



BRIGHTEST HORIZONS TIMES

DECEMBER 2008

Child Development Center, Inc.

SERVING THE FAMILIES OF HARLEM HEIGHTS AND BEYOND

(239) 481-2100

10320 Gladiolus Drive

Ft. Myers, FL 33908



Jim Luther becomes Chairman of Board of Directors

On September 11, 2008 Jim Luther was officially selected as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of Brightest Horizons Child Development Center.

Jim replaces Nathalie Pyle who has served as Chairman for the last two years.

Originally from Ohio, Jim has an M.B.A. from the Wharton School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and had worked for Sears for 31 years before retiring to Naples, Florida and has been a Fort Myers resident for the last three years. He is married to Sharon and has three daughters and eight grandchildren. In addition to serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Brightest Horizons for the last two years, he also serves as the Chairman of the Building Committee that will oversee the planning and construction of the new facility for Brightest Horizons.

His other volunteer activities include being a member of the Conference Board of Trustees, United Methodist Church and an active member of Cypress Lake United Methodist Church.

Jim wanted to thank Nathalie for all of her time and hard work as the past Chairman of the Board. "Brightest Horizons has had some very significant changes in the last two years and has some very exciting plans for the future. I am very grateful for all of the cooperation I have received from the Board, volunteers, and staff and look forward to working with everyone to carry on the service Brightest Horizons provides to the children and families enrolled at Brightest Horizons."

PLANNING CONTINUES FOR NEW HOME OF BRIGHTEST HORIZONS

Carol Daniels, Richard Jacker, (co-chairs of the Capital Campaign) and Jim Luther Chairman of the Building committee report progress in each area in the process to build a new childcare facility for Brightest Horizons. The Capital Campaign has surpassed the one million dollar level this summer. Carol Daniels reported the excitement and the support of the friends of Brightest Horizons has been building all summer. The plans are now in place to have a major event in January 2009 to officially kickoff the public campaign. Our goal is to visit the majority of our supporters between January and April 2009 and ask them to make commitments to the Capital Campaign. It is anticipated that by June 2009 Brightest Horizons will have reached and surpassed the five million dollar goal. While Carol and Dick are hard at work with the Capital Campaign, Jim Luther and the Building Committee are working with the architect, engineer and attorneys to prepare the necessary information to submit to Lee County for variances, zoning changes and approvals needed before construction can begin. This process has been under way for a few months and the target is to have the initial plan submitted to Lee County by January 2009. From the time this first draft has been submitted to the County it should take between six and eight months until all necessary approvals are received.

Special Christmas Presents

For the last several years, Mrs. Santa has prepared a catalog of significant presents suitable to our different age groups, from which each child, with teacher consultation makes a choice. Examples of these are bikes, bouncers, DVD players, and of course, dolls of all hues and cars of all sizes and powers. Santa delivers these to each child in classrooms the week before Christmas. This adds up to 163 presents. The average cost is in the neighborhood of \$40 per gift. Several generous churches already help to fund this wonderful day. Will you and your church or organization also join us as "angels"? We need 3 or 4 organizations to contribute between \$500 and \$750 each. The shopping is done through Brightest Horizons, relieving individuals of the extra effort of providing the actual gift. Our office will provide more information and suggestions if your group is interested in joining this very heart-warming project.

Mrs. Santa does need help with the shopping. If you are a shop-a-holic, this is a place for you. If you enjoy internet shopping, you can complete your mission from home at any hour you choose. You will be given a list of 15 to 20 gifts to purchase. Of the gifts, several will be ones of which you will buy 3 or 4, for some toys are always very popular. You will be reimbursed, of course, and will be provided with advice, gift bags and labels. For more information, please contact Carol Daniels at 454-0485 or Dave Young at Brightest Horizons 481-2100.

