

# FOREVER FAMILY



## About the Books

*The Chocolate Story*, *The Lemonade Story* and *The Pillow Story* are available at a few stores, including Elgin Books in Elgin, The Little Traveler and Graham's in Geneva, and Town House Books in St. Charles.

All are available online at [www.ScarecrowStory.net](http://www.ScarecrowStory.net). The books are \$8.95 and \$1 from each book goes to its respective charity. *The Scarecrow Story* will also be made available on iPad after the printed book is released in October.

For a readers-theater presentation, contact Rick Moser at 847/429-9100, [info@chocolatetory.net](mailto:info@chocolatetory.net).

# Sweet and Sour Stories

BY AMANDA HUDSON

News editor

**T**he *Lemonade Story* grew out of a case of the old saying, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

But first came *The Chocolate Story*.

In summer of 2006, Rick Moser was unable to work for many months following a car accident. He was, he says, "searching for something productive to do from home," and began with a commonly-neglected household chore.

"In reorganizing my piles (of paperwork)," he says, "I found the basis for *The Chocolate Story* sitting in a file cabinet. It's based on a story the kids and I came up with when walking in a forest."

Moser's daughter, Emily, now 18, had written the original story for school. When Moser found her school paper, he thought it was good.

"I fleshed out some of the characters and wrote a couple of new endings," he recalls. "I ran the story by some friends and they were very encouraging. I picked the preferred ending and hired an illustrator."

*The Chocolate Story* became the first of what is now a series of four "refreshing little fables" full of little lessons of life. Moser often presents the books to new audiences in a readers-theater format, recruiting students and adults to read the parts of the characters while he narrates.

The *Lemonade Story*, the second of the R.T. Moser series, was presented on July 28 at St. Catherine of Genoa Parish in Genoa as part of its Vacation Bible School. After a rousing time of VBS songs, the kids and camp lead-

## Fabricating Fables from Lemonade and Chocolate

ers trooped outside to a shady spot by some pine trees where adults and teens presented the story.

Father Timothy Seigel, pastor, donned a bright yellow kerchief to play the Lemonade Man. His kindly character followed "Mrs. Tightpurse" and "Mr. Hotcar" who were not so kind. But all had lessons to teach the characters of Emily and Nick who made and sold the lemonade in the fable.

The VBS leaders then provided a "lemon-tasting" with and without sugar to emphasize the difference between sweet and sour and to give the kids a chance to copy "Nick's yellow smile when he put a lemon slice over his teeth." Lemon treats and lemonade wrapped up the story time.

A special guest at this readers-theater was the real Nick Moser, now 14, who says he likes "to volunteer and help out my dad." He took pictures at the event and also set up a display that explained the publishing process. All four of Moser's books are self-published after being designed at his business, WideSpark, which creates branding and marketing com-

munications. The books' illustrations come from Rex Bohn, a St. Charles artist.

A portion of the proceeds from each book sale benefits a particular charity. *The Chocolate Story* benefits the International Cocoa Initiative to support their efforts to end forced child labor and build houses in Ghana, Africa. *The Lemonade Story* benefits the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, which

raises funds for childhood cancer research. *The Pillow Story* benefits Lazarus House, a homeless shelter in St. Charles where Rick now lives. Coming in October will be *The Scarecrow Story*, which is being launched at the 25th annual Scarecrow Festival in St. Charles. That book will benefit the Northern Illinois Food Bank and a companion song for the book by Jim Green may be part of the story on iPad, which Moser says is one of the first viable electronic means to include his books' illustrations.

Moser was born in Rockford and has lived also in



Father Timothy Seigel reads.



Author Rick Moser reads a part from *The Lemonade Story* at St. Catherine of Genoa Parish.

theme of praying for guidance and are Christian in nature.

"Basically, I pray for guidance and (the stories) are inspired by the Holy Spirit."



(Observer photos by Amanda Hudson)

Vacation Bible School students react as they taste lemons before they were dipped in sugar.