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Updated: 2:57 PM MST  
Tuesday, Mar 23, 2004

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**EXCLUSIVE REPORTS**

From the February 18, 2000 print edition

**Mesa businessman, 9-year-old `exec' share valuable lessons**

Tara Teichgraeber  
The Business Journal

The 9-year-old chairman of a nonprofit agency is going to help a lot more sick kids thanks to a Mesa businessman.

**UH-OH #123**

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And both she and her "angel" -- four times her age -- came away with valuable experiences:

She learned the importance of networking.

He enjoyed the satisfaction of charitable giving.

Taylor Marie Crabtree, whose agency raises money to provide teddy bears to children with cancer and other blood disorders, hopes to expand her operations, thanks to a \$10,000 boost from Greg Crane of Mesa.

Crane, chief operating officer at YP.Net, attended a Young Entrepreneurs' Organization event last summer, where he heard a presentation by Taylor Marie of Vista, Calif.

The fourth-grader, who founded Taybear Co. when she was 7, was there simply to give a talk. She wasn't expecting to raise money.

"When she started talking, I turned my (business) card over and thought I'd give a couple of hundred dollars," Crane said. "Then I thought, oh, maybe \$1,000 and then, what the heck -- \$10,000."

Taylor Marie didn't even see the IOU until she was at a restaurant later that day. She was flipping through all of the business cards she collected when she saw the note on the back of Crane's card.

"I had no clue what to say," Taylor Marie said. "I was just amazed that someone would donate that much money to a kid's organization."

