

♥♥♥♥ *They Stole Our Hearts* ♥♥♥♥

Cheryl “Queenie” Bailey is one of the Kettering Medical Center’s clowns who visits the Children's Medical Center (Ohio). Valerie Haley, Director of Volunteers sent the following to the newsletter with this comment:

“I know that this experience touched Cheryl and it also helped to comfort this child who in a time of fear was in need of a grandmother's love and gentle touch.”

An Experience from Cheryl “Queenie” Bailey, Kettering, Ohio

“Monday was my first clowning experience at Children’s. It was truly an experience to remember. We saw a little girl with a dog bite, a boy whose dog tripped him, a baby who had fallen, a teenage boy who was embarrassed because he was there and a teenage girl who had been sick for weeks, but now came in for fluid replacement.

“Then back in a quiet corner of the emergency department there were two little towhead sisters. One was 3 years old and the other 2 years old. As we went in, we passed a police officer coming out with a camera. These little girls’ feet were black and we found out later they had been washed up, but so dirty they

couldn't get the feet clean. They had been found in a house with roaches crawling in their ears and mice running across a house so filthy that it would be condemned the next day. Their diapers so bad that they hung to the floor filled with all kinds of excrement.

“I walked quietly to the crib which held the tiniest of the two girls and started talking and singing softly to her while Linda [clown partner] played with the older child. When I put my finger through the bars, this little one held tight to my hand. I asked the nurse if I could hold her and was told as long as I didn't see other children that night it would be fine.

‘I picked her up and spent the next hour rocking and singing to her. After about 15 minutes she and her sister became children for the first time in their lives, just like the rocking was a first for the youngest. They laughed at the bubbles that Linda blew and the music she played on a little xylophone. If I would stop rocking, the little one would encourage me to start again by rocking her body.

“This was such a sad but sweet time for me to give love for just a short time to one who had not had any since she came from her Father in Heaven. Please pray for those who are in such sad situations.”