

The DALLAS POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

City kids get a little fresh air

By CHRISTIE DELICATI
For The Dallas Post

Frequently there are five. Sometimes six. And, it is not unlikely that at the home of Becky and Terry Price in Sweet Valley, there could be as many as 13 children spending time there and, sometimes, at only a moment's notice. Throughout nearly two decades of marriage, the Prices have hosted as many as 13 children at one time.

As often as possible, the couple welcomes young people of all ages into their home and into their lives as participants of the Fresh Air Fund program. The family home - a 1300 square foot ranch-style home with a finished basement - offers plenty of room for kids to "camp out" as well as several extra beds.

Becky, 38, a stay-at-home mom, and her 43-year-old husband, Terry, a self-employed contractor,

TO LEARN MORE ...

For more information about The Fresh Air Fund or to find out how to become a host, contact their New York office at 800-367-0003 or go to www.freshair.org.

have a genuine devotion to community and generosity. What's more, they have five of their own children: Kevin, 17; Timothy, 14; Sam, 7; Todd, 5; and 18 month-old Juliette, all of whom support, encourage and enjoy the extra company.

One child in particular, named Maciel and nicknamed "Mosse," will arrive at the Price home in July to spend his fourth year enjoying a two-week vacation from his hometown in Brooklyn, NY.

Vacations are special to most everyone, but for Mosse these vacations to Sweet Valley are indeed precious. Now 14, he has been vacationing at the Price home since he was 10 years old. Mosse does not take his vacation for granted and comes to Northeast Pennsylvania to enjoy nothing more than Back Mountain "fresh air" with the Price family.

"Mosse's father was killed in Brooklyn by an alleged drug dealer," says Becky. "These are the kinds of things this child has to worry about everyday back home."

Thanks to the independent, not-for-profit Fresh Air Fund and its Friendly Town Program, Mosse is one of nearly 5,000 kids from New York City given the opportunity each summer to spend time in small-town communities like that of Sweet Valley.

Providing free "Fresh Air" vacations to underprivileged children, the organization gives Mosse and thousands of others the chance to take a summer vacation away from some of New York's toughest and poor neighborhoods. The experience of different lifestyles and environments without the burden of associated costs and worry can undeniably be measured as dreams really do come true for these children.

According to Becky, The

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Locals heralded for their acts of bravery

The morning of May 20, 2007 was just another day for Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Truman Brandt. He was doing his job. Then, a car being pursued by state troopers on State Route 29 in Lake Township crashed head on into Brandt's cruiser and both vehicles engulfed in flames. Knocked unconscious from the crash, Brandt was unable to exit the car.

Three local men took action. Trooper First Class William Gross and Trooper Robert Rogers, both of the PSP Tunkhannock barracks, immediately went to Brandt's aid. Lehman Township Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Bernard Dobinick arrived on scene not long after and assisted the troopers in pulling Brandt out of his patrol car.

For their bravery, the three men were honored by the Rotary Club

of Dallas at its First Responder of the Year 2007 Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 22, two days after the first anniversary of the event, at the Appletree Terrace at Newberry Estates in Dallas.

"I've been involved in emergency services for 36 years and have seen a lot of things happen, but honestly this one was overwhelming for me," Dobinick said last July.

Members of Back Mountain police, fire and ambulance departments also received EMT, Fire and Police Officer of the Year awards.

Pennsylvania Senator Lisa Baker and Pennsylvania Representative Karen Boback were in attendance at the dinner and gave welcoming remarks.

2007 EMT of the Year: Susan Davis, Kunkle Fire and Ambulance; and **Tonya Gannon**, Dallas Fire and Ambulance

Davis responded to 92 ambulance calls and was on call for over 1,500 hours while serving as Assistant Ambulance Chief for Kunkle Fire and Ambulance during 2007. She is treasurer of the Relief Association, teaches CPR classes at the department and prepares grant applications and recertification of the ambulance.

Gannon is the chief of Dallas Ambulance. In 2007, she responded to 241 ambulance calls and was on call for 1,429 hours. Her service helped Dallas Fire and Ambulance's 99 percent successful response rate.

2007 Firefighter of the Year: Tim Rismondo, Dallas Fire and Ambulance

Rismondo started Dallas Fire and Ambulance's Junior Firefighter Program, allowing high school students to join the department

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Sergeant Douglas H.J. Higgins, right, of the Dallas Township Police Department, is awarded the 2007 Police Officer of the Year Award by the Dallas Rotary as State Representative Karen Boback looks on. Higgins served as a member of an interagency investigating unit that investigated the homicide death of Dallas Township resident Brian Kocis.

"It's something I've always wanted to do. And when the PTO was looking for an incentive for children to get their parents to come in and give blood, I thought this is something I can do."

Debra Demming
Lake-Noxen Elementary Principal



JONATHAN J. JUKA PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Noxen Elementary Principal Debra Demming gets a quick lesson about how to jump out of an airplane.

One flying high principal

By REBECCA BRIA
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It's a bird! It's a plane! No - it's ... Principal Demming!

Lake-Noxen Elementary School Principal Debra Demming made a tandem parachute jump from an airplane in front of her student body at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28, at the Skyhaven Airport in Tunkhannock.

Demming made the jump as a reward to her students who encouraged their parents and relatives to donate 48 pints of blood at an American Red Cross drive at the school in March. A hat day and a dress down day were also held to raise money for the organization, garnering \$550 and surpassing a goal of \$500.

Students who had permission to attend the jump were bused to the airport.

"It's something I've always want-



Lake-Noxen Elementary students watch as their principal skydives.

ed to do," Demming said of the jump. "And when the PTO was looking for an incentive for children to get their

learn how to get out of the plane, learn about the harness and positioning of the legs, how to land and basic rules.

Minutes before she jumped, Demming said she felt "anxious, very anxious" and "ready to go." The students played with toy parachutes given to them by airport employees as they waited for their principal to jump.

A group of third-grade girls excitedly awaited their principal to fall from the airplane.

"She said if we raised enough money and blood, she'd jump out of an airplane," said Katie Feeley.

"She gets to jump off an airplane and it's so fun," said Evelyn Hosey.

"We hope she doesn't get hurt," said Autumn Wallace.

"I'd never think she would do it 'cause she's our principal," said Kaitlyn Meehan.

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