

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
S

FOIA Number:
S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13697
Folder ID Number: 13697-001

Folder Title:
Commercial Appeal Volunteerism Event 11/22/89 [OA 6344] [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	19	5	3

Presidential Remarks

*network
COT
youth
Blessley*

(Lange/Blessey)
November 17, 1989
2:00 ~~11:30~~ a.m.
[1000.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMMERCIAL APPEAL VOLUNTEERISM EVENT
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989
[12:00 P.M.]

((You know, back before the Civil War -- just after William Henry Harrison was elected President -- this newspaper was named the "Appeal."

The founder said he named it that, as an "appeal to the sober second thoughts of the people, to elect a Democratic president in the next election."

Well, with traditions like that, you can imagine how lucky I feel to be here today.))

Last June I gave a speech about something called the "Points of Light" initiative. Our goal was to make community service central to the life and work of every individual and every institution in America.

I asked people and groups across the country to think about the special, unique contribution they could make ~~in service to~~ *help* ~~others~~ *those* around them. *And if suggested just a few possibilities.*

~~I suggested that~~ Banks and utility companies could add community service information to their mailings.

~~I called on~~ real estate developers, contractors, architects and lenders ^{and} to team up for decent, affordable housing for the homeless.

But I do feel lucky to be here to talk about something critical to our nation that you're all here.

too much like feeling points
~~I~~ And I asked every restaurant, grocery and convenience store and farm to make surplus food available to the hungry each day.

And To the news media, I made a special request. *has no power over* No institution in America ~~can better appeal to~~ public opinion, *the media can* shape public attitudes, heighten awareness, and mobilize people for action, ~~than the news media.~~

So the role of the media is a special one. They can remind
~~To change attitudes to convince~~ Americans that illiteracy, drug abuse, homelessness, hunger and other social problems *-- that there* have solutions and aren't just somebody else's problems. *--* to convey that message, The press has more power than any president.

A month after I announced the Points of Light initiative, The Commercial Appeal in Memphis responded. Along ^{with} the reporting and commenting on problems -- which is every free paper's right and responsibility -- they took on an added responsibility.

They began pointing to solutions.

They started doing profiles of 1,000 individual and institutional "points of light" last summer -- at a time when a lot of people were still trying to figure out what I meant by a "thousand points of light."

Well, you understood. And you've brought that idea to life.

Tomorrow is a day unique to America. A day where we pause, gather together, and give thanks. It's my hope that by this time next year, a growing national service movement will mean more Americans will have more to be thankful for.

Today I'd like to challenge every publisher, every broadcaster, every member of the American news media, to follow the lead of the Commercial Appeal. *May have been to do so. They more can.*

By putting the spotlight on citizens who have made community service part of their definition of success, this newspaper is encouraging others to do the same. And proving that the volunteer spirit is alive and well in ~~and around~~ the volunteer state. *Just the best of intentions*

For the millions who want to help others in need but wonder how, this newspaper and this community are showing that **there are at least a thousand ways to lead others out of darkness.**

I think of Fred Daniels, a retired salesman, starting what *it has* may be the world's ~~first and only~~ *best* catfish cooking team, formed to raise funds for charities.

He and his friends travel all over, towing an 8,000 pound cooker to company picnics, and donating the proceeds to causes like United Cerebral Palsy.

Or Kim McLaughlin -- 18 years old -- who volunteered for the Tennessee Outreach Program. She's been working in the hills rebuilding houses, painting, and laying down floors.

She says, "I like seeing the smiles on people's faces after we're done. When we were finished, they cried."

((Don't worry, Kim -- you should have seen how Barbara reacted the last time I tried to lay down a floor.))

I understand that Sam Cooper [who's here on the platform] has raised more than \$20 million for civic causes. Sam has just

been named the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of 1989 by the National Society of Fundraising Executives. ((We may want to put him to work on the federal budget...))

Maybe you read about Pauline Hord, 82 years old.

((Pardon me, Ma'am...)) She goes about 100 miles each way to the Mississippi Penitentiary at Parchman, every Wednesday, to teach prisoners how to read.

Somebody at the prison had been talking about an inmate who couldn't read a bible if he'd had one -- so Mrs. Hord stepped forward. She's taught nearly 140 prisoners to read. And now she's training them to teach others.

"I'm a teacher of teachers," she says.

Lillie Belle Witcher -- now, **she's** only 79 -- ^{she} works hard for nearly half a dozen causes. ~~She~~ She says, "If a day goes by and I haven't done something for somebody, it just seems like a wasted day."

Forget fortune, fame, glory, and glittering prizes: **These** are great American success stories. And they're powerful reminders that **everyone** can do something for someone else.

Mary Taylor spent 16 years on welfare. She says "I used it, and it used me." Now she is a community activist who helps the poor get back on their feet. "We all have a place to be part of the system no matter what level we are on," she says.

Along with a sense of pride, for others, ²volunteering is a source of great pleasure. Cari McRae says her tutoring work "isn't a burden. It makes me feel satisfied." Danita Beck, who

volunteers in a hospital, says "If you have extra time, why just sit around and not use it when someone else needs it?" And Marian Himmelreich, who lifeguards autistic children, says "It's fun to be busy and involved. Besides, I'm not that wild about the soaps."

From disk jockeys to truck drivers to CEOs to children to the retired -- service to others can be a central part of American life. It's never been more needed than it is now.

It ought to be talked about in board rooms and ⁽ⁿ⁾bowling ~~alleys~~ teams, factories, Rotaries, fraternities, sororities, farms, families, cities and union halls, suburbs and shopping malls --

Everywhere in America: Everyone has a gift to give.

If you've got a hammer, find a nail. If you can read, find someone who can't. If you're not in trouble, seek out someone who is. **Everywhere there is a need in America, there is a way to meet it.**

Every individual, every institution has a unique power -- a special talent or angle on America's problems. And every institution in America should do what you've done here.

Follow your lead **So we're going to start with the White House. For the next thousand days, we're going to announce and honor individuals and groups across the country who are making a difference -- working to improve the lives of others -- giving more Americans reason to give thanks.**

These "Daily Points of Light" won't be singled out because they themselves are the best. We honor them because they show what's best in all of us. What's best for all of us.

To honor their spirit and commitment is to honor yours -- and those like you. We will single out the few, because they represent the many.

Our greatest hope is that by highlighting their achievements, and the ways they've found to serve, we can inspire others to serve.

So I want to close by announcing the first White House "Daily Point of Light." It's an organization that has devoted itself to spreading the volunteer ethic in its community.

They're the reason we're all here today: they're the leadership and staff of the Memphis Commercial Appeal. [PAUSE]

Imagine an America where service to others is a fact of life. Part of everyone's everyday thinking. Imagine the impact if every newspaper, magazine, television and radio station and cable system found and recognized a thousand points of light.

