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2002 was a very successful year for Keepsake Theme Quilts! We saw a 50% increase in quilt sales from 2001 and a 98% increase from our first year in 1999. Over 475 quilts have been made for graduations, birthdays, retirements and special projects. An autographed 2002 Ohio State University Championship Football quilt was auctioned for the Easter Seals Foundation, raising \$3,000! The Columbus Blue Jackets have raised over \$10,000 for their Foundation by auctioning quilts. Over the last year, Deaf Initiatives has also made quilts for several VIP's at The Ohio State University, including **Dr. Karen Holbrook** - President, **Jim Tressel** - Football coach, and **John Markel** - Ice Hockey coach. If you would like to order a one-of-a-kind keepsake quilt, contact Deaf Initiatives at (614) 238-3323 v/ tty or email [TheDEAFund@aol.com](mailto:TheDEAFund@aol.com).



*The employees of Deaf Initiatives donated their time and talent to create a quilt for the Ohio School for the Deaf. This quilt was a gift to the school and it will hang in their gymnasium.*



## Employee Spotlight

*Melissa Eichler* has been employed at Deaf Initiatives for one year. Missy is responsible for cutting the t-shirts and making the pillows. She also works with the inventory for Keepsake Theme Quilts. Missy is a busy mother of two young children. When she is not at Deaf Initiatives, Missy works part time at Comprehensive Program for the Deaf as a Support Service Provider for the deaf-blind.



*The cornerstone of Deaf Initiatives is the cottage industry, Keepsake Theme Quilts (KTQ). The ultimate goal is to make KTQ self sufficient, not only for itself, but also for the other initiatives as well. Quilt sales, along with fundraising efforts, have allowed Deaf Initiatives to work with over 120 students who are deaf or hard of hearing and with 250 parents of deaf children. KTQ recently received a very generous contribution from McDonald Investments, through the Key Foundation. These funds will be used for operating costs and to purchase new equipment for KTQ.*

*Strengthening the potential of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing*

# On the Road to Your Future

20 high school students departed Columbus on April 9 for a four day trip, traveling over 1,000 miles. On the Road to



Future is a bus trip offered to college bound students and their parents/guardians from around Ohio to visit two of the most popular post secondary institutions in the country for the deaf and hard of hearing populations: the **National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)** in Rochester, NY and **Gallaudet University** in Washington, DC. The students and parents learned about financial aid, scholarship and educational opportunities, school policies, the steps to achieving admission into college, student activities, campus and residence halls, and student life on campus. Professionals were on hand to answer questions, provide guidance and explain the actual steps in preparing for college. "On the Road to Your Future" is an extension of the biennial transition workshop, "Making a Difference with Your Future" (scheduled for Fall 2004).



Students from all over Ohio participated in this once in a lifetime opportunity. The trip is offered at a nominal fee so families with interest and minimal funds are able to attend. Donations from corporations and individuals make this trip a reality for these families. Twenty \$500 scholarships were donated, along with several in-kind donations from **Bob Evans, Golden Corral, Sam's Club and Tim Hortons**, among many others. Their generosity makes this initiative possible. The next bus trip is scheduled for Spring 2005.



*Deaf Initiatives was recently awarded a contract to present the services provided by Sprint and the Ohio Relay Service. Throughout 2003, Deaf Initiatives employees will visit school districts and meet with the faculty and students who are deaf or hard of hearing. If you are a teacher or special education director and you would like Deaf Initiatives to visit your school, please call Julia at (614) 238-3323 v/tty.*



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