



KIDZFEST 2005

Family and fun with a purpose

Planning for Kidzfest 2005 is underway! This year's event will take place at Windy Hill Park, in McDonough, and will feature youth groups from all over south Atlanta. Kidzfest promises to be a tremendous tool for connecting youth and families with youth supporting agencies in their area.

We are currently registering youth performance groups and organizations for the event. Registration forms and additional information are available online at www.kare4kidz.org.

All youth supporting agencies are encouraged to register and reserve booth space for this event. With the number of expected families in attendance projected to reach thousands, Kidzfest will be an excellent venue for reaching out to youth and families. This event is free to the public and will no doubt have a lasting effect on our community.

Kidzfest will take place on Saturday, July 9th 2005, with performances and family activities from 9am until 5pm. For more information contact KARE 4 Kidz, Inc online at info@kare4kidz.org or call 404-556-9046.

ISLAND VOICES

For lack of funding, a tragedy

By Sid Rosen



Sid Rosen is CEO of Adult Friends for Youth.

When political decisions are made, they are frequently the worst of choices, the most costly and end up having nothing to do with solving the problem. In fact, they may actually contribute to it.

My thoughts take me back to 1994. A soldier, Billy Sturm, was viciously beaten by four youths at a convenience store on the North Shore. Billy's injuries resulted in a lengthy hospital stay and a medical discharge from the Army.

Two of the youths were adjudicated as juveniles, but the older two were tried for attempted murder as adults. This was a cold, brutal attack, and yet, when the jurors handed down their guilty verdicts, several wept.

It was apparent to many of them that Billy Sturm was not the only victim in the courtroom. The jury performed its difficult duty, condemning two boys to prison for as many years as they had lived.

Could the beating have been avoided? Maybe so. A year before the attack, one of Billy's attackers approached an Adult Friends for Youth staff member and asked for help for himself and his friends. Very reluctantly, AFY had to reject his request. The agency had just suffered a state budget cut of more than \$114,000, which resulted in the loss of a skilled professional gang worker. This group could have been helped for only \$15,000.

Instead, the state will, eventually, end up spending hundreds of thousands to incarcerate two of the youths in adult prison and two in the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility.

Prison is just too simple a solution. Law enforcement and prosecutors scream for it, because as a solution it is something the politicians and most people know. Unfortunately, by the time action finally takes place, there are few alternatives.

Drug users, criminals and others engaged in destructive behaviors are human beings. Many are low-income minorities who have experienced historic poverty, are poorly educated, perceive themselves as second-class citizens, have few if any positive role models, and see themselves as lost causes with very little hope.

After 67 years, I still don't understand why the words of love, peace, nurturing, caring and charity that so easily fall from our lips on the Sabbath are reduced the rest of the week to hate, lust, avarice and ven-gence.

Tsunami Relief

The youngest victims

The entire world was saddened by the sudden tragedy that took the lives of almost a fourth of a million people in Africa and southern Asia. What you may not know is that the tsunami tragedy left more than 50,000 children orphaned and without shelter, food, and clothing.

KARE 4 Kidz has launched a mass drive to raise funding to help provide much needed supplies for the youngest victims of this tragedy. We have teamed up with one of the nation's foremost non-profit funding agencies, [Network for Good](#). Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to aid in the relief of the children. We are asking that you take a minute and give from your heart.

We would like to thank all of you that have made donations already and encourage you to spread the word. If you haven't given and would like to make a donation to help aid the youth victims of this catastrophe, please do so by going to www.kare4kidz.org.

Scholarships Drive

We are preparing to kick-off our KARE 4 Kidz scholarship drive to raise funds to aid selected high school seniors who plan to pursue degrees in Communication and Arts fields. Our goal for 2005 – 2006 is to provide at least three graduating seniors with \$1000 scholarships. Please go to www.kare4kidz.org and donate to the scholarship fund.

Plans for 2005

The 2005 – 2006 operating year promises to be one of great accomplishments. We hope to make a tremendous impact on the communities in which we serve by providing programs and activities that truly affect change, by building unity, and by acknowledging youth and professionals for their efforts in the community.

The following projects are on our planning schedule:

Kidzfest 2005

AllSTARS prevention program: 40 graduates

KARE Awards

KARE Radio launch

Christmas family adoptions

Please join us in the pursuit of these goals. If you would like to become a volunteer, project assistant, or mentor for any of our activities, or if you would like to help with planning, please contact us.



TSUNAMI RELIEF

Over 50,000 children
became instant orphans
as a result of this tragedy.

Please help us make
sure that tomorrow
is a much brighter day.

You can help KARE 4 Kidz, Inc.
provide disaster relief to thousands
of children in the South Asian and
African regions.



Sign onto www.kare4kidz.org and donate NOW!

WISHlist

Because of recent budget cuts in local and federal government programs, many non-profit organizations are struggling to maintain their current level of services and continue expanding. As a result, many have been forced to either reduce the number of participants in their programs or simply close. The children that these organizations serve lose the most in this situation.

We need your help to maintain KARE 4 Kidz. You can help by providing any of the following items:

Computers with internet capabilities

Printers

Fax machine

Art supplies

Theater supplies

Video equipment

Office supplies