We are on the brink of a new decade. Let it be blessed with
~~There would be~~ no dark corners. No forgotten places. No lost people. There would be no need in America that could not be met by someone, somehow.

We have become known as a land of opportunity. But of all the opportunities we have, this may be one we can least afford to miss.

Thank you. God bless you -- and the work you do.

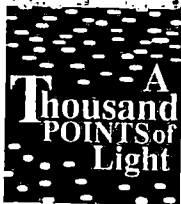
#

Volunteer efforts span generations

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 For Sanford J. Mann, 36, community service can be cause to celebrate. A resident of East Memphis, he has organized numerous parties to benefit civic and charitable causes and others just to say thanks. "I believe, as administrator of a nursing home, that we should be more than just brick and mortar," says the head of Rosewood Manor, who came here from New York 3½ years ago. Mann's luncheon benefits have raised funds for causes including Alzheimer's aid, and paralyzed Memphis police officer Tim Beacham, who was shot in the line of duty.



 Mindy Cole, 17, makes time in her schedule for community service. The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frances Cole Jr., she does volunteer work for the United Way Youth Advisory Board and the Memphis Teen Volunteer Board. As vice-chairman of the Marketing and Communication Committee, she helps plan events including a thank-you luncheon for volunteers and a "kids karnival" to benefit charities. "There is no one willing to give hours to help out the community. I love the feeling of working hand in hand with children. It is an important part of my life," says the Midtown resident. Miss Cole also contributes to the United Way newsletter, which communicates to adults about the work of the United Way Youth Advisory Board, and she de-

votes 7½ hours a week reading to youngsters at Smart Camp, sponsored by the Junior League during the summer.

 Eva Quinley, 35, is good medicine for health care recruitment. Mrs. Quinley, a medical technologist and assistant professor at UT, Memphis, volunteers for the Optional Program for Medical Laboratory at Memphis City Schools and private schools. She has spoken at approximately 20 schools about careers in the health care system, proper health care and scholarships available in the allied health care field. "There is a shortage in the allied health field and the next 10 years are crucial, so I try and encourage young people to enter into that field," says the Southeast Memphis resident. Mrs. Quinley also volunteers for the Memphis Society for Medical Technology. She has been in charge of Fun Run for two years, a foot race in which all proceeds go to the Dream Factory. Mrs. Quinley, a mother of two, is especially concerned about informing children about health care. "I like to tell young people how important health care is," she says.

 Dr. Elizabeth Harris, 39, helps teen mothers develop their parenting skills. Dr. Harris, a child psychologist in private practice, does volunteer work for Mother Love, a training program for teenage mothers at the Parenting Center. Dr. Harris works with teenage mothers to help them strengthen their parenting skills and set goals for themselves in order to stay in school. This program is at some of the public high schools in Memphis. "The girls are motivated. They are able to take their situation and make it better," says the East Memphis resident. Dr. Harris, mother of one, also teaches parenting skills in the Creative Parent-Child classes. She teaches the mothers how to play with their children and how to provide their children with a safe environment.

 Lester Werner, 45, of East Memphis, is on call every day, saving

people's lives. As chief of the Emergency Services Division, Werner trains volunteers in first aid, search and rescue, and extrication. The program, under the auspices of the Sheriff's Department, is designed to aid citizens of Memphis, Shelby County and surrounding municipalities every day. A flood in Millington, caused Emergency Services personnel to evacuate people, put them in shelters, and administer first aid. Werner is instrumental in financing and operating the services, but emphasizes that if it weren't for the hard work of 120 other volunteers, the operation would not exist.

"These people are super," he says. "We are very confident with the fact that we can respond in a professional manner as called upon. We are looking for Memphians to join us in this endeavor."

 Glenn Ann Martin, 42, believes dreams can come true. That's why she's a volunteer for the Dream Factory, which helps seriously or terminally ill children realize their dreams. Her busy schedule includes time as wife, mother of two, and a career as a mental health clinical nurse specialist at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center and counselor/consultant in private practice. Ms. Martin has helped more than 100 patients and still finds time to locate and screen children for the program. "I have always been involved with children and what I do makes a difference; it makes a positive difference," says the East Memphis resident. She does speaking engagements, seeking support for the Dream Factory, and for Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who have lost their children to death. And she also has helped grieving children at Camp Amanda in Des Moines, Iowa, adjust to family deaths.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Camp builds ^{8/2}pride ¹⁴⁵

By Mary Lou Brown

A Thousand Points of Light

Whoever coined "happy camper" could have had Lewis E. Thomas, 84, in mind.

Known simply as Mr. T to many campers, Thomas has been to camp every summer since he

was 11 — 73 years, with one exception, and that year he taught swimming and life-saving in Nashville.

For years, it was his job. But since his retirement as the YMCA associate metro executive 19 years ago, Thomas has been a volunteer. He just completed his 51st year as director of the Man-for-Boy Club, which sends 100 underprivileged boys to a two-week camp in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains each summer. He founded the club in 1939 with L.S. Lawo and Edward J. Meehan, late editor of the old Memphis Press-Scimitar.

Thomas' job is not easy.

He starts looking for the boys and the staff in early January. Most of the boys

are from one-parent homes. He visits schools and welfare agencies, looking for boys who need father figures and who would benefit from a camping experience.

He finds cooks, a nurse, and able-bodied men to serve as counselors. He approaches food distributors and gets free jellies, jams, honey and peanut butter. He buys all the other supplies and foods. He goes to camp weeks in advance to see what repairs are needed. He inventories sports equipment and replaces needed items. He searches for videos of movies for the boys to watch on rainy nights.

A lot of folks thought the 50th anniversary of Man-for-Boy camp in 1988 would bring an end to the Mr. T era. Not so. Thomas, who admits that its tougher now than ever, was back again this year.

"These kids had nothing," says Thomas, who has no children of his own. "They got an inspiration out of camping that carried them through life. That's the reason I've held on to it. They had no ambition and now they all want to be leaders. I'm here because of the kids that have grown up in it. They call me and tell me what they've become."

Thomas' wife of 60 years, Elizabeth, is a victim of Alzheimer disease. But Thomas continues to care for her as well as nine cats, who just happened upon his doorstep.

Ron Walter, president of the Kiwanis Club of Memphis, which sponsors the Man-For-Boy Club, says when the time comes, it will be difficult to replace Thomas.

"He puts in so much time," said Walter. "He has single-handedly built the camp. His energy and creativity have combined to make this one of the most enriching and rewarding camping experiences for boys in this area."

"Former campers, like Congressman

Bill Alexander, of Arkansas, still come back to rub elbows with him."

