

## CHEC Toy Drive, the Tradition Continues ...



Allison Fagley, shown with her day care students after delivering toys in 2008

Many families have special Christmas traditions that are passed down and enjoyed year after year. Certainly one of the more enjoyable traditions the CHEC family enjoys is the annual CHEC toy drive. Every year, the CHEC lobby is filled with toys to be given to little ones on Hatteras Island. And every year, there seem to be more toys than the last, thanks in large part to another tradition started by a very special person.

Allison Fagley taught the children at her day care, Friendship Bridge, the importance of giving and they began their own Christmas tradition. Each year, the children would have bake sales to raise money that they would then spend on gifts for others. To the delight of CHEC employees, each year Allison and the Friendship Bridge van would pull up to the office. A seemingly endless line of young children would file in, with gifts they purchased for others their own age to add to the collection. Emails would fly out, "the children are here!" and employees would come to the lobby to see the kids and help them bring in the toys that they had collected.

Something has been different the last two years. Though the CHEC lobby still fills with toys, there is no van, no parade of children with gifts. Allison was diagnosed with brain cancer and has been in that battle for years now. She had to give up the day care she ran for 20 years and move away from Hatteras Island to be closer to family.

However Allison's tradition of giving continues. Parents of Friendship Bridge students past and friends of Allison still have the bake sales, still buy the gifts and still bring them to the CHEC lobby. Like many family traditions, the people and places change but the tradition itself remains. What a great tradition to pass on ... Thanks Allison!

To read more about Allison click

[http://www.witn.com/blogs/allblogs/Allisons\\_Toy\\_Story\\_111521219.html](http://www.witn.com/blogs/allblogs/Allisons_Toy_Story_111521219.html)

