

Donations make overseas voyage to Nigerian mission

by Amanda Smith-Millar
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Things might not have worked out exactly as planned, but the Wubs family has finally been able to ship a large shipping container filled with donations to a Nigerian charity.

Before Christmas in 2007, the Wubs — who own a transportation company — planned to send one of their surplus school buses to the Children of Promise Ministries. The Wubs invited the local community to fill the bus up with donations. Cribs, diapers, clothes, toys, furniture, wheelchairs, walkers, toys, books, and other items arrived in abundance at the two drop-off centres: the Winchester Wesleyan Church and the Harmony Community Church's drop-in centre in Chesterville.

"The community was so eager to help," said Nanda Wubs.

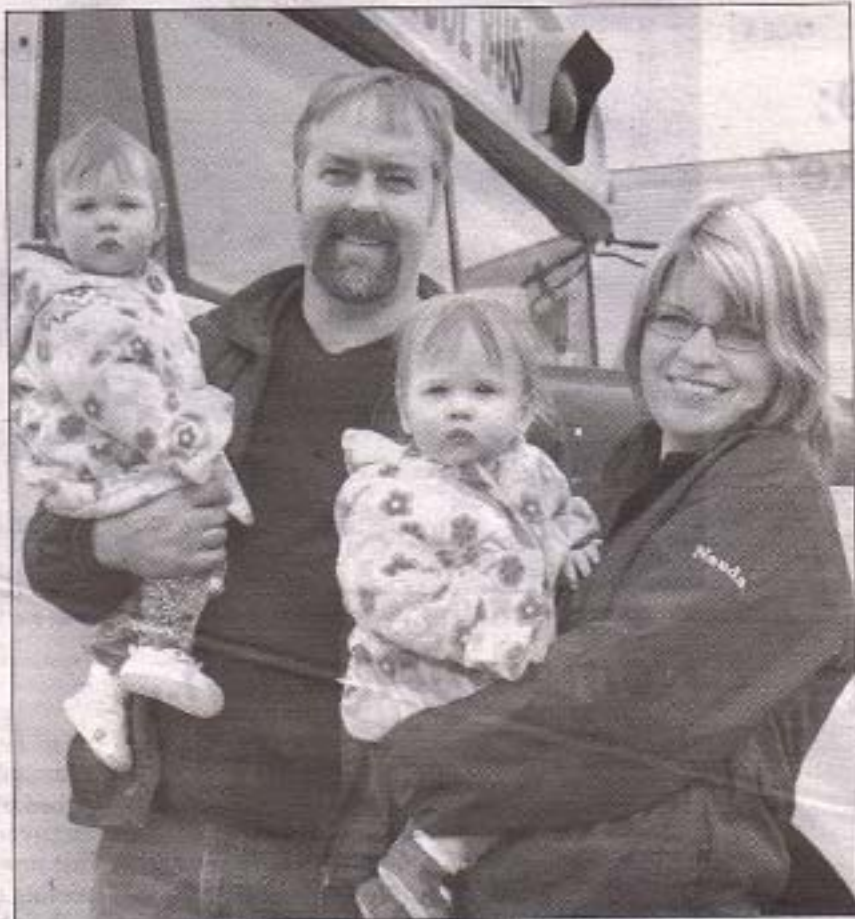
She added that some people parted with things that had sentimental value — one lady contributed her grandmother's sewing machine. Other donors gift-wrapped the items for the children in Nigeria.

But when it came time to send the vehicle to Africa, the Wubs hit a snag. They couldn't find anyone willing to ship a bus overseas. At one point, said Nanda, a shipper offered to send the bus for \$10,000, then backed out.

Eventually, the Wubs decided to sell the school bus and donate the funds to the Children of Promise Ministries. It sold for \$1,000, which Nanda said was a little disappointing.

"It's hard to sell a used bus," she said. "Not a lot of market."

However, the Wubs were determined to make sure the donated items arrived at the Children of Promise Ministries. They were able to put the goods in a large shipping container, which left Brampton, Ont. in late 2008. (Donated medicine had already had left via airplane in early 2008.)



Across the ocean

Richard and Nanda Wubs recently shipped several containers filled with donations to the Children of Promise Ministries in Nigeria. They are pictured here with two of their six children — Angelina (left) and Tessa. *Press Photo — Smith-Millar*

"It was very nice to see the efforts of the community come to fruition," said Wubs.

Richard Wubs said he's glad the goods made it to Nigeria.

"It's been sitting and sitting," he said.

The Wubs have a soft spot in their heart for kids. In fact, they have six of their own — four boys aged 18, 16, 14, and 12 — plus twin baby girls. Their company, Wubs Transportation, operates out of Ottawa. They recently started up a shuttle service to transport local residents into Ottawa and back. One bus starts in Chesterville on weekday morn-

ings; the other leaves from Winchester. A pass with either shuttle service also allows passengers to use the OC Transpo system.

Nanda said the shuttle service is especially useful for community groups, such as Naomi's Family Resource Centre, a shelter in Winchester for women and children. The shuttle service allows Naomi's clients to have access to transportation.

"We try to respond to community need," said Nanda.

To learn more about Wubs Transportation, check out their website at www.wubs.ca.