

Kerra Allen And The Sheep That Raised \$2,197 For God

(Continued from Page A1)

"At first, I struggled a little with giving up the money," Kerra said, "but then, I asked myself, 'Who needs it more?'"

When Kerra heard the minister say that Clare House, a temporary home for women and children who suffer financial hardship, would need to be closed down because they did not have enough funds to keep operating, Kerra was alarmed. She had heard about Clare House before. "We often took our pennies to Children's Church and deposited them in a box for Clare House," Kerra said.

The home, a Christian non-profit organization, has been in operation since 1985. Although the home survived on month-to-month private donations, contributions dropped considerably recently. The Rev. Theodore McCabe, the minister of Ruhls United Methodist Church where Kerra attends, believes that those who had previously contributed to Clare House recently sent their donations to the hurricane victims of Florida, Louisiana, and Hawaii. McCabe and other Clare House board members understand the great needs the hurricane victims suffered, but the need to help homeless women and children remains constant.

When Kerra heard the home would have to close unless it received immediate funds, she vowed to donate the money from selling Patches, a sheep she purchased from Joyce and Kirt Diefenderfer of Manheim.

When Kerra told her parents, Keith and Kendy Allen, about her vow, they decided that they would pay the feed bills instead of having the costs deducted from the profit. Kerra sold two other sheep to pay for the purchase price of Patches. That way, the total selling price could be given to Clare House.

Kerra did everything that she could to raise the best sheep possible. She fed Patches a nutritionally balanced diet, exercised it daily, and pampered it. She wrote a letter, which she sent out to 12 potential buyers.

The letter read: *I am writing to tell you that I will be selling my 4-H lamb at the Manheim Fair on Friday, Oct. 9, at 8 p.m.*

I want to tell you this because all the money that my lamb sells for will be donated to Clare House — a home for homeless women and children in Lancaster that my church helps to support. It needs money desperately and I want to help.

I am 11 years old. My lamb and I will be wearing matching ribbons. Will you please help support me in doing this?

Kerra arrived at the Manheim Farm Show full of optimism as she tacked up a sign above her sheep pen promising that "all of the selling price of my market lamb will be donated to Clare House of Lancaster." Kerra also hung up a newspaper clipping describing the plight of Clare House.

Kerra's optimism faded when her 102-pound lamb only placed fourth in competition. She knew that fourth-place lambs did not bring much money on the auction block. She was praying for a grand champion or at least the reserve title — those are the lambs for which buyers paid top premiums.

Kerra honestly reported her reactions to this disappointment by saying, "I told God, 'I'm doing this for You, Lord. What's happening here?'"

Unknown to Kerra were two

businessmen who had heard in a round-about way about Kerra's pledge to donate money to Clare House.

One man was Darvin Boyd of Hamilton Bank, which has supported the 4-H program for 20 years by buying a lamb and steer during the fair season. Boyd heard about Kerra's promise to donate the money to Clare House through Chet Hughes, Lancaster County Extension agent.

Boyd said, "I had never heard of Clare House, but Kerra's story appealed to me because any kid that has that kind of heart and is willing to give to help those less fortunate deserves good support for the cause."

Boyd was even more impressed when he heard that it was Kerra's idea, not her parents', to donate the money.

Another businessman was Tom Drumm of TW's Leather Sales, Inc. Although he attends the same church as Kerra, they did not know each other. He read a brief notice about Kerra's pledge in the church bulletin. Drumm talked with some people who work with his TW's Leathers Sales at 50-A South Broad St., in Lititz. Together, they decided to purchase the sheep as a fund-raising effort for Clare House.

When Kerra led her sheep before the auctioneer, she did not know that Boyd and Drumm, who were also unknown to each other, were going to bid on her sheep.

When the bidding climaxed at \$11 a pound, Kerra said, "I was so happy, I was hysterical. I hadn't realized what God's plan was. How could I not have trusted Him to bring a good price for the sheep?"

When Kerra, who was deeply

attached to Patches, was told that she could keep the sheep, she was ecstatic. "Patches is going to live in luxury on our farm until he dies," she said.

The sale was finished Saturday night on October 9, but Boyd couldn't erase the memory of Kerra's pledge.

He was curious. What kind of place was Clare House, which caused such compassion to be shown by an 11-year-old girl?

Monday night, he decided to find out. He looked up the place located at 342 E. Chestnut St., Lancaster. There were three women sitting on the front porch.

Boyd sat on the bannister and casually chatted with the women. He said, "I walked away convinced that Clare House was a worthy cause."

The next day, Boyd called a meeting with fellow bank officials. He said, "For 20 years, we have been committed to helping agriculture, but this goes beyond that. This young girl epitomizes qualities of what 4-H is all about. It shows community involvement, caring, and sharing. Let's support the cause and be grateful for young people like this in our society."

Hamilton Bank decided to give Kerra \$1,075, the bid Boyd had offered at the sale, for her to donate to Clare House.

