

MEADOWS RESIDENTS ENJOY ICE-CREAM TREAT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

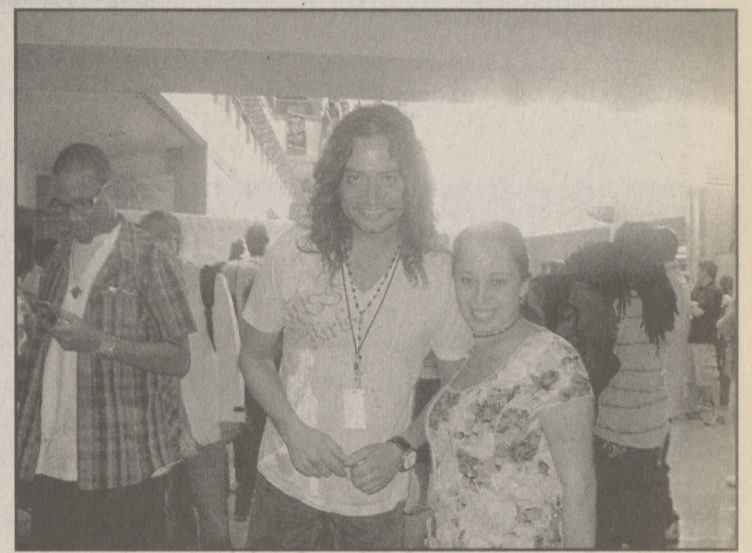
Thanks to the generosity of the Meadows Nursing Center Auxiliary, residents at the Center in Dallas enjoyed ice cream sundaes and cones in the Meadows Pavilion while listening to the lively music of Accordion Pete. Shown here are, from left, first row, Ann Rizzo, Dorothy Groner and Romyne Stofila. Standing, Entertainer Pete Truszkowski, Nancy Space, activities director; LeeAnn Emerick, director of nursing; Auxiliary volunteers Leona Walter and Betty Miller; teen volunteers Shane Panagakos, Lauren Kelly and Allison Spencer.

BESECKER HONORED FOR SERVICE TO DALLAS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Representative Karen Boback (R - Harveys Lake) recently presented a proclamation to Robert Besecker of Dallas. Besecker was honored for over 50 years of active service with the Dallas Fire & Ambulance Company. Shown here during the ceremony are, from left, Mary Van Atten, president, Dallas Fire & Ambulance Company; Boback, Dallas Mayor Tim Carroll and Besecker.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Constantine Maroullis, an 'American Idol' runner-up from a previous season, and Blanca Frederick, of Dallas, are shown here at the 'American Idol' Season Seven auditions last August in Philadelphia. Frederick tried out for the popular television show, but did not make it past the preliminary audition.

IDOL

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derick to take one person with her to auditions and she chose her mom, Nikki, who was happy to see that her daughter was not afraid to try out.

"She was very proud of me," Frederick said of her mother.

In 2006, Frederick won the Harvest Idol contest at the annual Dallas Harvest Festival and was awarded \$250. She tried out for the contest again this year, but did not advance to the finals. She also participates in a talent expo each year at the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center. And, in the first grade, she was the "Littlest Christmas Tree" in a school musical.

Frederick has never taken voice lessons and cannot read music. She would like to be professionally trained and learn to read music, but her availability is limited. Though it may not be as much fun as singing on stage, Frederick juggles her time between school and working at Burger King in Shavertown.

It was Frederick's friends who taught her to play guitar and she is learning the piano by ear on her own. Her ultimate

dream is to record on a label and tour. But she realizes only a few people make it big. So, her back-up plan is to go to college and major in elementary education after touring the country for a year following high school.

Frederick's grandfather lives near a recording studio in Arkansas and is trying to buy time for Frederick to record a demo. If she makes a demo, she hopes to hand it to people and get her name out on her adventure across America.

