

local news

▼ AUTHOR

A Christmas story with a message

BY JENNIFER SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

A Christmas wish and a bedtime story to boot.

Red Deer-based author Wendy Collier's self-published book draws on experiences from her own life, to teach youngsters about self-esteem.

In town on a book tour combined with a family visit this holiday season, the one-time teacher turned personal development consultant, wrapped up her first year as a children's author by launching a Christmas wish campaign in the area, giving 20 per cent of book sales to Kelowna charities in the form of donated books.

Moneys raised through the purchase of Being Different Is Cool go toward buying copies of the book for non-profit organizations, like Christmas bureaus and women's shelters in areas Collier visits—or you can buy a book and designate the charity it goes to.

The book features three

children and an angel who teaches them about the beauty of self-respect.

"Because teasing and bullying is getting so out of hand, in this book we're actually teaching kids how to look at what someone's saying and realize it's an opinion and not a fact," said Collier. "Once kids realize that, it takes a lot of the hurt out of it as they now have a way to process that and get past it."

Intended for children five to 12 years old, Collier's first book focuses children's attention on the good things about being different—a common trait we all share.

Interviewed from a family member's home in Westbank, Collier revealed a second book of what she hopes will become a series, hits shelves this spring under the title Self Esteem Haven.

The story from the first book is now a play for school-based and community performances.

For more information please see Collier's web site, www.angelbooks.ca.



SEAN CUNNOR / CAPITAL NEWS

RED DEER-BASED author Wendy Collier with her book Being Different is Cool.