When Kerra heard about the offer, she said, "I just think that it's really special that buyers cared this much to help. I really appreciate both of them. I am so happy."

Boyd said, "By doing this, the bank did not want to take away anything from the grand champion winner. But this was a unique cause. It merited the support it received."

Drumm, a board member for

Clare House, hopes others will be inspired to give to the home for the homeless. He said, "I also hope this brings attention to the good 4-H'ers do for the community."

Kerra, who is a sixth grader at Mastersonville Elementary School, had some other good news. The day after the sale, she was chosen as a junior high winner at the county Ag Science Fair.

In another unusual gesture at the Manheim Livestock Sale, Tracy Bollinger, who is a member of the Lancaster County Meat's Judging Team, donated the money from her market hog to the team, which includes Wendall Landis, Angie Erb, and Dwain Livengood. Since the members won the state contest, they are eligible to compete nationally at Kansas City, but they need money to pay traveling costs. Tracy's 220-pound hog was purchased for \$850 by 20 buyers who pooled their money. Hoss's Steak and Seafood House donated two of the pigs they purchased back to the

judging team, which enabled the team to raise another \$550 for traveling costs.

Hoss's also purchased the 1,300-pound grand champion steer from Casey High for \$4,225, and then donated it back to raise another \$1,250 for the Manheim FFA scholarship fund.

J. Omar Landis also contributed to the FFA fund when they gave back the grand champion lamb after they had purchased it from Mark Tracy for \$518.95.

Adam Forry's grand champion market hog sold to the record-breaking price of \$6.50 per pound to Manheim Auto Auction. The reserve champion hog sold for \$6 per pound to Omar the Tent Renter.

The reserve champion sheep, owned by Travis Donough, sold for \$2.50 per pound to Walter Dunlap. Travis also owned the reserve champion steer, which weighed 1,140 pounds and sold for \$1.25 per pound.

1992 Delp Award Nominations Now Accepted

LANCASTER (Lanc. Co.) — Nominations are currently being accepted for the Chamber's fourth annual George C. Delp Award. This award is made at the annual Agriculture-Industry Banquet to a Lancaster Countian who has been influential in promoting agribusiness within the Garden Spot.

To be eligible for nomination, the individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a resident of and/or work in Lancaster County for at least three years.
2. Project a positive community image.

3. Be dedicated to the improvement of the agricultural community in Lancaster County.

Nomination forms are not carried forward from year to year, so it is important to re-submit the name/s of qualified individuals. Nomination forms may be picked up at The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 100 South Queen Street, or by calling Jay Howes at the Chamber, 397-3531. Deadline for submission of nominations is Friday, October 23, 1992.

If you have any questions or need additional information, call Jay Howes at 397-3531.

HYBRID UPDATE

PLAN NOW

We're ready to help with a complete lineup of NC+ hybrids including yield information and competitive comparisons from this area.

PAY NOW

Discover how the NC+ Early Payment Plan can earn you discounts of up to 11% when you pay by November 21st.

SAVE NOW

Your early payment will not only lock in your order to help insure delivery, it will earn you the equivalent of 21.0% on your money.

Strong Interest In New Numbers

Two of the new NC+ corn hybrid releases for this maturity zone are featured in this issue of Hybrid Update.

Both have made especially good showings in extensive NC+ F.A.R.M. Plot testing. We have the reports from these plots, and will make them available so that you

NC+ 6485 - New

- ◆ Handles both stress and irrigated conditions.
- ◆ Extensive testing shows high yield capabilities.
- ◆ Big healthy plants have excellent standability.
- ◆ Good corn borer tolerance.
- ◆ Ideal complement for planting with NC+ 6414.
- ◆ Good food corn potential.

can compare performance with competitive numbers.

Early Payment Discounts
These new releases, plus a wide choice of other NC+ Hybrids are included in our

special Early Payment Discount Program.

This popular program is designed to benefit the producer who wants to lock in his seed order and

NC+ 6959 - New

- ◆ Excellent potential to be a full-season standard setter.
- ◆ Strongly recommended for its yield power.
- ◆ Stay-green and standability are excellent.
- ◆ Medium-tall plants.
- ◆ Very good tolerance to foliar diseases.

take advantage of attractive Early Payment Discounts.

Why not give us a call soon. We have the facts to help you make a sound comparison of NC+ hybrids with other brands.

America's
down to earth
seed company

Elvin M. Hursh
Lititz - Ephrata
717-733-3538

Jeffrey L. Borger
Kunkletown
215-381-3785

Samuel E. Knouse
Richfield
717-483-3885

Bechtel Farms
Kenneth Bechtel II
Halifax
717-896-8314

Ron Dodds
District Sales Mgr.
Mifflintown
717-436-5514

David B. Saner
Mifflintown
717-535-5103

Dealer
Inquiries
Invited