

# The DALLAS POST

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## Remember 'CC' by donating blood

By SARAH HITE  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Terri Besecker tries to wear something - a piece of jewelry, an article of clothing - every day to remember her daughter, Cecilia, who died in a car accident on June 28, 2012.

Now family, friends and community members can do their part to keep the memory of Cecilia, affectionately known as "CC," alive while helping others.

A blood drive in memory of Cecilia will be held at St. Therese's Roman Catholic Church in Shavertown from noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10. The blood drive will benefit the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

An employee of St. Therese's Church, Terri said the church hosts blood drives throughout the year. She thought it might be a good way to keep Cecilia's memory alive.

Participants, in addition to making an appointment with the Red Cross, are encouraged to wear polka dots and pearls, which were staples of Cecilia's wardrobe.

"I used to call her Pearl because she used to have pearls on all the time," Terri said. "What kid wears pearls? But she loved them."

The 22-year-old Dallas High School graduate was attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania and studying fashion merchandising at the time of her death.



People who knew Cecilia 'CC' Besecker say she knew how to have a good time. Besecker was killed in an automobile accident in June 2012. Her memory will be kept alive at a blood drive set for Thursday.

"She kind of set her own path with fashion," Terri said. "She could put anything together and just really pulled it off."

Courtney Besecker, Cecilia's twin sister, said Cecilia was always the brave one, and she even attempted to give blood once in high school, though she had a fever at the time and could not donate.

"I was too much of a chicken to do it," Courtney said.

Though the twins had their differences - Courtney is study-

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## BELTING OUT A CHRISTMAS CAROL



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Madison Birth, left, and Brace Roote sing during the Ross Elementary School kindergarten holiday program. For more photos from the program, please turn to page 8.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Three-year-old Ryan Crawford, of Dallas Township, receives a Penguins bobblehead from radio announcer Mike O'Brien.

## Santa Tux is big hit with kids at library

By GIA MAZUR  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Players from the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Penguins hockey team visited the Back Mountain Memorial Library during "Christmas with the Penguins" to read Christmas stories to local children and promote the importance of literacy among youth.

Team mascot, Tux, came dressed in a festive Santa suit,

"[The kids] get excited to see us, but then Tux shows up and it's like we're in the background. He cracks me up, though. He's so funny."

Bobby Farnham  
Penguins hockey player

red hat and all, shaking hands with children and the adults who accompanied them. He danced around and shook bells, conducting the crowd in a rendition of "Jingle Bells." The children, as well as most adults, joined in singing the Christmas carol to get in the

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## Looking beyond their own wish lists

DHS graduates give up part of Christmas vacation to serve homeless men.

By ELIZABETH BAUMEISTER  
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Nine Dallas High School graduates, along with many other volunteers, took the opportunity this Christmas season to look beyond their own holiday wishes, reaching out to care for the needs of a group of people who otherwise may not have had a merry Christmas: the homeless.

Rebecca Stull and Emily Collins, both freshmen at Temple University, gathered a group of friends, including Kaylin Russell, Kelly Healey, Catherine Coslett, Dana Jolley, Morgan Dingle, Elizabeth Hoover and Yael Chodosh to volunteer during Christmas at Camp Orchard Hill.

The event, now in its fourth year, ran from Dec. 17 to 31, during which time a group of about 25 homeless men were given beds to sleep in, a place to shower, three meals a day, recreational opportunities, Christmas presents and friendly people with whom to share the holiday. The camp's event was one stop in an ongoing program run by Mother Theresa Shelter, a subdivision of Catholic Social Services.

Stull, Collins and their friends volunteered Dec. 27, working in the kitchen. Stull explained they helped out with whatever needed doing, such as serving food, cleaning up and simply sitting and talking with the guests. The group also volunteered during last year's event, doing the same things. The year before, Stull and Collins volunteered during



ELIZABETH BAUMEISTER PHOTOS/ THE DALLAS POST

Bill Ackerman, of Dallas, serves Christmas dinner to a homeless man at Camp Orchard Hill. Joining Ackerman are, from left, Masha Ackerman, Yuri Ackerman and Kaylin Russell.

a similar Easter event at the camp for their senior project when they were juniors at Dallas High School.

When asked why they keep coming back, Collins said, "We just enjoyed being around the men and doing something for them."

Stull said the best part of the

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Dallas High School graduates who volunteered their time at Camp Orchard Hill during the Christmas holiday are, from left, kneeling, Elizabeth Hoover and Morgan Dingle. Standing, Emily Collins, Kelly Healey, Catherine Coslett, Rebecca Stull, Kaylin Russell, Dana Jolley and Yael Chodosh.



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