Other points of light:

 Terry Adams, 35, of South Memphis, helps children reach out and adults catch on. "I see how a child changes. I can see the progress that a child makes by coming around me," she says about the children that she encourages at Alcy Road Elementary. A volunteer at the school for five years, she assists with breakfast, checks papers, accompanies students on field trips and helps out in the library. Ms. Adams also is an active member of the PTA, representing Alcy Road Elementary at the monthly Memphis Council of PTA meetings. A mother of one and a Sunday School teacher at Union Valley Baptist Church, she motivates both children and parents. "Some children just need to reach out. I try to help the child and motivate the parents and tell them their child does have interest and can do what other children do." The South Memphis resident also helps adults with their reading and math skills at the Each One Teach One program.

 Aimee Barksdale is a second generation hospital pink lady. Mrs. Barksdale, 62 and mother of two, is volunteer director of St. Francis Hospital and has been volunteering for nine years. "My mother was a pink lady at Methodist Central Hospital and after my father had a stroke and I saw he could manage on his own, I became a pink lady," says the Germantown resident, who received the Volunteer of the Year Award from St. Francis in 1988. Her duties include substituting for other volunteers in the mailroom, delivering flowers to patients, acting as a liaison between family members and the medical nursing staff in the critical care unit, running errands for the medical staff and comforting grieving family members.

 Dorothy Davis, 71, had breast cancer 14 years ago and knows what mastectomy patients go through. "Because of my own experience, I want to help other women. You have to be in that person's shoes to know what they are going through," says the Millington resident. An active Reach to Recovery volunteer, she consults with mastectomy patients and tells them how to take care of themselves. She also speaks at educational programs, distributes literature at health fairs and provides life-saving information to the public about breast cancer. And she organized the Millington Jail-a-thon, raising more than \$13,000 for the American Cancer Society. She is also president of Millington Business Professional Women, active with the Memphis Area Mastectomy Association, a member of the American Cancer Society Honorary Board of Directors, and serves on the public education and service and rehabilitation committees.

Mary Lou Brown is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



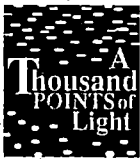
Thomas

VIEWPOINT

By Lynn Saunders

Let those who can't see feel the world's beauty

By Jim Terrell



The lives that Dr. John G. Hughes touches touch back.

A retired music professor and college dean, he started ARTS for the Blind and the Visually Impaired (ARBVI) in 1987 to give the sight

handicapped a feel for art. His foundation provides the blind and visually impaired touch-to-see art tours of museums, and he has shared its resources nationally. Long a public radio reader for the blind, Midtown resident Hughes, 68, volunteered as a reader for radio WTTN and as a docent at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art after retiring in 1984 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Recognizing limitations art museums pose for the blind, he created a "hands-on" tour of sculpture at Brooks to offer a tactile art experience.

When the Ramesses The Great exhibit of Egyptian artifacts was scheduled for Memphis, he says, "I realized that blind people would have no opportunity at all to enjoy Ramesses because they couldn't possibly touch anything."

"The only way they would have any knowledge... would be for me to make models."

That challenge required the former art history and pipe organ teacher to turn sculptor for six to eight months.

Working at home on his backporch and in his garage with illustrations from an advance exhibit catalog he sculpted, carved and molded 22 life-size clay, wood and papier-mache Ramesses replicas.

"I'm a musician, not an artist," says bachelor Hughes, who expects to



Hughes

be affiliated with Christ Church Presbyterian as organist in September.

"It was a case of trial and error. Not many people could understand what I wanted to do or believed I could do it."

But his models were good enough to accompany the exhibit to Denver and Boston, and to Dallas, where he was called to train 141 volunteers for his touch-to-see program. And Boston's Museum of Science asked him to do models for another exhibit.

Hughes' models return to Memphis this month to be placed in a new touching gallery when the remodeled Brooks Museum reopens in November. The museum will host a major exhibit for the visually impaired next spring.

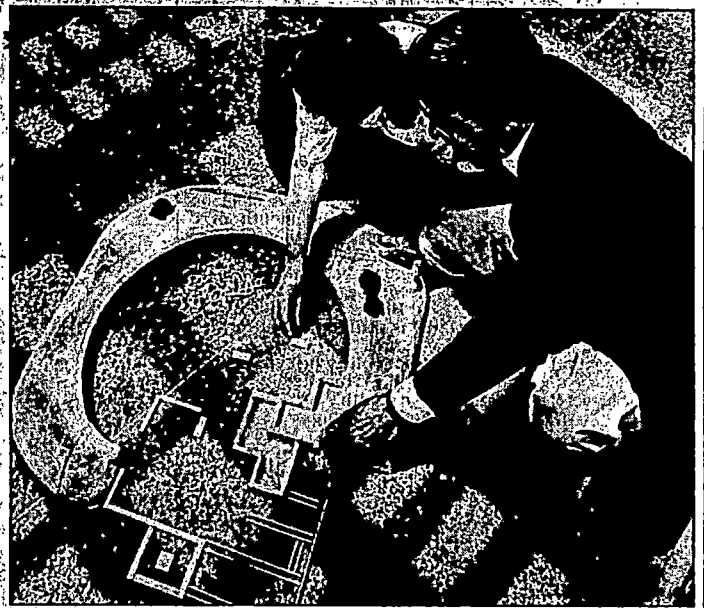
Chosen volunteer of year by Brooks in 1987 and the Memphis Volunteer Center in 1988, Hughes has seen his touch-to-see program expand to Memphis State's art gallery, the National Ornamental Metals Museum, the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, and the Dixon Gallery and Gardens.

ARBVI, which now has nine docents, was chartered as a nonprofit corporation in January and Hughes is making grant applications to help fund its projects.

Hughes was asked to help in plans for the Little Garden Club Sensory Garden at Memphis Botanic Garden, which is scheduled to open this fall. He and docent Diane Kruse are at work at Memphis College of Art on a large tactile map to guide the sight impaired through the gardens.

Other points of light:

Amanda J. Dunagan, 18, of Byhalia, Miss., gets wrapped up in community service. A Byhalia High School graduate, she wrapped Christmas packages at the Collierville Wal-Mart for the past two years to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Amanda, daughter of Robert and Reba Dunagan, became interested in helping MDA several years ago after watching a film about the association's summer camp. "It makes the patients real happy and it makes my life feel fulfilled that I did something as great as that," she says of her two years as an MDA camp counselor. She also has volunteered for MDA as president of the chapter at her school and an office worker at the organization's Germantown office. Amanda plans to continue volunteer work and study business office technology at Northwest Mississippi



John Hughes (right) and Diane Kruse work on the tactile map of the Little Garden Club Sensory Garden.

Community College in Southaven, studying business office technology.

