



# EVERY CHILD COUNTS

<http://www.everychildcountsabaco.org>

November, 2005

## HANDS-ON TRAINING



Bob, teaching Justin (left) and Jeremy (center) a little about engine disassembly

learning a little about 4-stroke engines.

We rounded up an old engine that wasn't running and then worked in the evenings after school to break loose the bolts holding the case together. We wanted the children to be successful at disassembling the engine, so making sure the bolts (which were totally rusted) would turn was an important, but grueling first step.

Once he was sure that the engine would come apart, Bob loaded it into a cardboard box and took it on the Ferry to school the next day. The "lesson" took most of the day, but the boys who participated didn't seem to mind the hard work and dirt.

Over dinner one evening Bob shared with me that the boys he worked with at the school weren't much different than many

technicians in that they struggle with "books" but seem to thrive on learning things in a hands-on way. He said that its not all that unusual for automotive technicians to take up their trade because of challenges like dyslexia that go undiagnosed. They tend to naturally migrate toward things they can learn with their hands.

This hands-on style of teaching is right up Bob's alley.



Jeremy really seemed to take to the engine disassembly task.

The March 2005 trip was great. Bob got to go this time, and he spent a couple of days working with a few of the older boys

## UPCOMING DECEMBER TRIP

As you're reading this, we're in the final stages of planning the next Abaco trip slated for December 5-12.

This year, Occupational Therapist Stacy Koehler from the Children and Adult Disability and Education Services in Swarthmore PA will be joining us. Stacy played a role last year in helping with the huge donation of rehabilitation equipment and supplies that were shipped over

in the fall of 2004. We're excited she's joining the team this trip. With over 27 years of occupational therapy experience, she has focused recently on the use of technology in the education of children with special needs.

We are also blessed with the addition of Sister Mary Adrian from the Sacred Heart Monastery in

Cullman Alabama. She retired from special education, and took up pottery... hmmm, sounds like a good combination to me! She'll be teaching pottery to the children all week.

It promises to be a very busy week.

Thanks to your generous donations we ARE making a difference!

Blessings to all of you, Janet.

# IMAGES OF SUCCESS

EVERY CHILD COUNTS

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Many hands have left their mark on this school and these children



Eric & Treneil — It's time to go home!



Hands-on learning about bunnies from Melanie and Monica



TGIF!!



Saveion enjoying some time outside with the Bunnies



Teacher Ellen watching over the crew as they wait for their rides.

## THE WISH LIST

I remember as a child that as the holidays approached, my parents would tell me to write up a "wish list". I always wished for pie in the sky things like a horse or a racecar.

Some things never change; I still wish for pie-in-the-sky things. Only now it's things like a steady supply of rehabilitation equipment for the school, or a couple dozen used laptops

to help facilitate the use of some of the high-tech learning aids that are available.

It's amazing, but sometimes dreams do come true. There are 62 children at the school this fall, up from 45 when Bob and I were there in March. There's a new building in the works and two new teachers have joined the staff. An angel donator in Pennsylvania is working on the laptops. Miracles do happen!

Please visit the Every Child Counts website at <http://www.everychildcountsabaco.org> and look at their wish list. Perhaps you can be part of a miracle in the making.

Wish us luck in December, I'll update you when we return.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP, PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JANET HAMILTON; NOTE ON THE CHECK THAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR THE EVERY CHILD COUNTS SCHOOL. MAIL CHECKS TO 191 CROSSING DR. STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281. SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS? CONTACT ME [JANET@RUNNINGSTRONG.COM](mailto:JANET@RUNNINGSTRONG.COM) OR 770-957-0986

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a receipt  YES  No thanks

Keep me posted with your progress!  YES  No thanks



Do you want to get "Hands-On"? - Help us out, make a donation!