

# SOPE SUDS Summer, 2003



We are not simply building an organization. We are creating an electronic grassroots community of everyday people who together will have a great influence on children of all ages and on the health of this nation!

## **Peyback Foundation helps Indiana Boys & Girls Clubs**

Peyton Manning has expanded the presence of SOPE educational materials to Boys & Girls Clubs in the state of Indiana. Due to the resounding success of an earlier grant distributing posters in TN and Indiana clubs, the Peyback Foundation followed the poster campaign with a second grant. By providing the bilingual book, *Germs on their fingers!/¡Gérmenes en tus manos!* and the activity guide, which uses multi-disciplinary activities to teach such character traits as self-protection, task completion and consideration for others, Peyton is helping SOPE raise good citizens!

## **West Virginia Loves SOPE!**

Thanks to a generous grant from Comvest, Ltd. of Bridgeport, WV, SOPE project educational materials were distributed to every school in Harrison County and 28 additional school systems across the state! SOPE fan Bob Stemple, Comvest Vice President and Wendy Wakefield Ferrin, Founding Director of The SOPE Project, presented The SOPE Project to the Harrison County School Board. This resulted in several requests for Wendy to do author visits in area schools! Yay Bob!

## **Kimberly-Clark & SOPE are teaming up for kids!**

Kimberly-Clark Professional recently announced a partnership with The SOPE Project in an effort to promote clean hands in schools. Wendy discovered that KC's All-N-1 dispensers work wonderfully in school cafeterias along with SOPE posters and "Did you?" reminder stickers! Cafeteria staffers love the training cards in their kitchens! KC has launched a promotion offering a **FREE** SOPE starter kit valued at \$50 to districts purchasing a case of All-N-1 dispensers.

## **Another kind of dispenser....**

When public school educator Linda Lee Smith contacted Kimberly-Clark to make an All-N-1 purchase to receive her free SOPE starter kit, she discovered that the distributor was the same company that served her father and grandfather's grocery store decades ago! She is proud to be a new "SOPE Dispenser"!

## **News from the islands**

Hawaii's state transportation system uses airspace rather than roads, and SOPE posters continue to be posted in airport bathrooms on all islands! Consequently, many international travelers are emailing for posters for their own countries. Thanks to Mary Kitsu, a state transportation dept. employee, for her attention!

**SOPE (Society of Playful Education) is the Elizabethan spelling for the word we now spell "soap"! Teaching children that there are other ways to do things and that one person's way isn't the only way is a good thing!**

**NOTE NEW NUMBERS! (304) 624-3901 voice & 624-7673 fax**

## **School Food Safety Task Force found SOPE!**

Dr. Pam Hamilton of Fairmont State University's Child Nutrition Center invited The SOPE Project to present its handwashing program at a recent statewide task force on school food safety issues. Pam's staff discovered SOPE on the Internet when looking for EFFECTIVE handwashing materials for their parent packets. The SOPE Project greatly appreciates such an endorsement of our educational materials!

## **SOPE travels to book festivals!**

The SOPE Project and Wendy Wakefield Ferrin were featured at a variety of book festivals across the country. Favorites were The Border Book Festival in Las Cruces, NM, Sante Fe Festival of the Book, Nashville's Southern Festival of the Book, The Southern Kentucky Book Festival and a Young Author's Conference at Cumberland Univ. in TN. Participation at book festivals spreads "SOPE", not germs!

## **SOPE loses Dr. Ferrin :(**

The SOPE Project lost the attention of Dr. Richard W. Ferrin who became the 11th President of Salem International University (congrats!) in the summer of 2002. In addition to losing Dr. Ferrin's talents, The SOPE Project suffered the loss of Wendy's energy and creativity during a move to WV, during a catastrophic toxic mold exposure in the SIU President's house and subsequent relocation to a "safe" house off campus following six months of living in a dorm room with their pet, no kitchen and no personal belongings or office! The past 10 months were spent without cell phone service, high speed internet or sufficient fax lines. Can you believe that SOPE is still going strong amidst such disasters? The Knoxville address will continue to be the official headquarters of The SOPE Project.

## **SARS happens!**

After three years of constant jokes and shaking of heads that Wendy would risk so much for "just a silly handwashing campaign", SARS prevention captured the attention of the world. SOPE can proudly say that **WE ARE SAVING THE WORLD, ONE HANDWASH AT A TIME! WHEW!** Who would have known? ;) We thank those who "got it" early on and supported SOPE before we were hot!

Edited by Wendy Wakefield Ferrin

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Are we bothering you? If you don't want to get this newsletter, please let us know. Please tell friends about The SOPE Project: <http://www.sope.net> and Thank you for reading this newsletter to the end! (304) 624-3901 624-SOPE (7673) fax