

Christmas in July

Motorcycle clubs visit ACC,
give from the heart

Christmas came early for the students at the Anne Carlsen Center (ACC) when members of the Individuals and Ladies Individuals Motorcycle Clubs of Jamestown made their annual ride to the Center. Nearly 200 bikers joined Santa on July 19 to deliver presents and joy to the ACC Campus.

The event, which takes months of planning, is in its 11th year. The leather-clad, soft-hearted bikers received cheers, applause and smiles from the students when they made their thunderous entrance into the Center parking lot.

“We love the children,” says Penny Lee, president of the Ladies Individuals Motorcycle Club. “It’s so nice seeing all of them smiling and waving when we drive in. We always enjoy giving them their gifts.”

Members of the Individuals and Ladies Individuals Motorcycle Clubs have found a variety of other ways to support the Center. They constructed the garden gazebo last year and this year assembled the arbors for the nature trail. Club members also help with holiday parties at the Center, often providing the pizza.

“They are amazing,” says ACC employee Denise Jensen. “They don’t do it for the glory. They do it from their hearts.”

Left Inset: Dave Gumke, a motorcyclist from Fargo, and ACC student Arianna K. spend some time getting to know each other.

Right Inset: Jacob Williams greets Santa with a big smile. The seven-year-old ACC student was five months old when he experienced his first Christmas in July. Santa and his helpers say they always look for Jacob and enjoy seeing how much he’s grown.

Nicole Gray helps Santa and the other bikers distribute 57 stockings filled with candy canes, bubbles, cameras, and other gifts for the ACC students.

