

Service Commission

Caps of Love--The Real Wheel Deal

By Laura Dodson

A gasp and cheer erupted from the community gathered October 25 for the Florida CCW convention in Ft. Lauderdale when Valerie Jones-Mathieu, founder of Caps of Love, U.S.A. – a 501c3 non-profit corporation announced, “The first two wheelchairs were donated this morning to two students at the Renaissance Learning Center in West Palm Beach!”

The passion of one woman and response of people across the country to convert trash to treasure is being realized. And this is only the beginning - Mathieu indicated that there are eight more wheelchairs available to be fitted to the individual needs of eight more children.

Adopted by NCCW as its service project, Nancy Poll, Service Commission Chair explained, “Just one small plastic cap on your bottle may be trash to some, but with the solidarity of all levels of Council, it can help change the life of a disabled child!”

The plastic used in the caps of bottles and containers is a higher grade plastic than the containers themselves and are recyclable as playground equipment, park benches, composite decking and much more. All cardboard, paper and metal must be removed, as they are impurities. A recycle plant in Russellville, Kentucky accepts the caps in five ton batches, shreds and sells them as post-consumer plastic to companies making the end products. The proceeds from the sale of the caps are then used to purchase wheelchairs for children. Thus far, 40 tons of caps have been sold for recycling.

“There is a rumor that Caps of Love is a fraud,” Poll said. “It is not a fraud! There are several Caps programs which do make fraudulent claims, please don’t confuse Caps of Love with them.”

“I’ve had hard times in my life and people have helped me,” Mathieu said. “I’m humbling myself to ask for your garbage and I’m proud to do it!”

For more information, visit the website: www.capslove.com

In the photo, Valerie Mathieu (right) with DCCW member Teresa Cecil (left).

