

## girl's compassion renews faith in society

### To the Editor:

While attending "The March" in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 26, in the midst of 500,000 people and hundreds of vendors, my wife and I came across what looked like a 10-cent lemonade stand tended by a little girl and her mother.

Instead of the old-fashioned refreshing drink, there was something much more inspiring. It didn't quench your thirst; it actually made you thirsty.

Playfully strewn across the table were soft, plush teddy bears, colorfully patterned sun visors and children's hand-painted hair clips.

After talking with the family, we found that this business is actually owned and run by the little girl. Her name is Taylor Marie Crabtree and she is a second-grader at Monte Vista Elementary School in Vista, Calif.

Her initial goal was to earn enough money to buy 500 teddy bears for kids with cancer. She now has 360 kids helping her and has sold over 1,000 of her handmade creations to Wal-Mart stores and through catalog orders. Supplies are donated by such businesses as Home Depot and Office Depot.

Taylor's enterprise has even inspired a special math course at her school using her TayBear Co. as a model.

It all started, she said, when both of her grandparents had cancer and one of them died from it. "I knew how hard it was for them, and I knew it would be harder on kids. I love my teddy bears and I thought that would make the kids feel better," she said. To date, she has donated 1,300 bears.

After finally deciding on a teddy bear sun visor for our 22-month-old daughter, we wished the family well on their endeavor and told them we would do what we could to get her story out.

This small piece of "The March" gave us a renewed sense of hope for our society. It's an example of how family values and morals are so important in the development of children and how crucial it is to instill love and compassion in our future generations.

Taylor Marie Crabtree is what is becoming an extinction in our beautiful country and that is a positive role model.

Thank you, Taylor, for your integrity, courage and compassion. It's these ideals that make our country beautiful.

For information, contact Taylor at: TayBear Co., "Teddy Bears for Kids," 993 S. Santa Fe Ave. #C339, Vista, CA 92083, (760) 940- 9302, E-mail TayBear at Bigfoot.Com.www.Virtualtoystore.Com or contact us at 739-1139.

Lake Wynonah