

RTEC hosts company picnic in honor of Safe Drivers 2000

Submitted By Dale Shelton, Marketing/Public Relations Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated, Inc. (RTEC) celebrated its company picnic and awards ceremony on October 15, at the headquarters in Mt. Vernon with almost 200 in attendance. There was music, food, awards, prizes and laughter. Sixty-seven drivers were presented awards for safe driving during 2000. Music and Entertainment included RTEC's very own Mat Getsi with the New Frontier Band. Also performing was RTEC's Human Resource Manager, Diana LeQuire. Their music and talent echoed through the streets. The food was fantastic, ranging from grilled items and home-grown vegetables to sweet, home-made dessert delights. Generous door

prize drawings were awarded to lucky adults and teens. Games and toys were given to all the children. There was even face painting done by staff for the young at heart. Drivers who were recognized with Safety Awards for Year 2000 are: Bell County - Iva Brock, Lillian Pauline Givens, Bobby Lawson, Reed Maiden, Wanda McCoy, Karen Mink, Edna Darlene Shepherd, Charles York, Clinton County - Barbara Johnson, Corbin - Joe Bowman, Ricky Carr, Charles Cook, Lloyd E. Poore, Cumberland County - Jeffery Moore, Roger Pürtham, Knox County - Steven Burke, James McClanahan, April Prodenore, Danny Strong, Terry Taylor, Laurel County - Robert Burns, Andrea Johnson, James Nichols, Donald Shumate, Donald Wilson.



Shirley Cummins and Diana LeQuire at RTEC's picnic.



Beverly Lawson and Dale Shelton hand out games and toys to all the children.



RTEC employees, friends and family.

McCreary County - Joe Crabtree, Larry Godby, David Maxwell, John Niece, Donald Vanover, Palaski County - Joan Abbott, Richard Baugh, Lois Brush, Angie Cromer, James Kriege, Theresa Loveless, Donna Lowe, Kevin Reynolds, Linda Shackleford, Rockcastle County - Bonnie Barron, Ray Denney, J. DuPene Harris, Diana James, Regina McGuire, Leroy Mink, Ronnie Mink, Lola Swinney, Marga Umbarger, Charles Wagner, Russell County - Connie Kilpatrick, Theodore Nicholson, Wayne County - Raeborn Moore, Whitley County - Paul Bennett, Terry Broyles, Daniel Cox, Roger Garrett, Sr., Vivian Hill, Henry Hill, Gorman Hubbard, Randy Hurst, Charles King, Peggy Lambdin,

Rodney Moses, Debbie Patrick, Stella Smith, Dessie Sulfridge and Jewell Teague. Laughter and joy filled the air as night fell and the picnic drew to a close. In the afterglow we deemed our company gathering a success! RTEC would like to cordially express our thanks and appreciation to, all of the businesses and organizations that contributed food items or door prizes and thank them for their ongoing support. Area Managers, Drivers and Employees of RTEC who volunteered and worked so hard to help organize the picnic are commended. Here is to a great group of employees, family and friends!



Diana LeQuire with Mat Getsi and the New Frontier Band.



The Family Room

By: Dr. Roy Don Whitehead

Dos and Don'ts of Post-Divorce Parenting
When Norma and Vera first separated, their children were devastated. (All characters are fictitious.) The children wanted Mommy and Daddy back together. As it became clear to the adults that a divorce was inevitable, they began to worry about their children's reaction. "What can we do to help the kids adjust to this divorce?" Vera asked her counselor. There are many things a divorcing couple can do to minimize the negative impact of the divorce on the children involved. Robert Kincaid of Family Therapy in Lexington has

compiled the following list for parents:
1. Do make certain that children maintain quality contact with each parent (providing that there is no abuse or neglect involved). Research shows that children who keep contact with both parents adjust best to divorce.
2. Do sit down with your kids as a couple and let them know that you both love them, will both remain their parents, and that the divorce is not their fault.
3. Do find a way to communicate with your ex which minimizes the chance of negativity. If you can't talk

to each other, how about e-mail?
4. Don't communicate with your ex through your kids.
5. Don't demand or criticize your ex to your kids.
6. Do ask your relatives and friends to abide by the same "no bashing of the ex in front of the kids" rule.
7. Don't argue vehemently in front of the kids, including over the phone.
8. Don't react inappropriately to things you see in your kids which remind you of your ex. "You are just like your father!" is usually not a helpful comment.
9. Do communicate concerns about your kids to your ex. You don't have to like or approve of your ex, but it helps tremendously if you can talk rationally to him or her about your children.

