

CARAWAY

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ing Caraway Street every week since its inception. Now a fifth-grader at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, Chaga has begun volunteering at the production.

"This is my first time doing sound," Chaga said. "I come to teach the children about Jesus."

Leigh Pagnotti and Stephanie Chaga especially enjoy break time, which involves singing and dancing to faith-based songs. A "lucky duck" is also selected during the break where each child receives a number and a duck is drawn from a pond. The child with the number matching the one underneath the duck is profiled and he or she receives a prize.

Eleven-year-old Ariana Saxe, a fifth-grader at Lake-Noxen Elementary School, was the "lucky duck" on Feb. 25. She has a brother and four pets - two cats and two tarantulas - she likes art and wants to be a dance teacher when she grows up.

Kathy Oliver, of Harveys Lake, takes her sons, Mark and David Oliver, and her granddaughters, Anya and Antanotte Grzesek, to Caraway Street. The family is new to Dallas Baptist Church and Caraway Street and Oliver says she can't keep the children away.

"They love it," Oliver said. "That's all we hear about. They look forward to this and they learn new things and bring them home."



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Jacob Kapral enjoys music and dancing during a production of Caraway Street at Dallas Baptist Church. Founded by Texas residents Ron and Chris Solomon, Caraway Street is a copyrighted creation that uses actors and Sesame Street-like puppets called "little people" on a set of a street to teach children about the Bible and Christian values.



Left: Amy Ide, Stefanie Florencio and John Doerfler rehearse their lines before the start of a production of Caraway Street at Dallas Baptist Church. About 10 volunteer actors meet for two hours each Sunday afternoon to prepare for the following Wednesday's production.



Right: Ariana Saxe, second from left, leads a group of younger children during a production of Caraway Street at Dallas Baptist Church. The children's Christian program is held at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday night at the church.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FOR THE DALLAS POST

A team of 14 volunteers organized through Back Mountain Harvest Assembly will head to Managua, Nicaragua from March 18 to March 25 for their third annual medical missionary trip. This year, an additional four volunteers will join the missionaries to do construction work on the Havellah House, a home for exploited females. Looking over pictures from last year's trip are, from left, Fran Fink, Guy and Barbara Giordano.

MISSION

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bring in the medicine and all of the labels must be changed from English to Spanish.

The task is so daunting that the missionaries needed help. They approached the Dallas School District and the students and faculty of the Spanish department there provided translations and new labels for this year's trip.

"They felt it was a phenomenal outreach program, plus it's a way to teach their students," Suzanne Hillard said.

Each volunteer must dedicate one piece of luggage to carry medicine. Since airlines have started charging for luggage, the volun-

teers are limited in what they can bring, which always includes treats for the children, many of whom have never owned a toy.

"You'd think you gave them a million dollars," Ron Hillard said. "Last year there was a little girl with Down Syndrome. We gave her a doll and it's like we gave her the world. You couldn't have prided that doll away from her with a forklift."

Suzanne Hillard was stung by a scorpion while she was showering on the 2008 mission and, although the experience was an unpleasant one, she feels it was a small price to pay to help others.

"When the children lay down at night, the worms make them choke," she said. "If you can eradicate the worms by treating them, at least they (the children) have a chance."

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