Novella Smith-Arnold, 30, ministers to a captive audience. "I don't feel whole if I haven't touched base at the jail," the Midtown resident says of her countless hours a week as a volunteer chaplain at the Shelby County Correctional Center. She has assisted the indigent, homeless and mentally ill for 10 years. "If I had to identify my role, it would be the liaison between inmates and the proper authorities," she says. A divorced mother of one, she helps people who are falsely arrested to get out of jail through the Criminal Justice Ministry at Calvary Episcopal Church. She buys clothes and medicine, and finds jobs and homes for the destitute. "I do it for the love of the people and for the love of the ministry," she says. "It's fun, it's painful, it's rewarding and it's the work that God says we must do."

Tom Stewart, 52, volunteers to aid AIDS victims. He became involved with fighting Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome and the hyste-

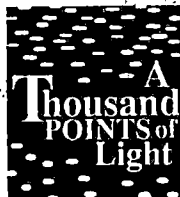
ria surrounding it about four and half years ago — a time when it was not unusual for a person to refuse to shake hands with someone for fear of catching the disease. Stewart, who operates two nightclubs and a video store, is the president of the Aid to End AIDS Committee of Memphis, an organization that raises money through an auction to assist financially strapped AIDS patients and educate gays and the general public about the dangers of AIDS. The volunteer committee also operates an AIDS hotline and provides people to befriend AIDS patients, visiting, running errands and doing other small favors for them.

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

'Class mother' assists in schools

By Michael McMullan

By Steve Gaither



EAST High School principal Ronnie Bynum says that if every school had 100 parents like Ainslie Schmidt, "we could change the world."

The worst thing about Mrs. Schmidt, a 49-year-old native Australian who goes by the nickname 'Gay', is that she and her "Navy family" will be moving from Memphis to another assignment sometime next year. Her husband, Cmdr. Clifford Schmidt, is the executive officer of the Navy ROTC program at Memphis State University.

Mrs. Schmidt has given more than 2,000 hours to the Memphis public schools during the 6½ years they've been in Memphis. Mrs. Schmidt has also volunteered about 1,100 hours reading to the visually impaired listeners of WTTL, which is operated by the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library.

"I don't do that much," she said. "I'm used to volunteering. There are so many rewards in volunteering."

Already the three Schmidt children — Stacey, 26; Mary, 16, a junior at Raleigh-Egypt High School; and Cliff, 18, an East High graduate who will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall — have attended 19 or 20 different schools from San Diego to Italy. Mrs. Schmidt said that's really how she got started volunteering.

"I was always finding a need in the schools," Mrs. Schmidt said. "What do they call it... 'class mother'? Once they get your name on that list and find out you don't have a job, well

Bynum said Mrs. Schmidt has served on his advisory committee at East, a



Ainslie 'Gay' Schmidt volunteers her time to read the morning newspaper over the airwaves of the West Tennessee Talking Library.

panel made up of parents, community leaders, teachers and administrators. The group helps plan new academic programs and organizes school functions. Mrs. Schmidt has also worked with several parent-teacher organizations and helped arrange vision tests for elementary-school children. She also spoke to thousands of schoolchildren when the Memphis in May International Festival honored Australia right after the Schmidts moved to Memphis.

In between all her volunteer and family chores, Mrs. Schmidt also paints and writes.

"The people here are the nicest people you could find anywhere," she said. "We're going to leave a part of us in Memphis."

Other points of light:



The path Arthur Wolff, 63, beats to volunteer service is his own.

Active in Scouting for 25 years, Wolff has directed Boy Scouts in developing and maintaining hiking trails at Shelby Farms. Scouts from throughout the city have used the project to help meet Eagle Scout community service requirements.

"The amenities there could improve the quality of life in the whole area a great deal," he says of the park, which also has been a focus of other volunteer activities for him. Wolff is co-chairman of the Shelby County Conservation Board's water recreation committee, which has been instrumental in development of boating and fishing facilities. And Wolff, who owns a real estate firm, is a board member of the Wolf River Conservancy and has been active "trying to stop Kirby Parkway from being extended through the heart of Shelby Farms."



Sometimes Carl and Jean McCarver go around in circles for community service, other times in squares. That's when the McCarvers are dancing (and working) with the Bluff City Promenaders to benefit the Skinner Handicapped Center or the Memphis Square and Round Dance Association. The association will host the 39th National Square Dance Convention, of which Carl is general chairman, here in 1990. About 2,500 volunteers from its clubs will work in the convention, which will bring 31,000 square dancers to town.

"Our friendships from square dancing have been a lifesaver for us," says Carl, 57, a purchasing agent, who turned to the activity with Jean, 56, after the death of their teenage son in an automobile accident 14 years ago. The McCarvers, who have a mentally handicapped son and two daughters, spend 20-25 hours a week in volunteer work, including dances for the handicapped at the center.



For Frances Lacy, community service is a vital concern. A retired worker of IBM and its subsidiary, Service Bureau Corporation, she volunteers in the Health and Welfare Ministry Office at Methodist Hospital, informing churches about hospitalized members of their congregations. At St. John's United Methodist Church, Ms. Lacy works with the Food for Hungry program, dispensing food to the needy. She also supplies food, clothing and other necessities to youngsters at the Linc Home for Runaways as a part of her circle in United Methodist Women. Heading the visitation group at St. John's, she calls members who are homebound, takes them gifts on holidays, and tries to visit them once a month.

"I enjoy it all," she says. "You feel as if you're helping somebody."

Steve Gaither is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home () work ()

Here's what this person does to help others: _____

Your name: _____ phone: ()

Loss of sight didn't stop a life of involvement

By Jill Johnson Piper



At first, Dr. Robert Armstrong attributed his blurred vision to having soot on his glasses while canoeing. But a visit to his ophthalmologist confirmed a more serious diagnosis, a degeneration of the central vision.

When declared legally blind 14 years ago, he had to give up practicing dentistry, driving an automobile, reading books, watching television. He adjusted to having only partial sight by getting out of himself.

"When that door closed, I adopted a different way of life and I didn't allow that to get me down," said Dr. Armstrong, 74.

For several years he has delivered MIFA Meals on Wheels. His partner



Armstrong

drives, but Dr. Armstrong collects the meals and serves them at each home. "You get to know these people and care about them. You get pretty attached to them. A lot of course, are very elderly and unwell, and you lose some right along, and you feel it," he said.

Having patronized the Public Library and Information System's braille and talking-book programs, he represented visually impaired and physically handicapped patrons to the state advisory committee on libraries, on which he served for three years. "A layman can sometimes see things from a little different viewpoint," he said.

Dr. Armstrong was also instrumental in establishing the Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired. "I was part of the group that made a study and conceived the idea of an alliance for the blind to try to pull together the services that were available and fill in the spaces left by those that weren't," he said.

