**Celebrating 35 years of helping kids**

KidCare was approved at an RA in 1980 and incorporated in 1981 as a fund to assist needy students enrolled in Baltimore County Schools. 100% of the money donated to KidCare goes to students and their families for needed items such as clothes, shoes, book bags, and coats. TABCO donates the administrative time to manage the fund, and through the Children’s Rights committee, various fund raisers are carried out during the year to meet the demand. In addition to individual fund drives such as the one at the Recognition/Retirement Dinner and KidCare Walk, KidCare relies on payroll deduction from BCPS employees. For many years, employees could select KidCare as the fund to channel their United Way contributions, but that is no longer available. We are asking everyone to take the time to complete the information needed for a constant payroll deduction donation to be made each pay period to KidCare. Our students need this assistance and they need your help. We are also asking those currently donating through payroll to make the decision to increase their payroll deduction. Since its inception, KidCare has helped an estimated 5,000 students and given out an estimated $225,000 to needy students. Last year alone, KidCare provided $18,565 for a little over 400 students. Currently we have approximately 370 BCPS employees contributing to KidCare through payroll deduction and we thank everyone who has contributed, but we need more. The number of requests for assistance have increased by about 80 over last year and we don’t want to turn down our most needy students. School counselors, social workers and nurses should contact TABCO to request assistance for students.