



# Totes Tribune

“Helping Preteens and Teenagers Cope with Long Term Hospital Care”

[www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com)

OCTOBER 1, 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Check out the hospitals we're involved with now. Go to page 5
- Golf Tournament. A story about a college professor wanting to make a difference. See page 4
- We have recently updated our website. See what we've done to improve it and why it's going to be a favorite- Pages 1 & 3

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Thank You **Darren Jackson, LLC**  
Your hard work is greatly appreciated

## Tanner's Totes Since ESPN '09 Article

*Since his Story was Told by ESPN, Smith's Non-Profit has Exceeded \$20,000 in Donations*

By Will Vandervort

It's organized chaos. That's the best way Tanner Smith can describe what the basement at his parents' Alpharetta, GA home looks like these days. Smith's non-profit organization, Tanner's Totes, has overtaken what was once a large game room for he and his friends, since ESPN.com's Dana O'Neil told the world about his smile-making tote bags in February of 2009.

"I don't know how my mom is able to keep up with it," Tanner said, laughing. "I don't want to say my mom is a neat freak, but she enjoys having things in their place, but that basement is full.

**IPTAY's Orange Experience Staff Editor, Will Vandervort updates everyone on Totes, Inc since Dana O'Neil's classic article.**

It's organized, but there is Tanner's Totes stuff everywhere."

"It used to be everything was in a closet, and everything stayed there. Now everything has moved from the closet and it is in this game room. Everything is on ping pong tables, pinball machines, the Pac-Man machine, it's all in there, and now it's in another room before that room, too. It started in the closet and everything was organized in there, and now it has moved into three rooms."

"She has done a great job keeping up with it, but it's a messy organization that she is able to know where everything is. She makes sure when I'm home that I take stuff to the right place and that I don't move anything around, because that will throw her off completely."

The overwhelming generosity of the people who have caused this overflow hasn't thrown Kathy Smith off, nor will it ever. Since Tanner's story moved across the Internet, the newspapers and television last winter, Tanner's Totes has seen its donations exceed more than \$20,000 in the last 12 months, while the production of the totes themselves has doubled.

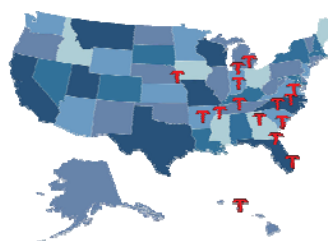


(article continued on page 6)

## Finally! We've Updated Our Website!!

**YES!** We found the time, energy, and the right person, Darren Jackson LLC, to complete an update to our website. The new site is easier on the eyes, has more information, better graphics, a ton of pictures, and email

What Hospitals are Involved  
Link on New Website



capabilities that were not possible when we started. Check out the map of the United States. You'll find out what hospitals are involved with Tanner's Totes. If you do not see the children's hospital near you on the map, then send us the

[www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com)

(continued on page 3)



## A Few Words From the CEO

-Tanner J. Smith President/CEO

Hello Loyal Tanner's Totes Supporters! It has been eight years since the start of Tanner's Totes Inc., and we wouldn't have made it this far without help from you. I never imagined that this non-profit company would get so big so fast. I find it extremely important to inform you on what Tanner's Totes has been doing and where we will be taking this organization in the future.

Over the past eight years we have delivered close to 1600 tote bags, and now each bag consists of new items that total an amount of sixty dollars. We are delivering to a total of 25 hospitals and are delivering totes as far as Hawaii. As a non-profit company, 100% of your donations go towards filling the totes or shipping them to different hospitals around the nation. We want to make sure the hospitals have to pay absolutely nothing for these tote bags for their preteens and teens. With your loyal donations, we have been able to make sure that each tote bag is of no charge to any hospital, any person requesting a tote, or any patient that receives one.

