



REAL IMPACT FOR KIDS

Eastern NC Forestry Community Raises \$2.6 Million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®

By Mike Powell,
Director of Forestry Programs

Log a Load for Kids started in 1988, when the South Carolina Forestry Association offered to partner with the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® (CMNH) telethon to raise money for the hospital. Flash forward 35 years: 39 states have Log a Load programs supporting CMNH. The Log a Load organization raises approximately \$2 million annually and has donated more than \$44 million since 1988.

The concept behind the Log a Load charity began with loggers and forestry-related businesses donating the equivalent of the value of a load of logs to a nearby CMNH hospital.

The NCFA and its members have been proud to be associated with this impactful program, especially right here in North Carolina. I sat down with several members of the organizing committee — Earl Dail, Mike Marks, and Buddy Shavender — who have all been involved in the Eastern NC Chapter of Log a Load for Kids since 1996. The committee is passionate about this cause, which was clear when the members discussed the work that they undertake each year to make this event a success.

Locally, Log a Load for Kids has a signature annual event, Sporting Clays for Kids, which is held at Hunter's Point in Washington, NC. This clay shoot attracts folks from every corner of the state. The chapter started out raising close to \$7,000 in the inaugural Sporting Clays Miracle Shoot, and through hard work and dedication, raised more than \$120,000 in 2023. Since



inception, Log a Load for Kids has raised more than \$2.6 million in the more than 25 years of the event's history.

Doing the Right Thing for a Local Hospital

This event benefits James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital in Greenville, NC, which services 29 counties throughout the eastern part of the state and is the only children's hospital in the east. The location of this hospital is critical, as it serves as the primary children's hospital for the entire state east of the I-95 corridor. All proceeds from the event go towards making sure the mission of the CMNH stays true: "keep those funds in the community in which they were raised to help local children."

When asked why the committee of volunteers cares so much about this cause, the answer was simple: "All you have to do is walk through those doors at the hospital and see the impact to know you are doing the right thing." It was a logical connection for the committee to get involved with raising money for Log a Load for Kids as a way of giving back with their forestry community. These folks are humble with a sense of purpose and make it clear they want credit to go to the industry and its long-time sponsors.

Log a Load for Kids is a worthy cause in eastern North Carolina. So much work has gone into making the clay shoot into the event it is today. Dail, Marks, and Shavender expressed the need for young folks to get involved. Similar to most forestry professionals, they understand that in order to preserve this amazing legacy and cause, the younger generation must step up and take the reins. These men are passionate about this cause and want to see the event's success continue for many years to come. ■



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