Longtime residents of Midtown, he and his wife, Betty, have two daughters and four grandchildren. He has also been involved in Evergreen Presbyterian Church, and is a supporter of the Church Health Center. He says he was astonished at receiving the Memphis

Dental Society's Humanitarian Award in 1983. "I've had a few chief experiences, but I'm mostly an Indian." Other points of light:

For Helen Williams-Washington, 56, community service means helping out in any way she can. The South Memphis resident and mother of eight heads the commodities program at New Allen AME Church, distributing government surplus food to the needy once a month. Mrs. Williams-Washington enjoys assisting the elderly in many capacities. She interprets documents for them and helps low-income senior citizens complete applications for the state-sponsored Winter Heating Program, which pays a portion of their utility bills. A precinct registrar, she goes door-to-door and registers voters. The former Carver High PTA president of eight years also volunteered to register children for free lunches. "I've been doing it all my life," she says of her services. "You wish you could kind of do a little more."

Robert C. Shettles, 56, of Harmon town, Miss., volunteers when he gets the call. He has been a fire captain for the Lafayette County Volunteer Fire Department since 1977. An automobile mechanic whose garage is next door to the fire station he helped build in 1977. Shettles heads a 16-man fire company and is a member of the county fire board. His motivation for service, he says, is "just trying to better the community I live in. I love to do it for my community." Shettles, a member of Harmon town Baptist Church, volunteers for other community projects through the Harmon town Civic Center, of which he is past president. He is married and has four children.

Inetta Rogers is a dedicated member of the YWCA. At 34, Ms. Rogers, of Midtown, has worked as a volunteer for the YWCA since 1982 and has been an active member for the past 15 years. "I have given so much of my time because I have the same common interests and goals as the YWCA does," she says. "Women are a vital part of our society." Ms. Rogers, who is manager of personnel administration at International Paper, has served on a number of YWCA committees and is currently second vice president on the board of directors. In 1985 she was named Volunteer of the Year. "I want to be an active part of establishing the roles of women. The demographics of the board illustrate a mixture of race and a diversity of talent. We want to help women come together in these varied capacities."

Odell Baker, 63, of Germantown, volunteers information. A furniture store owner, Baker started a telephone answering service from his store for newcomers in 1968, to provide answers for questions about Memphis. Calls from around the world come through the service, which is an outgrowth of his practice of picking out the names of newcomers from realty listings and inviting them for tours of Memphis. "If you're going to be in business," he says of his volunteer service efforts, "you should be prepared to put something back into the community." A member of First Baptist Church, Baker does fund-raising for charitable causes, and contributes clothing and mattresses to needy families in public housing. He also hosts an annual barbecue dinner for newcomers.

Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

NFL COUNTDOWN

5
DAYS

Vikings vs. Chiefs, Aug. 12

pg. A5

Christmas effort for needy brings 'satisfaction'

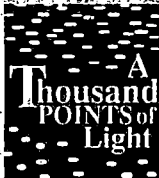
THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 East Memphis resident Barney Bratten, 68, is a happy Santa's helper. She has helped needy people have a Christmas for the last three years. One of the founders of Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Ms. Bratten was chairman of the organization's Angel Tree last Christmas.

"It is worth it. You can't get that satisfaction anywhere else. People will get a gift when they would otherwise not get one," she says.

Kirby Woods Mall, Southland Mall and corporations such as Plough, IBM and Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division participated in the Christmas program. She helped register the needy under 16 and over 60 and transferred their names onto angels on the Christmas tree. Last Christmas more than 4,000 gifts were given. In addition, she has been a volunteer for the Woman's Exchange for 17 years.



 Collins Keenum of Fox Meadows repairs homes to build character. Since 1980, he has taken a week off each summer so he and a group of people can work for others. Keenum, 44, helps organize a group of senior and junior high youth from St. James United Methodist Church to repair homes, do minor roof repairs, paint houses, and do a variety of other jobs for people who can't afford to have them done.

"The main reason for this project is to let the youth see that not everyone lives in luxury and let them see that there are a lot of less fortunate people," explains Keenum, an engineer.

He says that he enjoys the work and enjoys seeing the youth work. "It's a good feeling to see the attitudes of the youths change as they help these people. It changes their outlook on life, and it is very rewarding to see."

 Caroline Jenkins, 67, is wild about the zoo. As president of the Memphis Zoo's docent organization, Miss Jenkins coordinated a special panda button sale in August 1987 that generated more than \$10,000 for the Memphis Zoological Society when Xiu-Hua, the giant panda from Mexico City, was exhibited here.

"I couldn't get out there and sell all those by myself!" she says.

The button sale has become a tradition with the docents, honoring the white Bengal tiger in 1988 and baby hippo twins Splash and Splash this year. She also initiated a special "Christmas for Wildlife" program to educate children about animals and wildlife. Funded by the Zoological Society, the program drew more than 300 people to tree-decorating activities.

Miss Jenkins lives in the Hickory Hill area and is a member of St. Mary's Cathedral.

 At 81, Mrs. Robert Lewis Cox volunteers for community service in the past tense. As a member of the Watauga Daughters of the American Revolution, she has served as regent and also a president of regents in Tennessee. A Midtown resident, she "helps people find their ancestors" in her work with the DAR.

Mrs. Cox is also a past president of the Tennessee Genealogical Society, treasurer of the Archeological and Geological Society, a member of Descendants of Colonial Governors, a member of Descendants of Early Settlers of Shelby County, and she is active in the Highland Heights Baptist Church.

"If I had to sit in a rocking chair and do nothing, you might as well bury me," she says. "I put my whole heart and soul in anything I do," she says, adding she is thankful she is capable of doing all the things she does.

 Thomas R. Bunker's children can call him coach. Bunker, 30, of Southaven, Miss., volunteers as a T-ball coach for the Southaven Girls Softball Association.

"I got involved when my little girl started playing," he explains, adding that he enjoys the opportunity to be involved in sports with his 8-year-old daughter and his 5-year-old son.

This summer was the second year that Bunker, who is self-employed, has coached the team, and he says it's not really a big deal. "It only took a few hours each week, but I really liked it. I like coaching and it is rewarding to watch the girls grow."

 For Charlie Mae Dandridge, 56, helping the elderly is a high priority. Mother of two and twice a grandmother, she helps senior citizens by taking them to the grocery store, cooking meals and running errands for them. When she sees neighbors who are in need, she's there to help. The South Memphis housewife, who cleans house and prepares meals for one neighbor, takes another to the doctor and gets her medication.

"They can't help themselves. A lot of them don't have children, and it gives me comfort in knowing that I'm helping somebody," she says. "It breaks my heart when I can't help someone."

