



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Christine Zavaskas of Leadership Wilkes-Barre shows donations from two supply drives that her group donated to Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge at a volunteer appreciation picnic at the refuge in Franklin Township.

VOLUNTEERS

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fast and we needed visiting hours because I live here. People stop by at all hours and we can't get everything done."

Bart said part of the problem, too, is the growing need for more volunteers at the shelter. Currently, Bart has about 10 "very dedicated" volunteers and 30 "off and on" volunteers.

"That's typical for any organization, but we need more," she said.

Bart also said the Leadership Wilkes-Barre group sponsored the installation of air conditioning and electrical upgrades in the Kitty Cottage in addition to the food and supply drive, which was held at Pet Supplies Plus in Wilkes-Barre.

Theresa Sufleta, of Sweet Valley, has been volunteering at Blue Chip for three years and wishes she could do more.

"When I get stressed out, it's a good feeling to be here, knowing I'm helping the animals," said Sufleta.

George Layaou, of Franklin Township, said after he retired, he had nothing better to do, but he chose to volunteer at Blue Chip because of its mission and the people involved.

"The people here seem to have a goal - they aren't doing it because they want to be seen doing it," he said. "They aren't doing it for the fame and fortune."

Layaou said sometimes it's a difficult job - especially since most of the animals who come to Blue Chip do so in less-than-happy circumstances.

He said one night his son, a state trooper, was called out to investigate a dog that had been thrown off a bridge. Layaou said the owners had expected the dog to hit water and drown, but instead the dog hit a pole and land-



Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge President Marge Bart expresses her appreciation for a new sign sponsored by Leadership Wilkes-Barre.



Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge volunteer Sara Horton plays with Zeek, a German short-haired pointer at the kennel in Franklin Township.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge, visit www.bcfanimalrefuge.org.

ed on a road beneath the bridge. Layaou said the county in which the dog was found had no animal control services, so the dog was taken to Blue Chip. Within a week, the dog, which Bart named Gigi after Layaou and his son George Jr., was adopted.

"We have 30-some dogs - we're at maximum capacity - and many of them are older dogs that have been abused," said Bart. "Everyone doesn't need a puppy or a kitten. We have a lot of older animals here than can be alone for eight to 10 hours a day and would love to have you come home."

GRANGE

Continued from Page 1

"I remember the pork and sauerkraut suppers when I was little," she. "They were always served family-style."

Swanson said the Grange post recently had members of the state Grange attend a meeting to revitalize the post, including setting meeting dates and trying to boost membership.

She said the Grange previously met on a haphazard basis, and the group did not strictly follow Grange requirements.

"I said, if I don't do something, we're going to lose this," she said.

Currently the group has 17 members, and 10 members just joined at the May meeting.

"This excites me because there's just so much to offer people," Swanson said of the Grange.

In addition to providing outlets for families to spend time together, Swanson said the Grange is known for its grassroots activism and had an important role in women's suffrage.

"They always try to keep it half men and half women," she said. "During the women's rights movement, women could vote in the Grange but they couldn't vote elsewhere."

But the Grange has changed some, too. Anyone can join the Grange - it's not just a rural-based organization anymore. The Grange is Christian-based, but Swanson said members of other religions are welcome to join.

"To hold a meeting, you must have an American flag and an open Bible present,"

she said.

Swanson wants to promote values and traditions on which the Grange was founded, such as hometown roots and family.

"Honesty, integrity, patriotism, love of country - these are the things we learned at our mothers' knees," she.

She hopes the Grange can provide activities for families and children in the community as a way to help youngsters learn from their elders.

"My sister said she would go to the Grange and a woman there would teach her and other children how to cook," said Swanson. "She taught my sister how to make salads."

Swanson also would like to see the Grange provide services to the community, such as making care packages for those in the military or teaching locals how to tend a garden.

"This is a place where people can get together and do activities that are inexpensive," she said.

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