



Good News

Great Things Sometimes
Come in Small Girl Packages

Taylor Marie, a pint sized 7 year old stood on a chair to see over to podium while telling her story of how she started her company, *TayBear Company*-- selling hair barrettes to make money to buy teddy bears for kids with cancer. 150 Soroptimist and Venture members sat spellbound as this tiny and confident child talked about working with her 160 kid volunteers and her goal of buying 500 teddy bears.

Taylor and her friends sell the hair clips at local stores and on the internet. When she first told her mom that she wanted to do this project she said, "mom gave me a big hug because both my grandmothers had cancer. I saw how hard it was for them and that it must be harder for kids. Some even die! I wanted them to have something special to hug. I also wanted the kids to know that even strangers care for them." Taylor sent me her speech -- a speech she wrote and typed on the computer. Her mother helped her to set up her business and has taught her to use EXCEL® to do all of her accounting. (I can tell you that most of the women who were listening could not dream of learning the EXCEL® computer accounting program!) It is not possible to capture that joy and amazement felt by all of us that heard Taylor that day. Taylor may indeed be an extraordinary young girl. I think that this is probably true. She is also a loved young girl who has been encouraged to pursue her dream of helping others NOT with indulgence but with guidance, real life lessons, empowerment and facilitation. Taylor told us that she has surpassed her goal of giving 500 Teddy Bears away. As of the end of March 1998 she gave 708 and at our Venture Conference she extolled that she earned enough money to buy 77 more bears! Taylor finished her speech with 7 tips that are good and solid -- no matter what your enterprise or age:

YOUR SI BOARD AT WORK

Cumberland Lodge, UK August 1998



1. Believe in yourself;
2. Keep good records;
3. Try Different Things and it's "OK" to make changes;
4. Be very careful with your expenses;
5. Never...Never Give Up;
6. Ask for help, Don't try to do everything yourself; and
7. Stop and pay attention to the good in people--don't just notice the bad.

Do you know a Taylor Marie in your life? Do you know somebody who is a Taylor Marie, or a Justine Clarise, or a Rosaria Anjelica who is just waiting to be nurtured and noticed and helped to find her "teddy bear project". What better way to celebrate human rights than to help young humans find their dreams.

(For more information about Taylor Marie- email TayBear@bigfoot.com or write 993 South Santa Fe Ave #C339; Vista, CA 92093; USA.)

WANTED!

Your great stories about projects or work your club did to address the issue of Violence Against Women in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Let us know what you did!

What worked? What results did you get? Tell us about some of the people whose lives you touched -- or who touched yours! We need to hear by October 30 because a publication of our commemorative Human Rights Document highlighting your service will be released in December! Send your PFR's to SI TODAY!