

The Herald-Leader

Fitzgerald (Ben Hill County), Georgia

- Serving The Area Since 1895 -

February 22, 2007

Ocilla couple gives gift of smiles to children's hospital

ATLANTA — Smiles became the order of the day July 17 when Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston became the first Georgia hospital to receive a Jester & Pharley™ Smile Cart, donated by Oscar and Janis Luke Roberts of Ocilla. Janis is also known as "Mayor Clancey the Clown of Smileville."

Hugs and laughs greeted Roberts as she read the engaging story to the children, then presented each child with his own copy, along with a Jester & Pharley Doll, which reinforces the book's uplifting message that laughter is always inside us.

Joining the Robertses for the presentation of the mobile activity center were Mary Beth Bova, vice president of nursing at the Egleston facility, Kristina C. Long Flynn, public relations coordinator, and Steven Wagner, Egleston development officer.

The Smile Cart, the 41st donated through the Jester & Pharley Phund, will be used in the hospital's emergency room to provide wholesome entertainment and diversion for young patients.

"We are extremely grateful for the Robertses' generosity and thoughtfulness," noted Wagner.

Jester & Pharley Smile Carts are part of the nonprofit Southern California-based Jester & Pharley Phund's efforts to provide emotional support and smiles to youngsters coping with illness. In addition to copies of David



OSCAR AND JANIS ROBERTS recently donated this Smile Cart to the children's hospital at Egleston in Atlanta. Materials in the smile cart will brighten kids' days and encourage them to have hope.

Saltzman's award-winning "The Jester Has Lost His Jingle" and Jester and Pharley Dolls, the colorful activity center contains a TV, VCR and CD-tape-radio unit donated by Sony Medical Systems as part of its For the Kids™ program.

"We are so pleased to provide this Smile Cart for the many families helped by the Egleston children's hospital," said Janis Roberts, whose mission as a professional clown is also to bolster the spirits of ill youngsters. "Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston provides vital medical services for families in Georgia, as well as having served children from 120 different countries. We believe that The Jester's positive

give our children, we will make great use of the other educational materials that come with the Smile Cart," adds Lindsay Damron, child life coordinator. "They will be of immense value to us in motivating our children. The hopeful message of the Jester touches everyone's heart."

The Smile Cart is inspired by Saltzman's best-selling children's book. Saltzman died of cancer in 1990 shortly after graduating from Yale.

"We're so pleased that Oscar and Janis Luke Roberts are helping us bring hope and laughter into the lives of so many children who need to find their smiles in the Atlanta area," says Barbara Saltzman, David's mother, who is executive director of the Jester & Pharley Phund.

For more information about the Jester & Pharley Phund and its literacy and outreach programs to benefit ill and special needs children, visit www.thejester.org or call (800) 9-JESTER.

messages reminding children to never give up and always believe in themselves will help these youngsters on a daily basis."

"We know that the Jester and his pal Pharley will be motivating and comforting as they bring laughter to these youngsters," said Oscar Roberts, who joined his wife in distributing the books and dolls.

"We are thrilled to have the resources of this multi-purpose Smile Cart to help us further the health and bring joy into the lives of the children we care for," noted Egleston's Bova.

"In addition to copies of 'The Jester Has Lost His Jingle' and Jester & Pharley Dolls that we will be able to