

Newark 4-H Leader Receives National Salute

NEWARK, Del. — Five years ago, when Lydia Phalen first took over the leadership of the Fantastics, the Newark area 4-H club had only 11 members. Two of them were Phalens.

There are no more Phalen kids in the club now, but Lydia Phalen is still going strong as the volunteer leader. Currently she has 31 nine-to-19-year-olds under her wing — and that's in addition to her regular job caring for one-to-two-year-olds at Newark Day Nursery.

Six hours a day with the little 'tweenies' would be enough to exhaust most people, but Phalen spends about four more every evening on 4-H.

She's taking a break from that ambitious lifestyle during the week of March 19-24 — but you won't find her lying under a palm tree in the Bahamas. Instead, she'll represent Delaware in the national 4-H volunteer leaders' Salute to Excellence program.

R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. is paying to send one outstanding 4-H leader from each state to spend that week at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. There they'll be recognized for their efforts, and will learn new ways to accomplish even more. Each honoree will come home with a \$1,000 grant to be used to expand the role of volunteer 4-H leaders in the home state.

Why was Lydia Phalen singled out for this special honor from among all the excellent, dedicated 4-H leaders in Delaware? Ac-

cording to University of Delaware extension 4-H agent Joy Gooden, Phalen offers her 4-H'ers a well-balanced program. There's training in a range of project areas such as beekeeping, sewing, and babysitting. There's strong emphasis on community service. And there's also a good measure of fun, including pool parties, masquerades, and pot luck suppers.

Lydia Phalen really cares about people, and she wants to bring out the best in everyone. Her love extends beyond her own family to take in the tweenies, 4-H'ers and their families, the elderly and the handicapped in the community. And it's contagious. Her 4-H'ers and their parents often visit patients at a local nursing home, take handicapped people on a hayride, or play pat-a-cake with the tots in the nursery. Her older 4-H'ers teach younger members how to sew and give speeches. And she never misses an opportunity to let

the younger ones show off what they can do.

Unlike many adults, Phalen genuinely respects young people and takes their interests and talents seriously. She knows from experience that a 4-H project interest could lead to a career. It has happened with her own children. The eldest son is now a veterinarian, and the second-oldest is a graduate student in wildlife management. Her elder daughter is a nursing student, and the younger aims for an art career.

So when Phalen notices that one of her 4-H'ers is especially interested in animals or birds, another enjoys working with the handicapped, and a third has a flair for art or writing, she encourages each to develop those specialties to the fullest.

With Lydia Phalen, being a 4-H leader means a lot more than running a monthly business meeting. She's committed to helping kids grow into the best people they can be.



Outstanding Newark 4-H leader Lydia Phalen shares a pleasant moment with a "tweenie."

4-H Waterfowl Club

Feathered Friends 4-H Waterfowl Club leaders and members have just expanded their project work. Now the club will also include exotic cage birds — parakeets, cockatiels, finches and

canaries. Sattandira Kosania, Club vice-president and Junior Leader, will direct this portion of the program with Jack Diminick, owner of Reaville Bird Farm. New members are cordially invited to attend.

Tri-Community 4-H Club

Tri-Community 4-H Club meeting took place recently at the Kimberton Fire Co.

The club voted to donate \$50 to Chester County's IFYE delegate, Alice Mark.

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