Please know that Tanner's Totes will be continuing for many years to come. Now that we have reached so many patients, and planted seeds in so many states, we see that Tanner's Totes is a successful, and needed, non-profit organization that is bringing smiles to faces all around the country. In order to keep things running smoothly, we need your continued loyalty and support. As a non-profit organization, we rely on our supporters. We understand how difficult times are right now, yet we also want you to know that every little bit counts, helps, and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for everything that you have done for Tanner's Totes. The lives you have changed and the smiles you have brought are truly amazing. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you so much for allowing my dream to continue. I cannot thank you enough for not only what you have done for 1600 patients and their families, but for allowing me to live my wish of bringing joy to preteens and teens undergoing long-term treatments in the hospitals. Thanks again and God bless.

Sincerely,  
Tanner

The Lord is my  
light and salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the  
strength of my life;  
of whom shall I be  
afraid?

-Psalm 27: 1

# The Child Life Specialist: A Very “Special” Person



Tanner’s Totes would like to specifically recognize the Child Life Specialist: a very special human being. At Tanner’s Totes we rely almost completely on the Child Life Specialist (CLS) to complete the patient contact with our tote bag.

*\*Initial Contact with a Hospital:* We always seek out the CLS when we start sending totes to a hospital.

Why? Their basic job description is facilitating the adjustments and helping the patient and family cope with their new life of long term care. This is the same goal Tanner’s Totes started with for teenagers.

*\*Once the tote have been shipped:* The CLS receives the shipment of tote bags and stores them in a convenient location for future patients.

*\*Handing out the tote bag:* We rely heavily on the CLS’s judgment from this point. We ask that they go through the tote before handing it out to a patient. The CLS has come to know each patient intimately, so they are really the right per-

son who would know if the tote bag is appropriate for the patient .

*\*Inventory Control:* The CLS is responsible for keeping us informed on how many totes the hospital has and if more are required, then an order is sent for more.

The profession of child life was created to help children and their families navigate the emotionally and physically demanding process of coping with hospitalization. Child life specialists use their knowledge of child development and developmentally appropriate interventions to educate, prepare and support children through difficult tests, procedures and.....

(go to [www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com) for the entire story on Child Life Specialist)

***“I could not do, what I do, without the help of these extraordinary people. Totes, Inc. owes them so much. They ARE the link to the patients.”***

***-Tanner Smith***

## Darren Jackson, LLC is our Man for the Job!

(Website: continued from pg 1)

name and we’ll get in contact with the Child Life Specialist to start the process rolling.

Did you ever wonder what’s in the tote bag exactly? Well check out the “Totes Item List” link. It’s a lot of fun. You can see what the tote looks like on the outside...and what everything looks like on the inside. Wow! No wonder the kids really get a jolt of fun when they start to pull out everything.

Do you want to know how Tanner’s Totes is involved

with so many hospitals? Then check out the “Child Life Specialist” link. We rely on these special people to complete our mission of helping these teens cope with long term care. We seriously could not do what we do without them.

Our new gmail address is going to not only benefit us but you as well.



Our “News” link will keep you up to date on current events that Tanner and Tanner’s Totes are involved in when they happen.

The new “Media Coverage” will have every video or news article on Tanner’s Totes, Inc. Check out HGTV’s Vern Yip and Deserving Design, CBS Sports “March Madness” video and much more.

There’s so much to see, read and do on the new site. Please check it out and give us your feedback. It’s for you, so let us know!!

([www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com))



Tanner’s Totes is on Facebook too. Check it out !!



