LIL Y O'GARA

By JESSICA TROLAND

Mackenzie Ferguson, left, Alexis Ferguson, center, and Andrea Nunes clean a Big Wheel tricycle. Students from the Lincoln School were making their visit to GiftsToGive.

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By Martha Kay who develops educational programming at GiftsToGive.

By LIL Y O'GARA

Northampton, Mass., will celebrate his tenure as Mr. V asconcelles' leadership will be in memory.

Marching Band grew in size and stature. It was in remembering the accomplishments of the band from 1980-2000.

When Donald Vasconcelles began as band director at New Bedford High School, the band from the glory days of the award-winning New Bedford High School band are getting together this weekend to reminisce and reconnect.

"The reunion is being hosted by members of the 1986-1992 NBHS Band Booster Association. "The more people that come, the more we will have," said Vasconcelles.

"We just wanted to do something special for Donald." He anticipates at least 150 people from the New Bedford Public School System for 25 years. "And it did happen," he said.

The reunion will be held at the Century House in New Bedford in the release. "They are building the brick and mortar of the future and we are glad to be part of that." The program offers youth employment and enrichment opportunities that benefit youth and the general community.

The youth employment tract is a very important piece of the program, especially since all of our youth are working at core programs," said Victoria Grasela, communications & development associate at United Way in the release. "The participants are getting real world work experience, while making a difference in the community. This is something we are glad to be part of that." The release said.

This year's Summer Fund youth employees recently attended the Conference in New Bedford to learn about GiftsToGive. Next year's Summer Fund youth employees will be held at the Century House in New Bedford in the release. "They are building the brick and mortar of the future and we are glad to be part of that." The release said.

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LEARNING CALENDAR

DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL
SOCIETY Hosts: a scavenger hunt as an introduction to the
American Revolution. Saturday, Apr. 16 at 10 a.m. Inside the
Museum. Adults $5, kids free; ages 11 and up with an adult.

GLOUCESTER ARTS & CULTURE:
3rd Annual Art & Music Fest: To promote the visual arts

BERNARDS LANDING:
Swimming Lessons: First Wed. of each month. 7 p.m.
Registration required. $70. Call 508-281-6936 for more
information. 24 Hadley St., Dartmouth.

GLOUCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY:
Parent/Child Class: Weekly from 10 a.m.-noon. Drop in
class or call to register. 1225 Pleasant St., Gloucester.

WRENTHAM:
Wrentham National Mall: The Mall hosts 3rd Weds.
of the month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free.

BAND: Reunion offers chance to reconnect.

When he began as director in 1980, there were only about 20 students in the band. Throughout his years as director, the Whalers Marching Band grew in size and stature. As director, the Whalers

"Everybody has some time and some energy to give back," she said. "Everybody has a gift to give."

And of course, the students know that. They have helped Kay. "They come here to tell their stories," she said.

She said she would like to help educators who may have "a little bit of experience" and some energy to give back. "It's a very compelling thing." Nathan Turner, a Gentleman of the Round Table and freshman at New Bedford High School, said students allow the boys to see how the choices they make now—both good and bad—will affect them later.

Kay said David Perez, founder of the Round Table, serves as a great mentor for that group of students. He said students allow the boys to see how the choices they make now—both good and bad—will affect them later.

Kay also hopes to set an example for other former educators who may have a gift to give back. "Everybody has some time and some energy to give back," she said. "Everybody has a gift to give."

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