

Region will play host to Russian orphans in June

□ **Planning meeting Feb. 19 at Misericordia**

Through a unique partnership with Kidsave International, a Washington, DC based non-profit child-welfare organization, Volunteers of America is seeking families to host orphan children coming to Northeast PA from Russia.

The program, called "Summer Miracles," is a six-week program in which orphan children, ages 5 to 13, travel to the United States and Canada to live with host families and experience life outside of an orphanage.

Over the past four summers, Kidsave has brought nearly 850 children to 30 communities throughout North America. Of these, nearly 95 percent have been adopted.

"Summer Miracles demonstrates the many small miracles that occur when children without families are given the love and care they so desperately need," said Bill Jones, Vice President/Chief Operating Officer of

Volunteers of America. Kidsave International has recognized the outpouring of support Northeast PA demonstrated last summer in helping the Ackerman family of Dallas adopt the fourth sibling of the three Russian children they adopted in 2000.

"It is an honor that Kidsave requested that Northeast PA be a host community for these at-risk children. Our reputation as a caring community has once again been noticed. Volunteers of America is proud to serve as a coordinating agency," Jones said.

Gina Ackerman, mother of the four children from Russia, knows firsthand the impact of Summer Miracles. "Many of the children, like two of my children, come here for six weeks with not much more than the clothes they are wearing and a toothbrush. When they leave to go back, they go back with love and hope for the future," Mrs. Ackerman stated.

Tentative plans are for the children to arrive in late June and stay through mid-August. In



Alyosha Ackerman, 5, of Dallas played basketball with Bill Jones, VP of Volunteers of America as Lynda Frushon, Coordinator of Summer Miracles, looked on. Alyosha was adopted last summer from a Russian orphanage and was united with his three older siblings Irina, Masha and Yuri.

addition to host families, volunteers and donations are critically needed. Events and activities planned for the children require time, effort and money.

Anyone wanting to be a host family or willing to help with activity planning or offering financial assistance can call Lynda Frushon at Volunteers of Ameri-

ca at 829-3288. A meeting of all interested host families will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Banks Student Center at College Misericordia.

Girl Scouts open 'cookie shops'

The Girl Scouts of Penn's Woods Council will open troop "Cookie Shops" now through March 15 in communities throughout the Council area.

"The troop Cookie Shops are very important to the overall success of the Girl Scout Cookie Sale," said Barbara Naranche, Executive Director for the Girl Scouts of Penn's Woods Council. "It really offers girls the chance to further develop their self-confidence, sense of community and business skills."

All of the net proceeds earned by Cookie Shops and the general Girl Scout Cookie sale remain within the Council area to support local Girl Scout activities like camping, outdoor education, science workshops, travel, community service, sports clinics and

more. All eight types of Girl Scout Cookies are available at Cookie Shops. Cookies are \$3 per box.

For more Cookie Shop information, log onto the Girl Scouts of Penn's Woods Council website at www.pennswoodsgirlscouts.org and click on "COOKIES," or call the toll free Cookie Hotline at 1-888-6KOOKIE.

Cookie Shop locations in the Back Mountain:

- Feb. 16, 9-11 a.m. — Gate Of Heaven Church, Dallas.
- March 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — Back Mt Feed & Seed, Dallas.
- March 1, 8, 15: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — CVS, Dallas.
- March 1, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; March 23, 9 a.m.-? — Mountain Fresh Market, Pikes Creek.

Lions' Night at the Races March 1

The Dallas Lions Club is holding their annual fund-raising event, "A Night at the Races" on Saturday, March 1 at the Idetown Fire Hall at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. Cost is \$5 per person and includes refreshments; however, admission is free with the purchase of a horse for \$10.



Brownie Troop 600 visits supermarket

Brownie Troop 600 of Ross Elementary School recently visited Mountain Fresh Supermarket to learn and understand how products are sold. Norma Mazaika, owner of Mountain Fresh, guided Brownie Troop 600 through her store. She explained how to read labels for nutrition guides and showed how different products are stored. During the tour, Mazaika gave tips on how to sell Girl Scout Cookies, how to display them and the importance of good manners.

From left, first row: Brinley Williams, Rebecca Rosser, Laura Casterline, Sierra Pall, Felecia Nevel. Second row: Abby Culver, Meghan Maccarone, Sarah Stacey, Katrina Patla, Evie Whittaker, Kaitlyn Mitchell, Ashley Rood.

Absent from photo: Sarah Bedford and Emily Kropa.

Troop 600 leaders are Ellen Maccarone and Amy Blaski.

Troop 232 goes on winter weekend

Troop 232 from Gate of Heaven recently had their annual ski-snowboard and snow tubing weekend. Scouts stayed Jan 24-26 at Trout Lake camping cabins at Jack Frost.

Scouts attending: Nick Latosek, Zachary Walik, Ian Herron, Pat Foley, Neil Bellanca, Chris Taylor, Ben Zamojski, Alex Zamojski, Steven Levandoski, Sean Deats, Assistant Scoutmaster Pat Deats and Scout Master Steven Jones.

SENIOR MENUS

Senior Citizens Centers sponsored by the Area Agency on aging for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties offers hot noon meals Monday through Friday to people 60 years of age or older. Donations from participants are gratefully accepted and needed in order to expand this program. The following is the menu for the week of Feb. 13-19. All menus include margarine, milk and coffee. The local Senior Center is located at 22 Rice St., Dallas.

THURSDAY: Baked ham w/fruit sauce, sweet potatoes, wax beans w/dill, whole wheat

bread, orange juice, vanilla pudding.

FRIDAY: Valentine's Day Special Dinner - stuffed chicken breast, stuffed baked potato, roman vegetable medley, dinner roll, cherry pie.

MONDAY: Centers closed in observance of Presidents Day.

TUESDAY: Veal cordon bleu, oven roasted potatoes, brussel sprouts, whole wheat bread, mixed fruit.

WEDNESDAY: Fresh ham w/brown gravy, whipped potatoes, roman vegetable medley, dinner roll, grapefruit juice, bread pudding w/custard sauce.

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