

Teach the Children Well



One of the projects of the Kiwanis Club is the Miss Mary's Children's Parade. Started in 1983 by Mary Mullinix as a patriotic event for children age 6 and younger, it was first created when a youngster couldn't participate in the community's 4th of July parade.

For the parade children are dressed in patriotic red, white and blue. Some are transported around the parade route in strollers, while others ride in wagons pulled by parents and grandparents. Some ride tricycles or bikes with training wheels while others walk hand in hand with an adult. Patriotic music and walkways line with American flags make the occasion festive. The overall goal is to provide an experience that helps parents teach an appreciation of the freedom we enjoy as Americans.



Father & Son in Parade

So, how do we adults do in teaching the children about Jesus? Do we participate with them hand-in-hand? Do we go to great lengths to provide them opportunities to experience faith-based programs? Or, do we just sit on the sidelines and leave it to someone else to teach them important life lessons about Jesus? As a parent, it is our role.



Dr. Kelly and granddaughter

After all, our children are such a precious gift from God, they are worthy of our best effort.

The Kiwanis Club provides the event, but parents help their children navigate the parade route. Founder Mary Mullinix was present to encourage the children to be patriotic and the 4th of July Queen led the procession. After all, it "takes a village to raise a child," but the parent still plays the key role.

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The church hosts worship and educational opportunities for all ages, but it is up to the parents and grandparents to

set the example, and then bring their children to worship and children's programs to help them grow in their faith. *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth (3 John 1:4).*



Arnold family saying the Pledge of Allegiance together

Not everyone was present at the parade, nor is everyone in attendance at faith based activities. So, we all have room to grow. Let your child experience the freedoms of living in this country, and let them experience the freedoms of being a child of God. *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it (Proverbs 22:6).*



Question: How can you make the best effort to lead by example and provide opportunities for your children to grow in their faith?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We only get one chance to make an first impression to make faith a natural part of our children's daily lives. Let us instill the passion of being a child of God in our children. Amen.