

St. Bernadette's Knights of Columbus Help Mentally Challenged

You see them standing outside Wal-Mart in Fuquay-Varina giving out free Tootsie Roles to all, wearing bright yellow smocks stating, "HELP MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CITIZENS". There is no catch, the Tootsie Roles are free, all they ask is if you can, to make donation to help the mentally handicapped citizens of our community. All the funds raised are used for this purpose; they don't even take out the expense of the cost of all those free Tootsie Roles.

What are the free Tootsie Roles all about, why do they do it?

where does the money go, and

St. Bernadette's Knight of Columbus is an all male organization dedicated to living the words of **Jesus Christ**. They are part of a tax exempt, non-profit foundation, **Lamb Foundation of North Carolina**. The foundation was named after a biblical quotation, "Whatsoever you do to the least among My Brethren, that you also do to me," **Jesus Christ**, and is dedicated to assisting citizens of North Carolina with mental retardation. **Bill Seiberling** of Fuquay-Varina was the first Director of the local council of the foundation and spearheaded **Operation Lamb**. Last year, **St. Bernadette's**



Photo left to right: **Emily Humphreys, Tony & Carol Zsoldos and Ryan Weaver** pose outside Wal-Mart after a morning handing out free Tootsie Roles on behalf of **St. Bernadette, Knights of Columbus' Operation Lamb**. This yearly fund raiser provides some \$6,000 in dedicated donations for the Mentally Handicapped Citizens of our community.

Knights of Columbus, as part of Operation Lamb, collected \$6,200.00 from donations for free Tootsie Roles and over the past 5 years has distributed over \$40,000.00 to different schools within our own community. Last year's school recipients were: **Fuquay-Varina Senior High School, Fuquay-Varina Middle School, Middle Creek Elementary School, Ballentine Elementary School, Fuquay-Varina Elementary School, Lincoln Height Elementary School, and Special Olympics Wake County**. Any funds raised are used to assist the mentally handicapped in our communities.

Tony Zsoldos headed this year's free Tootsie Roles (Operation Lamb) fund raising activities. When asked why, "**Carol** (Mrs. Zsoldos) and I try to serve and live our lives as **Jesus** taught us. This may seem simplistic, but we became more aware of our faith throughout the years and we developed a closer relationship with our **Lord**, through the **Holy Spirit**. We believe that it is not enough to be good, but that we must also do good. Through our prayers and other related activities we are reaching out and practicing the teachings of **Jesus**. We both believe that it is best to lead and teach our **Lord's** words by action."

Mr. Zsoldos wanted to thank and acknowledge **Wal-Mart** for permitting the **Knights of Columbus** to distribute free Tootsie Roles, **Nick Bambach, Dennis Blair, Robert Langendoerfer, Emily Humphreys, Ryan Weaver, Sara & Nicole Virgilio, Frank, Lisa, Jacob, Nocholas, Kayleigh and Luke Repar, John & Jean Lofquest, Randy, Jeanine, Faith, and Ginny Tremble** for all their time and voluntary efforts on behalf of those less fortunate in our community.