



Donna Barron, Daffodil Days Chairperson, Jeannie Fleegle, volunteer wrapping daffodil bunches after grade 11 student Bobbi-Jo Bishop trims stems.

Johnstown FFA Assists Cancer Society With Daffodil Days

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Cambria Co. Correspondent
JOHNSTOWN (Cambria Co.)—The American Cancer Society held its Daffodil Days March 22-24. For the fourth consecutive year, the Greater Johnstown Area Vocational-Technical School FFA chapter has participated. Under the direction of horticulture instructor, Karen Remick, FFA members give their time and talents for this worthy cause. This is a community service project for the group.

Daffodil Days is the biggest event held by the American Cancer Society throughout the country. "The American Society recognizes the Daffodil as not only the first flower of spring but also the symbol of hope—hope that cancer can be cured in our lifetime."

When originally approached with the idea a few years ago, Mrs. Remick did not hesitate. She said that her life has been touched by family members who have been afflicted with cancer.

In order to prepare for Daffodil Days, the horticulture classes began making bows a few months ago. One thousand bows were made and placed into bud vases with three daffodils each.

After 50,000 daffodils are delivered to the school, the students' real work begins. Working alongside American Cancer Society volunteers an assembly-line production is set up. The daffodils are put into bundles of 10 and the edge of each flower is trimmed. The trimming aids in maintaining the freshness of the flowers. Each bunch is wrapped in paper and placed in cases. One thousand bud vases were also prepared.



Heather Pavlosky, grade 10, working with some of the bud vases.

Laura Barron is the 1995 chairman for Cambria County Daffodil Days. She emphasized that this project has really taken off over the past few years and praised the efforts of the Vo-Tech students. Because so many orders have been placed and must be processed in so short a period of time, she believes that her organization is quite fortunate to have the cooperation of the Vo-Tech.

The school provides use of its

coolers for the flowers along with ample work space. Carol Harding, president of the Cambria County chapter of the American Cancer Society, expressed appreciation for the hard work done by the students.

Mrs. Remick says that her students show a real enthusiasm for this project. "It's a good project for the kids. They feel good working with community people and it's very good for their self-esteem."

Mrs. Remick points out that the volunteers who come in to work with her classes are wonderful to the students, complimenting them many times through the course of a day. When all of the work is done at the end of the week they even hold a pizza party for the students.

One of the FFA members stated that she really enjoys doing this because it makes her feel good to know in a small way she is helping someone.

Mrs. Remick is especially proud of a plaque which she received on behalf of her class. It's on display in the main trophy case in the front of the school. The Cancer Society recognized the students for their time and talent and thanked them for their "cooperation and dedication in the quest to conquer cancer."



Kim Cassick (left) and horticulture instructor, Karen Remick assembling daffodils, fern, bow, in bud vase. This is done 999 more times!

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