Mrs. Dandridge also counsels youngsters and families with problems at Unity Baptist Church, where her husband is minister.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

VIEWPOINT

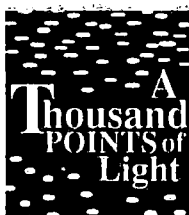
8/10/89

Giving children an extra boost

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 When it comes to underprivileged children, Harry Levitch of East Memphis "dresses up" his volunteer services. He started the Student Aid Fund 30 years ago to help students by donating clothes, coats, shoes, eyeglasses, food and other necessities. He has helped as many as 300 students in North and South Memphis. "It doesn't make a difference what a child is or who he is," says the founder of Harry Levitch Jewelers. "If he's cold and hungry, we just try to help." Married and the father of one, Levitch was president of the Levi Arthritis Hospital in Hot Springs, Ark., for seven years. He also became international vice president of B'nai B'rith Home and chairman of the community volunteer services commission, helping refugees, ex-prisoners, the elderly and the poor find jobs and homes. He was made honorary chairman for life of B'nai B'rith.



 Diane Davis' volunteer service for the Salvation Army really does hit home. Her children, Courtney, 18, and Jeff, 13, follow her example. "Courtney helps tutor children and Jeff entertains children at birthday parties for the Salvation Army's after-school program," she says. Mrs. Davis, 45, has tutored for the reading program, Sing-Spell-Read-Write, for children at Southside Center and has worked for the committee Adopt-A-Room, refurbishing shelter for the homeless at the Salvation Army Main Center. "I like to do constructive things. Salvation Army is a Christian organization and it does a good job of

reaching out to the needy. It is a wonderful ministry," says the East Memphis resident. Also active in her church at Eastside Cumberland Presbyterian Church, she teaches Sunday school and community Bible school.

 Mary Klug of Germantown volunteers so others will get back to nature. Mrs. Klug, 44, serves as volunteer assistant in the puddle-jumper program at the Lichterman Nature Center. The program tries to stimulate the interests of 4- and 5-year-olds in the area of natural sciences. "We work to teach the children about nature so that when they grow up they will respect nature and appreciate it," explains Mrs. Klug, who helps run a camping and army surplus store that she and her husband own. She has worked with the program for the past five years. "It is really thrilling to watch the children. They are very enthusiastic and they really want to learn," says Mrs. Klug, who has raised three children of her own.

 Jerry Dowdy, 43, of Germantown, didn't volunteer, he was drafted. "When my son started playing basketball, the coach of his team didn't show up for the first practice and I was sort of drafted by the other parents," explains Dowdy, who has sons ages 9 and 5. Since that practice game four years ago he has continued to volunteer as a coach. This past year he coached two baseball teams and two basketball teams and serves on the board of the Germantown Youth Athletic Association. "It's almost been a full-time job," says Dowdy, who is a manufacturing director for a medical supplies company. He says he is "in it for all the kids" and hopes that while teaching them about sports he can also help them to become better people. "The bottom line is that it's fun. I have fun, the kids have fun, and that's what it's all about."

 When registered nurse Cline Patterson, 49, was injured in an acci-

dent by an alcoholic patient five years ago, it changed her life. It prompted her to develop an anti-drugs educational campaign. Now she speaks to city and county schools about the dangers of drugs and sponsors educational programs for city schools and businesses. Being a mother and grandmother, Mrs. Patterson is concerned about the effect that drugs may have on her family. "Everyone is affected in our society by drugs and alcohol. It's touching everyone. If I can touch a few lives, it will in some way give me some satisfaction. It's one small drop, but I feel compelled to do this. I feel like I need to help in any small way I can." Mrs. Patterson, special events coordinator for Shelby County Emergency Services, provides nonprofit and charitable organizations with medical personnel.

 When Ann Hiltlenbrand of Frayser started volunteer work, it was therapeutic. She started work at St. Joseph Hospital in October 1968 transporting patients to and from physical therapy one day a week, and today she pushes "goody carts" three days a week. Mrs. Hiltlenbrand, 67, says she just wanted to do something for charity, and this is her contribution. She has logged many hours over the years but maintains that she has "received much more than I have ever given." Mrs. Hiltlenbrand, who has three grown children, says, "Working with the patients, employees, physicians and the administrative staff, I have established relationships that are very rewarding, with the patients especially. If I have helped one person in any way, then it has all been worthwhile. In my heart I know it's been all worthwhile."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Volunteer program tackles illiteracy, youth problems

By Jim Terrell



BURYING the dead is Annie Brown's business in Rolling Fork, Miss., but bettering life there is her job.

Part-owner of a funeral home, Mrs. Brown, 41, is executive director of

Sharkey-Issaquena Community Challenge Inc., a volunteer organization she started in 1986 to address economic and education problems in the two impoverished counties.

Community Challenge, a broad-based, interracial agency, has conducted reading clinics, teenage pregnancy prevention classes, a class for high school dropouts, a summer recreation project and alcohol/drug abuse and gang rivalry counseling.

"God gave me the vision and I began to dream and I'm still dreaming," says Mrs. Brown, who launched literacy classes at her Continental Funeral Services in 1986 when she observed that many in the families of her clients couldn't read or write.

With more than 60 percent of the adult population identified as illiterate, the need for a literacy program was greater than she could handle from classes at her business, even with other volunteers she recruited.

And there were other pressing problems for the 11,000-population area, including an unemployment rate of 36.5 percent and educational deficiencies.

"I decided to find out what could be done if I pulled together the communities to make them aware of the predicament that was consuming our two counties," says Mrs. Brown, who was one of a poor sharecropper's family of 10.

What followed was a series of events and activities which saw her organize a group that, with support from adult volunteers, businesses and government, has provided services for 289 youths and 90 nonreaders.

Mrs. Brown has served as host of a statewide teenage pregnancy prevention workshop in Rolling Fork, and has co-sponsored a Literacy Planning Conference in Jackson with Christian Broadcasting Network.

Her interest in literacy dates to her 20-year career as a nurse in poor Delta communities, where she devised a symbol system that illiterate black patients could use to interpret medical prescription directions.

"I have never been able to rest," says Mrs. Brown, a widow who has a daughter and two sons, "knowing that something must be done for the destitute, devastated black adult illiterates throughout our state."

Singer/entertainer Carla Thomas has a voice for volunteer service. Active in the Memphis Literacy Council for six years, she speaks for the council through the Speaker's Bureau, does public service announcements, tutors adults in reading and also disperses materials. "When I first came back to Memphis from Los Angeles, I

was a temporary hostess for the morning show on Channel 5-WMC. One of the guests came on and said that over 80,000 people in the Memphis and Shelby County area were illiterate. This disturbed me, so I decided to take training. I took 12 hours in training classes and then I was able to tutor," says the South-east Memphis resident. A volunteer with the youth choir at her church, St. John Baptist, Ms. Thomas worked with the "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" summer program and participated in the National Night Out program for Neighborhood Watch.

Jack Drucker, 65, helps keep the elderly from falling prey to crime. Director of the Senior Citizen Crime Watch, he and the program's 20 volunteers have checked on 2,134 senior citizens and disabled people in the city and county. He has been involved with the program for two years. And he has helped with the Neighborhood Watch program for one year. Drucker also gives informative speeches about crime watch and con games. And he shows films and slides to senior citizen organizations. "Through the years I have known a lot of people on the Sheriff's Department. After I retired from being a service representative for Sears, I began to volunteer for the Sheriff's Department," says Drucker, who rides in DWI police cars helping out the officers.