# Golf + Tanner's Totes = Smiles

We wanted to make the event for Clemson's students, by Clemson's students, and about Clemson's students. Tanner's Totes was the obvious choice for us." The "We" in this quote are Dr. Adam Rapp and the Professional Selling and Sport Plus Sport Marketing Group. It fair to say that adding life experiences to the classroom curriculum is the definition of a good teacher. Dr. Rapp thinks outside the box for his marketing students. Why not start something that will impact the community and local businesses, help out programs in the Clemson Marketing Department, help raise funds for a charity founded by a Clemson student, create positive networking connections between the students and businesses that participate, promote Clemson University spirit, and create a lasting legacy that will continue to provide help for future Clemson College of Business and Behavioral Science students. (cont. page 8)



## Redfield Garden Club– How we went from a Local Charity to

### A National Philanthropy

We, Tanner's Totes, feel our growth is due to having a worthy purpose, patience, prayer and knowing the right person in a Garden Club in Dunwoody, GA. The Tribune asked that person to share her story. This subdivision allowed us to take huge steps toward our goal of reaching as many hospitals as possible.

"The Redfield Garden Club was introduced to Tanner's Totes four years ago. It came about on a half day when my son met with several of his high school friends to spend their afternoon off putting together totes for children who are fighting cancer in hospitals. It was then that I learned about Tanner Smith, a seemingly ordinary friend of my son.

Tanner Smith was one of Wesleyan School's star basketball players but, more importantly to him, he was the founder and president of Tanner's Totes, a charity that provides totes filled with books, games, and stuffed animals to the two Atlanta Children's Hospitals where children are fighting a war against cancer. Having seen these children in his visits to the hospital as his Dad fought his battle with cancer, he mentioned and then solidified his desire to help these children with cancer. After researching what he could do to help, he decided on gift bags for children cancer patients to help brighten their days during their long stays in the hospital for treatments. Tanner's Totes was conceived."

"I belong to Redfield Garden Club, a social organization within our subdivision, Redfield in Dunwoody, Georgia. For over 15 years our Garden Club has held a Holiday Auction. This event brings the neighbor-

hood together for an evening of neighbors and friends, food and drink, all to raise money for a charity. Every two years we nominate a number of charities and vote on which charity will receive the funds raised from our Auction. In 2006-2007 the Redfield Garden Club voted on Tanner's Totes. As a group of mothers the needs of young cancer patients struck a cord with all of us. It didn't hurt that several people volunteering at the local children's hospital had heard of Tanner and his family's work. Here's what we do."

(cont. on pg 6)

# OUR FAMILY of HOSPITALS

Please go to [www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com) and find out how your donation is used and how it will help us reach our goal of sending Tanner's Totes to as many hospitals as possible.

\* Omaha, NE

\* Ann Arbor, MI

\* South Bend, IN

\* Indianapolis, IN  
(3) Hospitals

\* Richmond, VA

\* Chapel Hill, NC (2) Hospitals

\* Charlotte, NC (2) Hospitals

\* Nashville, TN

\* Greenville, SC

\* Memphis, TN

\* Little Rock, AR

\* Atlanta, GA - Company Home  
(3) Hospitals

\* Charleston, SC

\* Jacksonville, FL

\* Hollywood, FL



**YES! Your donations reach out and help patients all the way to Honolulu, HI!**



**PLEASE- Let us know if a hospital near you is not in our family. Contact us with the name of the hospital and we'll do the rest.**



COMPLETE COVERAGE OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS  
**CUTIGERS**



**go to [www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com)**

**to view these  
media events  
and more !**



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**It's all about the patients !**

