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Giving back to others

By REBECCA BRIA
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He's giving back the gift that others provided for his son years ago.

John Doerfler's son, Andy, was stricken with leukemia in the 1980s and underwent multiple blood transfusions in his journey to survive. Although the Harveys Lake boy died in 1984 at the age of 10, Doerfler is grateful to all the people whose blood benefited his son during his illness.

Doerfler, 65, of Harveys Lake wished he had begun donating blood earlier in his life, admitting he didn't do so out of laziness. Now, Doerfler is a member of the Back Mountain Blood Council and is competing with his 37-year-old son, Doug, of Oxford, Pa. to see who can give the most blood. So far, Doerfler has donated about three gallons but Doug is in the lead, having donated double that amount.

Doerfler donated blood on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Meadows Nursing Center in Dallas. The goal of the drive was 30 usable units of blood, which was met an hour before the drive ended.

"It seems like all the drives out here (the Back Mountain) this month are doing really well," said Molly Ramsey, Director of Blood Services for the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Ramsey also knows first-hand why donating blood is important. Her youngest son was not expected to live when he was born. He received a blood transfusion at birth and is now 10 years old.



Sherri Parsons, of Dallas, enjoys a bowl of homemade beef barley soup after donating blood at the Meadows Nursing Center.

Barbara Glowach, of Trucksville, is coordinator and does public relations for the Back Mountain Blood Council, working nearly every blood drive in the Back Mountain. At the Meadows drive, Glowach put donation bags together, a skill she was trained to do by the Red Cross for which she has volunteered for 20 years.

According to Marilyn Gregorski, volunteer coordinator for the Meadows Nursing Center, the first blood drive held at the Meadows was in August of 1987. Since then, over 1700 units of blood have been donated at Meadows drives.

"It's part of our way of giving back to the community," Gregorski said. "Plus, we make nice friends here."

Michelle Mancke, 23, of Dallas, gave blood for about the sixth time during the January 22 drive.

A former candystriper at the Meadows, Mancke first donated blood as a student at Mansfield University. Although she had heard horror stories from other blood donors and was afraid of the needle at first, she soon learned here was nothing to fear.

"The first time I donated, I was pretty much in tears," she said. "The nurse came over to me and asked if I was okay and I was like, 'No, I'm so happy.'"

Mancke says the Meadows Center was convenient because it is near her home and the hours of the drive fit her work schedule. She made an appointment to give blood ahead of time and did not have to wait more than five minutes.

Everyone who donated blood at the Meadows received a long-sleeve t-shirt and was treated to homemade beef barley soup and snacks.

Back Mountain blood drives set

The American Red Cross will conduct two blood drives on Monday, Feb. 4.

One will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Lehman Campus of Penn State University. Although this drive is on campus, all donors are welcome.

The second drive will be the regular bi-monthly drive from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Irem Country Club, Dallas.

The double red unit will be at both drives.

Misericordia University will

sponsor a blood drive from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7.

The double red unit will be present at this drive.

Although this drive is being held on campus, it is a community drive.

The PTO group of the Dallas Elementary School will sponsor a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, on the elementary school campus. All parents and friends of the students are encouraged to attend and do-

nate.

The Red Cross requests that all donors bring Identification and their Red Cross blood card. First-time donors will receive a card after their first donation.

Anyone 17 years of age, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good health is eligible to donate.

A pre-scheduled appointment can be made to reduce the time needed for donating. To schedule an appointment call 823-7164, extension 2150.

CIVIC BRIEFS

Alzheimer's Support Group meets Feb. 7

The Dallas Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, in the board room of the Meadows Nursing Center, 55 West Center Hill Road, Dallas.

Barbershoppers offer singing valentines

A special "Singing Valentines Project" is being sponsored by the Wilkes-Barre Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society on February 14. Quartets from within the chapter will deliver "Singing Valentines" between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. throughout Wyoming Valley, complete with songs, a rose, a card and candy in "surprise presentation" from donors' requests.

The unusual Valentine gift is available by calling 709-3716. Proceeds from the program aid the chapter's charity service programs.

Music Box to present

"Hello, Dolly!"

"Hello, Dolly!" will be presented at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swoyersville, February 14-17, 21-24, 28, 29, March 1 and 2.

The show is presented at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 3 p.m. on Sundays. A buffet dinner will be served 90 minutes before curtain.

Tickets are on sale for dinner and show and show/only with discounts available for children, students and senior citizens. Group rates are also available.

For more information, call 283-2195.

Valentines Square Dance scheduled

A Valentines Square Dance will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Noxen School, School Street, Noxen with the Roger Furman Band playing and calling. There will be a Queen of Hearts contest, door prizes, food and refreshments.

Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

The dance is sponsored by the Noxen Historical Community Association Inc. with all proceeds to benefit the N.H.C.A. building project. For more information, call 298-2052.

'Go Red' Fashion Show set for Feb. 16

Scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16, at noon at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Plains, the Fifth Annual "Go Red" Fashion Show will feature models who are directly involved in the struggle against heart disease - all wearing the latest in everyday fashions available at and donated by local retail stores.

Tickets cost \$20 per person and proceeds will benefit The Heart and Vascular Institute at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and the AHA. Reservations can be made by calling Wyoming Valley Health Care System at 552-7408.



The team of doctors who go to South America to perform surgery as part of Community Care for Kids are, from left, Dr. David Levens, Dr. Ray Ortega, Dr. Frank Collini and Dr. Jamie Morhaim.

Having fun, helping kids

It was a night of glitter, fun and caring at the second annual "Carnivale" to benefit Community Cares for Kids.

The event, held Saturday, Jan. 26, at The Highlands at Newberry Estates, raised money for the Back Mountain-based non-profit organization that assists underprivileged children suffering from congenital birth defects. Community Cares for Kids was founded about two and a half years ago by Dr. Francis and Susan Collini.

In June 2007, Dr. Collini of the Renaissance Center in Shavertown, along with his team of volunteers, performed about 62 surgeries on children at Naval Hospital in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In the next month or so, a girl from the Philippines will be brought to the area for free surgery



Karen and Vince Tassitano, of Shavertown, brightened the night.

through the organization.

The black-tie "Carnivale" event featured exquisite food, open bar and entertainment with New Orleans and Vienna

flair.

Guests were encouraged to wear masks and beads for the evening.

NEW KINGSTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS



Three supervisors were welcomed at the January 7 organizational meeting of Kingston Township. From left, are John Solinsky, Jeffrey Box, James Reino and Magistrate James Tupper.