At least once a week, Kathy Miller of Bartlett helps someone learn to read through the "Each One Teach One" program sponsored by the Memphis Literacy Council. Mrs. Miller, 39, says she has always been interested in illiteracy and sees tutoring as her contribution to the elimination of the problem. "It gives you a certain feeling of satisfaction to know you are helping someone. The Literacy Council depends upon volunteers, and I felt an obligation to lend my time to help," she explains, adding that when her son finished school she was able to get involved in the program. Mrs. Miller is also a volunteer librarian for the Memphis Literacy Council Library, where she has worked for about a year. Mrs. Miller enjoys the volunteer work and encourages others to become involved, saying, "They can always use more people."

For Eloise Carter of Dyersburg, Tenn., volunteer service is a form of habit. A former school teacher and social worker, Ms. Carter visits 49 shut-ins once a month, taking them church literature in large print. She remembers each of their birthdays by baking them cakes from scratch. A member of First United Methodist Church, she is a volunteer hostess in the ICU ward at the Methodist Hospital of Dyersburg, making coffee, visiting patients, answering the phone and tending to the needs of the sick. Ms. Carter goes grocery shopping for people who have no means of getting out and transports neighbors and friends to the doctor in Jackson and Memphis, at her own expense. "Somebody needs to do it and I can do it," says the widow. "I get a pleasure out of it."

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

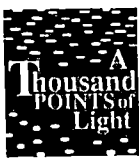


Mrs. Brown

Running events raise hopes of young people

AUG. 14, 1987

By John Belfuss A7



HUNDREDS of troubled boys and girls have reason to thank Amy Loyd Linthicum of Germantown.

For the past seven years, Mrs. Linthicum, 39, has organized an annual five-kilometer run to benefit Memphis Boys Town and Dogwood Village, which now are managed under the umbrella organization Youth Villages Inc. The runs, usually held in the first or second weekend of April, have raised more than \$100,000, she said.

"Everybody asks me when I'm going to quit, but I've gotten too personally involved," she said. "I get as much back from it as I put into it."

Participation has grown tremendously over the past seven years, from about 300 runners the first year to about 1,400 this year, including 1,200 5K runners, and another 200 people competing in a mile-long fun run or the "toddlers runs."

In addition, the first race raised about \$3,000, while this year's race at Ridgeway Center raised about \$36,000. The money, all of which goes to Youth Villages, includes entry fees and runner sponsorships.

Boys Town and Dogwood Village provide stable environments for young people who can no longer live at home. Many of them have been abandoned, or have been serious drug users. Others have been neglected or abused by their parents.

Mrs. Linthicum, a mortgage loan officer, became involved in the event when it first began because she is an affiliate member of the Memphis Board of Realtors, which sponsored the run. But she said the more she learns about the young people, the more determined she becomes to help them.

"Many of them have to regain their self-esteem," she said. "They just want to be like everybody else. They just want a mom and dad or someone who cares for them."

Other points of light:

Pat Pulliam, prepares 450-500 sack lunches a week from her pantry. As coordinator of the Downtown Churches Food Pantry and director of the food ministries of First United Methodist Church, Mrs. Pulliam, 43, has been volunteering for almost two years and works with 20 others. She buys all the food for the food programs at the church, helps make sack lunches and distributes them to the unemployed and homeless. "Sack lunches is an important program. It is a necessary program for the homeless and those unemployed. Some people just don't think about how these people eat. I enjoy a relationship with the homeless. I have learned a lot from working with them," says the Midtown resident.



Mrs. Linthicum

Valola Perry, 71, enjoys working with young people and helping those in need. Mrs. Perry, a retired schoolteacher of 30 years, has been a den mother for the Cub Scouts for 27 years and a volunteer with the Federated Girls Club for 35 years. An organizer of the Junior Federation, she also volunteers with the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program. "I do volunteer work mostly because I want to. I love working with young people. I always try to help others," says the Southwest Memphis resident. She was second vice-president of the Memphis chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. In addition, she volunteered with the MIFA food bank drive for three years and WDIA Call For Action for six years. Mrs. Perry also has opened up her home to needy people.

Van Spear, 42, of West Memphis gets a return for the community from his volunteer service. As volunteer chairman of the Eastern Arkansas Private Industry Council, a job training and placement organization, he helped the council receive more than \$12 million during the past four years for programs to serve the economically disadvantaged. He was recognized by Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole for his work with the council's RISE and MOVE peer tutoring program in April. "I have (the) privilege of sitting in the chair but there are board members and 50 or 60 staff members who deserve the same amount of recognition that I get." He is an industrial real estate businessman, who is married with three children. Spear and his family attend Calvary Episcopal Church.

Craig Meyers uses the skills of his profession as a physical therapist to treat senior citizens who would otherwise not be able to afford treatment. Treating patients for the past two years, the award-winning volunteer admits that at times he feels "overappreciated." "I've received an education," says Meyers, 24, who feels a responsibility to help people. He also contributes his time and talents with Young Life youth ministry. Working with patients and teens has "taught him empathy and open-mindedness," and his goal, besides one day having a family, is "to continue to do what God wants me to do."

A proud 70-year-old, Nikkie Greenoe is an unstoppable caregiver. She is chairman of Red Cross volunteers at the naval hospital at the Memphis Naval Air Station at Millington. She coordinates schedules and directs the activities of about 25 Red Cross volunteers. She helps provide the patients with a mobile library, hobbies, and crafts. "I do it because I'm needed, I enjoy it, and I'm appreciated," she says. A Baptist and a widow with a 57-year-old son, she has been with the Red Cross since 1950 and at the naval hospital for 38 years.

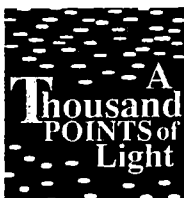
John Belfuss is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, send the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A9

VIEWPOINT

Providing support for those who suffer

By Jill Johnson Piper



The most common misconception about depression is that people suffering from it can "snap out of it," said Carolyn Garner, a 35-year-old licensed practical nurse and one of the founders

of the Memphis Depressive and Manic Depressive Association.

"I had suffered from depression myself and as I started getting better through treatment, I decided I wanted to help others," she said.

The MDMDA was founded about 2½ years ago as a support group for mental health consumers diagnosed with depression and manic depression, and for their families and friends.

"Our goal is to provide education, hope and support," Miss Garner said. In addition to educational lectures and films, group support extends to peer discussions led by others diagnosed with a mood disorder.