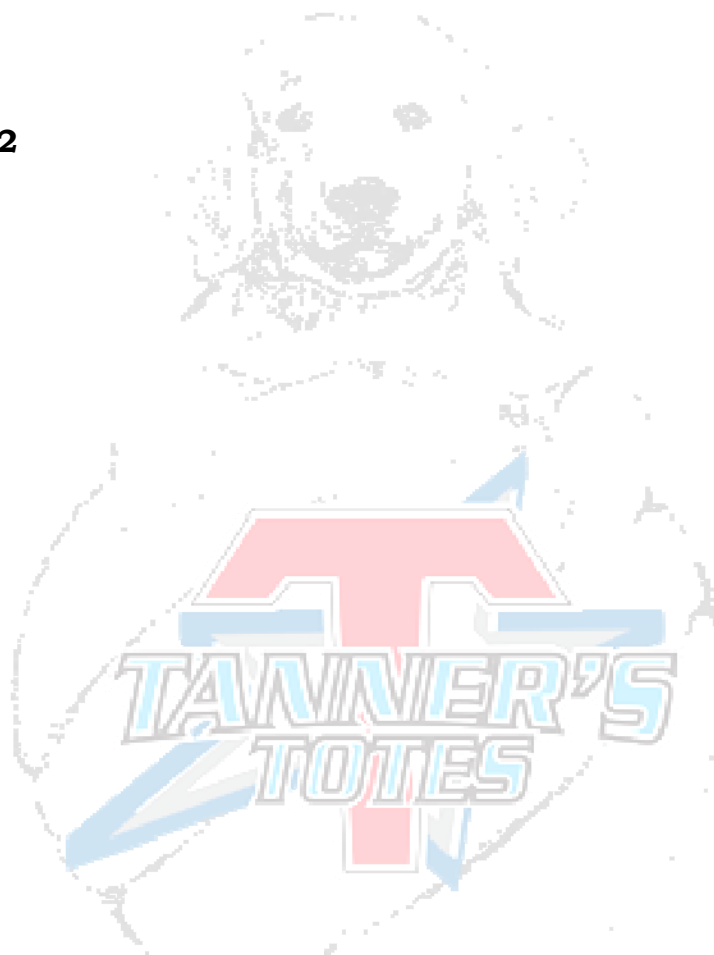
**Tanner's Totes, Inc.**

an IRS approved 501c3 non-profit company



**Tanner's Totes, Inc.**  
**10400 Stanyan St.**  
**Alpharetta, GA 30022**

[www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com)



## 1st Tiger Paw Classic a Huge Success

Dr. Rapp accomplished all of this by creating one special event the 1st Annual Tiger Paw Classic Golf Tournament. If adding life experiences lands a teacher in the good category, where does adding all of the above place Dr. Adam Rapp? The answer is easy to see: he is seated comfortably among the great professors at one of the top public universities in the country.

Tanner's Totes, Inc., an IRS approved 501c3 non-profit company founded by a Clemson student, was the joyous recipient of a \$5000 donation generated by this event. Obviously, the inaugural Tiger Paw Classic Golf Tournament was a huge success. Participating for the first ever event were 120 golfers and over 100 local companies donating time, money and support. Due to the overwhelming support from the local businesses and

huge overall success in funds raised, the event directors have decided to make this an annual outing: hence, the legacy part of Dr. Rapp's vision.

Please go through the photo gallery. As you can see, the tournament was very well organized and exciting. A special thanks goes out to the Key Account Managers: James Haltiwagner, Britton Hunter, Adelaide Kiefer and Shannon Pijanowski for their dedications and hard work. And of course, a Clemson University event does not happen without unbelievable volunteer support, so thank you to each and everyone that helped.

At the tournament, held at beautiful Bos-cobel Golf and Country Club of Pendleton, SC, each golfer received a "Goodie Bag" full of free items and coupons from the

local business community. The lunch was graciously donated by Firehouse Subs and Sardi's Den provided the free dinner. In return for all of the great amenities and prizes awarded, the participants and sponsors from the local business community were asked to donate generously, and they did! Funds were raised through entry fees, advertising signs on each hole, sponsors for the golf hat and shirt gifts, and golf cart and trophy sponsors. Charity golf tournaments typically are difficult to start. The Tiger Paw Classic almost maxed out on golfers (144 is the most for one course) for the first event! Way to go Sport Plus Sport Marketing Group and Dr. Rapp. You all hit a home run, or in this case a 350 yard center-cut drive, on your first attempt.

(please go to [www.tannerstotes.com](http://www.tannerstotes.com) for rest of article)