



Joan Luksa, Dallas, regularly donates blood to the American Red Cross. She has been donating blood since she was 17.

## Donors

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tients have a high incidence of internal bleeding for no reason," Piekanski said, "and with their platelet count so low, they don't have the ability to clot the blood like you or I. That is why they need the extra platelets to clot their blood."

"Demand is very high," Piekanski said, and the Red Cross is the only supplier of pheresis platelets to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The donation process takes about one hour and 40 minutes, and only platelets are removed from the donor, Piekanski said. During the process, a person donates about 20 percent of his or her platelets, which takes the body about 24 to 36 hours to replace. Donors can give up to 24 times a year.

Pheresis platelets are given by

one donor and typed by the Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA). HLA typing allows for specific matches to be made between donors and recipients. Piekanski said, "HLA is also the first step to be listed on the bone marrow registry."

"This has been called the best kept secret at the American Red Cross," Piekanski said. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds and be in good health.

Donations are made by appointment at the American Red Cross in the Hanover Industrial Park, Hanover Twp. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call the American Red Cross at 1-800-432-8045 extension 2161.



After donating a pint of blood, Erin Heffron, Dallas, sits to relax and enjoy some crackers and punch. Donors were also given coupons for a free Egg McMuffin from McDonald's and a free small fry from Wendy's. n Red Cross's Pheresis Donation Program.

## Girl Scouts

(continued from page 1)

thing to write about. I told them they could write about anything they wanted," Katie said.

As Katie worked with the fourth grade students, which included her brother Peter, they not only improved their basic writing skills, but opened their imaginations to new worlds. "Some of the stories were funny," Katie said.

Some of the topics students wrote about were pet rocks, dogs with crazy names, and sports like soccer and football.

After the students wrote, revised and illustrated their stories, Katie typed the stories and designed covers. Each student read their stories in front of the class. "At the end, the project was fun and they were excited," Katie said.

For Christine, a sophomore at Bishop Hoban High School, music was the subject for her project, entitled "Spring Tune-Up." She invited the Dallas and Lehman service units to participate and had about 30 Girl Scouts participate in a lip-sync talent show.

"My favorite part was when the girls in my troop got together to do 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun' at the end," Christine said. One of the mothers from another troop even got into the act by lip-syncing a song by the Supremes.

Christine has already begun thinking ahead to the Girl Scouts Gold Award. "I might do a coloring book for a shelter, but I'm not sure."

"Back to Scouts Fling" was the title of Stephanie's Silver Award project. She organized a day of fun for younger Girl Scouts at Frances Sloum State Park.

"I like to work with little kids and I liked the idea of having them get together for crafts and games," she said.

About 45 Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts attended the day of crafts and games. Stephanie arranged for McDonald's and the Girl Scout Council to donate refreshments for her event.

From Stephanie's 11 years experience as a Girl Scout she had lots of crafts and games planned for the her fellow scouts. The girls made woven paper hearts, bracelets and puppets. "My favorite part of the day was working with the little girls and playing a game called 'in or out,'" Stephanie said.

Stephanie did learn that even the best laid plans sometimes don't mean much to Mother Nature. The original date of the event was rained out. She faced the challenge of rescheduling and in the end everything worked out.

Slippers, socks, diapers, toilet paper and detergent were the focus of Megan's Silver Award project. She collected over 1,200 of these types of items and made toiletry bags for the women at the Catherine McAuley House in Plymouth. She called her project "The Women's Project."

"As a Junior (Girl Scout), I did a toybox for the little kids at the shelter. When I toured the house, they said they needed a lot of donations," said Megan, a Girl Scout for the past 10 years. That how she got the idea for her project.

Megan started her project by "deciding what to collect. Then I did a newsletter to the service unit and then I went to the community with drop bags." Stores also donated gift certificates for Megan to shop for the odds and ends she needed. With the help of her mother, Megan also hand-made 50 toiletry bags for the women at the shelter. "The shelter was very pleased with the community's donations," Megan said.

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For pictures of the Girl Scouts' Silver Award ceremony, see the Community Photo Album on page 6.

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