10. Don't be afraid to work with your ex on problems with your kids.
11. Don't expect to parent exactly alike but do try to minimize the differences.
12. Do communicate with your ex about big events (both positive and negative) in the lives of your kids while they are with you.
13. Do stick to schedules as much as possible.
If Norma and Vera can abide by this list of rules, their children will be better able to handle the divorce. Some children are not so fortunate. The most common is engaging in heated arguments in front of the children. Sue's mother made another mistake. After her husband left, she began to treat Sue differently than her sister. Sue noticed that her sister had more privileges while Sue had more chores. Her sister was praised while Sue was the target of Mom's constant criticism. This caused Sue to think poorly of herself and resulted in problems later on.
It was not until she became an adult that Sue learned why her mother had targeted her. "You reminded me so much of your father," Mom said, "that I took out on you some of my anger at him. I'm sorry." While Sue was happy for the apology, it did not take away the effect of all those years of criticism.

Parents need to be careful of their children's feelings during a divorce.
Family Values Should Be Emphasized
I am encouraged by the attention being paid to family values in this election year. Almost everyone running for President or Congress has something positive to say about helping families. There is a widespread recognition that families need help and that not to provide help will mean more and more trouble, dysfunctional families.
While I am encouraged by the attention being paid to family values, I am not so pleased with some of the solutions to family problems, that are being suggested. Some of these will do more harm than good. From my vantage point here are some changes that wouldn't help families.
1. Increase funding for education. Why do the high-tech computer developers located in Silicon Valley, California and not Southeastern Kentucky? In Silicon Valley there is a PhD on every corner and four people with masters degrees on the next corner. Education is a priority in that state. In order to attract the high tech industries (those are the ones that pay the good wages!), we must provide more opportunities for workers to receive the skills and training they need. Now is not the time to be cutting funding for education. How about making college or technical school tuition tax deductible?
2. Provide health care for everyone. It is almost criminal that the richest country in the world has so many citizens who have little or no health insurance. Mom and Dad must have access to health care so that they can keep working and provide for the children. The kids must have health care so that they grow up to be healthy workers who contribute to society.
3. Establish tax credits for working families in order that working becomes financially more rewarding than drawing a government check. (The current Earned Income Tax Credit is one example of such a credit.) Currently some families are financially better off drawing a check than working. We are rewarding people for not working? How about rewarding those who working for a living? And while we're at it how about providing them with affordable health insurance?
4. Provide affordable child care. A mother looked at me and said, "It doesn't pay for me to work because child care takes so much of my check. I'll have more money if I just stay home." Why should she work?
5. Raise the minimum wage. At the current minimum wage a person who works, forty hours a week will make less than \$200 before taxes are taken out. This is approximately \$800 per month or \$9600 per year. Those are poverty level wages! The richest country in the world should not live luxuriously by riding on the backs of minimum wage workers. (And, no, the argument that raising the minimum wage will cost many people their jobs does not hold water. No large job loss has occurred in the past when the minimum wage was increased.)
Think about it.

The Face of the Future



Ask a farmer why they grow burley tobacco and the answer will probably be, because that's what their families have relied on to feed them for generations. There's a pride in their land and burley tobacco is a product that enjoys world-wide demand. Most burley is grown on small, family-owned farms that could be devastated without tobacco.

For decades, the Burley Price Support Program and auction system has helped tobacco growers support their family farms and their communities. The Program keeps tobacco prices stable and ensures our farming families are able to continue growing burley, a crop world renowned for its superior quality.

The Burley Price Support Program. A program that works for everyone.



www.burleytobacco.com

Our Farmers...Our Future.

Thank YOU!

Please accept our sincerest gratitude.
The overwhelming support of all our dear friends has truly been amazing and humbling. We will never be able to thank you enough.



Circuit Court, Division III
Family Court Judge