Musical inspirations of Frederick's include Christina Aguilera, Patsy Kline and LeeAnn Rimes, although she listens to all types of music. Her hobbies include horseback riding, dancing, watching sports, writing, drawing and anything that involves creativity.

"It's fun for me if I could take something and make it my own," Frederick said.

Although she did not make it past her preliminary audition, Frederick is not discouraged and will audition for "American Idol" again next year.

"I never plan on giving up," she said. "I definitely believe in pushing on."

Rebecca Bria, a Dallas Post staff writer, can be reached at 970-7436.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Kanisha Cheshire, of Dallas, gets help with her sand creation from her mother, Alicen, at a backyard birthday party which was a fundraiser for Community Cares for Kids, an association which sponsors Dr. Francis Collini's annual trip to Ecuador to service children with cosmetic challenges



Joelle Serafin and her brother, Jacob, play together at their backyard fundraiser birthday party last Sunday.

performed on children that desperately needed them," Terry said. "Babies that couldn't suck were able to suck. Children without ears or unable to walk or use their hands due to burns straightened their feet and opened their hands. The faces of the kids and the tears of the parents make us know it is always better to give than receive and it will come back to you. And it has for us."

The Serafins believe their children are doing better with their autism partially because the birthday parties have given them the opportunity to be around other children. They have been

introduced to new children and have befriended some of them, teaching them how to better deal with their emotions.

Terry says her daughter will remember the ponies at the parties for years to come and her son still talks about the party that he put one of his Matchbox cars in a gelatin mold.

Most importantly, though, the parents know their children are learning the value of giving - something even the greatest, best-wrapped present can never replace.

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SHARING

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came an annual ritual.

Although the children do not get presents at the big party, a small party is held on each child's birthday that includes eating at a restaurant of the child's choice and presents from mom and dad.

The featured charity usually changes every year. The Serafins collected money for S.A.F.E. several years, a soccer field, a church and now for Community Cares for Kids. Funds raised vary year to year, but are normally within \$400 to \$1,200.

Terry has seen firsthand the work done by Community Cares for Kids. Last year, a girl named Jennifer came to the region for extensive surgery at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. She and her mother needed a place to stay before and after surgery so

the Serafins took the two into their home for six weeks.

Jennifer was like a sister to Joelle and Jacob while she was in town. "There was no communication barrier because they (the Serafin children) are around autistic children all the time who can't talk," said Terry.

On Halloween, Jennifer wanted to go trick-or-treating even though she had surgery the day before. So, Terry dressed the house guest in a Sleeping Beauty costume Joelle had worn on a previous Halloween and Jacob drove her around the neighborhood on the back of a quad.

During Collini's trip to Ecuador this year, he performed follow-up surgery on Jennifer. Because of the personal relationship she and her family had developed with Jennifer and her mother, Terry went along to help.

"It truly was a life-changing experience to see hundreds of people waiting for the Americans to help and how, in one week, over 50 operations were

and opportunities for people of all ages to come together and benefit from one another.

"We all need belonging; we all need connection," DiVizia said. "They need to feel valued no matter what age, cradle to grave."

During the summer, the organization invited people to a jazz festival at Misericordia University.

They also had a bike ride for people 55 and over at White Haven Challenger in White Haven. Activities currently in the works include a bus trip to Harrisburg this fall and a bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show next spring. In November, the organization is sending a children's choir to the Meadows Center to

sing to residents.

Misericordia University has agreed to give Generation to Generation a phone number and an office in Mercy Hall, its main administration building. A volunteer from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program will work in the office.

The organization hopes to

start a pilot program and find a Back Mountain school willing to

allow retired professionals in to talk to students about leadership and their former careers. They also would like to start a mentoring program to help the young value the old. If the pilot program succeeds, Generation to Generation would take the idea across Lu-

zerne County.

Generation to Generation is looking for new members. In addition, it is seeking donations so people can attend trips and activities at minimal or no cost.

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MEANING

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Generation to Generation is a non-profit organization designed to enrich lives through inter-generational sharing. The organization is trying to create activities

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