



Although visually impaired, these members of the Lancaster Association for the Blind demonstrate that they can do almost everything a sighted person can do. Front left is Grace Miller of Lititz, across from her is Libbie Nightingale of Lancaster, who also enjoy bowling and score above 150 despite their blindness.

Blind Share Wonders Of Candy Making

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)

— Whiffs of chocolate, chatter, and laughter recently drifted from the activities room at 244 North Queen St. Lancaster.

"I wouldn't miss this day for anything," Libby Nightingale said.

She is referring to the annual candymaking workshop for the vision impaired. This is the sixth year that Nancy Fasolt of Cake And Kandy Emporium of East Petersburg organized the candy making workshop.

If you think candy making creates a sticky mess, try closing your eyes and making it.

With lots of volunteers guiding a hand with verbal instructions such as "over, up, now to the right ..." the 18 adults attending the workshop were able to complete and take home a box of candy. The candy varieties included bird's nests, non-pareil lollipops, turtles, and peanut butter cups.

Minnie Lohr of Lancaster said of the bird nest variety, "I'm not sure if it's for wrens or starlings."

The chocolate with coconut is dropped by a spoonful unto a jelly bean nest. Minnie can't eat the candy because of diet restrictions so she gives it to friends.

"They tell me it tastes better than the candy they can buy," Minnie said.

Fred Flosser, Lancaster; Paul Brubaker, Ephrata; and Richard



Although Minnie Lohr of Lancaster can not eat the candy, she loves making it and giving it to friends. They tell her that the candy tastes better than the kinds they purchase in the stores.

Bailey, Lancaster, couldn't resist nibbling on pecans while making turtles by layering pecans, caramel, and squeezing melted chocolate over the top. The three debated what variety of candy was the best between the turtles, non pareil lollipops, peanut butter cups and bird's nests.

Brubaker summed up the groups' consensus by saying, "Anything chocolate — we like."

Dwight Stoltzfus, who coordinates the activities for the Lancaster County Blind Association, said,

"Just about anything that a sighted person can do, one can learn to do if blind."

Attitude, Stoltzfus surmised, has almost everything to do with how a person adjusts to blindness. The problem is that often sighted people, while meaning to be helpful, actually do too much for the blind. A person who has a dependent personality is glad to let others do things for him or her, but an independent person will insist on learning to do things.

"Several of the clients go home and make their own candy," Stoltzfus said.

While Grace Miller of Lititz and Ms. Nightingale worked on the candy, they told how they adjusted to life without sight.

"We became good friends and started bowling in 1972," she said.

With occasional scores above 150, the duo flew to Chicago and Pittsburgh for national competition.

Ms. Nightingale said that pregnancy complications caused her blindness.

"After I got over feeling sorry for myself, I got down to business," she said.

She found that it was more difficult to adjust to her husband's death three years ago than to blindness.



Paul Brubaker of Ephrata and Richard Bailey of Lancaster try to decide which is the best of the best chocolate varieties that they made.

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