



## Welcome to Miss Curly's space

It's November and the time when we all stop to give thanks. Actually, I'm thankful every day for the opportunity to be part of Kingdom Kidz Inc. Miss Donna (Bridge), general manager, has given me so many reasons to be part of this nonprofit organization and just last week we celebrated with the many friends of Kingdom Kidz. I can't count them on my fingers. Of course, I only have 4 fingers on each hand, so that makes 8. And we had many more than that at the banquet. Watching and listening from the foyer was a joy! People were laughing, eating, clapping and speaking words of encouragement. If you weren't there, oh you missed so much!

Let me see. Where should I begin? First, there was Melissa Apanel, Thrivent Financial Consultant (Lewisburg), who sponsored the meal for all our friends. Now having friends like this who can donate to Kingdom Kidz just makes my curls get tighter. Thrivent's theme is "Live Generously" and there were 3 individuals/couples who approached Miss Donna after the banquet and offered their generosity in monetary giving. The definition of generosity came alive for this puppet. It's going to be great to watch what happens with the Thrivent organization coming on board to share with Kingdom Kidz!

All one had to do was peek into Peggy's Palace and observe the decorations and know that the team is thankful for what God has done through all our friends. Michele Hauck (Simply Slates) created and donated the beautiful centerpieces that complemented the fall, harvest theme. Now that is a true friend.

Oh, and how about the generosity of the beautiful blue china dishes that a friend of Kingdom Kidz gave to us. They looked so nice on the table cloths that our friends from the Central PA Chamber of Commerce allowed us to borrow. These two friends had no idea they were working together to make the banquet so special. Glad they are our friends, don't you think?

This is only the beginning! A family was the next friends to be recognized. You see 17 years ago, Kathryn Mae Huff, gave Miss Donna the first puppet to be part of this organization. She challenged Miss Donna to use the puppet in children's ministry at St. Andrew's UMC. Little did this friend know what God had in store when she went to a garage sale and brought the "little" puppet back to the church. Well, Kate's family came to the banquet and observed what God has done from the little seed that their mother/grandmother sowed in 2000. Her daughter (Emma Zeager), son (Cy Huff), grandson (Dakota Zeager), and son-in-law (Art Zeager) saw first "hand" the growth. It was truly a blessing to have them join us at the banquet.

Our new friend, Caz Russell, was the keynote speaker and he certainly did challenge everyone there to spread the word about Kingdom Kidz. He called us missionaries in the Central Susquehanna Region! You know, Miss Donna knew at a young age that she would be a missionary someday, but thought it would be

in a foreign country. Being a new Board member, Caz is learning quickly what Kingdom Kidz is all about and he really motivated and encouraged those who gathered. So does that make me a missionary, too?

Having a friend like Jim Hilner (The Checkered Flag) has been a special blessing! The man can cook! There was one thank you after another and the ham loaf was gone! What a volunteer! And he enjoys it! Now that is a friend to have! His kitchen crew did a wonderful job of serving and cleaning up, too!

How are you imagining our friends about now? You see Kingdom Kidz isn't just about puppets. It's about relationships and friends, too. And the banquet surely did reflect that. The team and my puppet "friends" did a superb job with the three various presentations. And Miss Lisa (Derr), team/program director really had the puppets and the friends at the banquet moving and grooving! There was lots of laughter and excitement! From my spot in the foyer, one could see and hear what a banquet is all about- friends, food and fellowship. It was awesome!

Thank you all my friends for coming. What a great evening it was!

And Miss Lisa has been contacting many groups to come and do programs at the Puppet HOME. This past Friday night I was introduced to my new friends, Milltown Melodies. Those boys can truly sing and move. Psst! When they tried on the puppets, their arms got tired! Hee! Hee! But they are still my friend and they will be back! Peggy's Palace was alive and exciting!

Our Christmas season actually beginning this coming Saturday and I am excited about meeting many new friends in December! What a great Christmas gift I'm getting this year- new friends! Well, my curls are bouncing and I'm laughing! Who would have thought that joining this nonprofit organization would have brought me so many friends? That's a lot for which to be thankful- friends!

Through these past 17 years many friends (young and old) have enjoyed and been blessed by Kingdom Kidz. How thankful I have been to watch how God has used my puppet friends to spread love, joy and encouragement throughout the Central Susquehanna Valley. Friends- big, little, young, and old.- all because of the willingness of some people who to put a puppet or prop on their hand and share God's love!

For information about Kingdom Kidz Inc. and their nonprofit organization, visit [www.hiskingdomkidz.org](http://www.hiskingdomkidz.org).

*Donna Bridge is General Manager and lives in Milton. To comment, simply e-mail [puppets@hiskingdomkidz.org](mailto:puppets@hiskingdomkidz.org)*