"It runs much like group therapy, only there's not a professional there. We just support each other and share our experiences of how we've dealt with situations. If someone says, 'I feel like killing myself,' that doesn't scare us. We accept and support each other," she said. "It's a real good addition to



Miss Garner

therapy. We're not there to be therapists."

In addition to the monthly meeting at Charter Lakeside Hospital, the MDMDA has started a meeting in Midtown and a youth group. Miss Garner is also involved in the association's newsletter and has spoken to Memphis State University classes and hospital groups about depression.

Her first experience as a volunteer was in the Memphis and Shelby County Mental Health Society's Compeer program, in which mental health clients are paired with a caring, supportive friend. "It's been a real good experience to be able to make a commitment and stick to it, and that's something that's difficult to do for a depressed person. I didn't go into Compeer to help myself, but I certainly got a lot out of it."

Other points of light in the Mid-South:

The Dyersburg Union Mission has been feeding and caring for people in need for 27 years, and for the last 14 years Jerry Edmundson has been the mission's director. Among the mission's work is operating a home for problem children, sexually abused youngsters and others who are referred by the local Juvenile Court and from the Department of Human Services and the Department of Correction. Edmundson, 41, helps keep the effort going through low-key promotion. "We mail out what we call Mission Informer, a little bulletin we put together, tell how many people we feed, and so basically let them know we need funds to operate," said Edmundson.

Retired air-traffic controller Jack Boyd, 69, is a down-to-earth volunteer. "I only work when I have the time," the Midtown resident says of his service with the Memphis Food Bank. His first contact with the operation

came when his church, St. John's Episcopal, made a donation to the food bank. A few years ago, finding himself with time on his hands, he volunteered to help the food distribution facility. Then, as one worker put it, he would show up three times a week and perform any task asked of him "with a smile." Boyd, who now volunteers at least once a month, says, "I think it's a good place to contribute time, and would certainly encourage anyone who has the time to help out."

When Cindy Pelphrey, 39, of Columbus, Miss., shows up, day camp takes on a new meaning. For 20 years, the social worker has visited trailer parks at Columbus Air Force Base, working with mostly underprivileged girls aged 7-12. She calls the group Acteens and says they sing songs, tell Bible stories and do other fun activities once a week. As director of the Christian Center Ministry at First Baptist Church, the married mother of two advises teenage mothers in a program called SALT, Support and Love Team/Parents. The teenagers are paired with adult mothers on a one-to-one basis, taught survival skills, and given needed items for their babies. Mrs. Pelphrey directs nine other ministry teams that aid ex-prisoners, the illiterate, the homebound and other sectors of the community. "Through the church I can share where true hope comes from — Jesus Christ," she says.

For Michael Warr, 40, underprivileged children are the light of his life. As chief auxiliary probation officer of Juvenile Court, the Midtown resident supervised 300 volunteer probation officers for five years. His work with youngsters led him to serve as Memphis Boys Town president from 1985-86. Since then, he became chairman of the board of Youth Villages, Inc. in an effort to merge Memphis Boys

Town and Dogwood Village. The owner and operator of two restaurants, Gertrude and Gonzales and Captain Bilbo's, and the operator of the Memphis Petroleum Club, he is also a court-appointed special advocate who spends as much as 20-30 hours with one family, helping them work out unusual problems. "It's very rewarding," he says of his work with abused and neglected children, "but it saddens you when you see the other side of life."

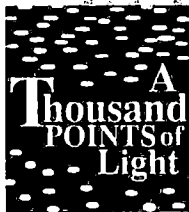
Bettye Roman is an original organizer. One of the organizers on the steering committee to get the Volunteer Center started, she was the first chairman of the Volunteer Recognition Week. Mrs. Roman also helped organize Corporate Neighbors, a program that helps businesses to allow employees to become volunteers throughout the city. "I came from a family that was involved in the community. It is a family tradition. I feel that if you are going to benefit from a community, you should let the community get the best part of you. My community is an enlargement of my family," says the East Memphis resident. In addition, Mrs. Roman was co-ordinator of the Cancer Answer Week, which was started in 1981 to educate others about cancer. She also was chairman of the Mayor's Drug Abuse Commission for three years and was involved with the VA Drug Abuse Program for seven years.

Jill Johnson Piper is a staff reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

VIEWPOINT

Using sports to teach young people the lessons, responsibilities of life

By Jerry Huston



TO Richard 'Dickie' Hutcherson, there is more to baseball than throwing a ball or swinging a bat.

For the past 20 years, the 46-year-old Dresden, Tenn., dentist has spent much of his time

and money teaching children the important lessons in sports.

"There's a lot about life that you can teach through sports. There's teamwork, a good attitude, how to win and how to lose, and all that's important in life," said Hutcherson.

Hutcherson has worked with teen and pre-teen boys and girls to help them develop the baseball, basketball, football and softball skills they will need to make it in sports.

Even before his oldest son, Paul, now 20, got involved in sports, Hutcherson was volunteering to help the young athletes of Dresden, a community of 2,000 people about 120 miles northeast of Memphis.

His work has ranged from personal to organizational: helping a child work on game skills after regular practice; coaching a team, organizing a league.

In the 12 years he was Dresden parks commissioner, he created the local little league team and served as a coach and manager for many of those years.

For the last four years, Hutcherson has rented an empty warehouse in town, which he converted into a baseball batting cage. The rent and upkeep costs him about \$4,500 a year.

He has also raised money for local high school sports teams, is president of the booster club, helps set up equipment at football games and has announced games for the past seven years.

"It's not so important to me that these kids get to be great athletes. What is important is that they learn what it is to be

a good person," he said.

But along the way, he has helped teach teams how to win.

For example, with Hutcherson's help, the Dresden High School football team reached the state football playoffs in each of the last four years. The basketball team has reached substate three of those years. The girls basketball team has reached substate twice. The girls softball team

reached substate once. The boys baseball team has reached the state playoffs four years in a row and the team won the Class A championship in 1987.

"Without Dickie's help, I don't think any of us would have been able to go as far as we did. He deserves a whole lot of the credit," said Albert 'Peanut' Winn, a former baseball, basketball and football player at Dresden High School, who now is attending an area college on a baseball scholarship.

Hutcherson said the real enjoyment he gets out of his work is when he sees a teen "grow up straight" and decide to live in Dresden.

"When I see kids getting involved in the community and really caring about it, that's all the payoff I need," he said.

Other points of light in the Mid-South:

 Retired U.S. Postal Service employees Woodrow 'Woody' and Kathy McCully deliver assistance as volunteers. The couple help senior citizens by taking them to doctors, getting their eyeglasses fixed, cooking for them and giving them fresh food. They have also have volunteered as baby-sitters and cared for handicapped children. Their motivation stems from liv-



Hutcherson

ing through the Depression, where they learned "what it means to be in need." McCully is also chairman of Richland Baptist Church hospitality committee and is the AARP community service representative.

 Jean Quinn Amos, 34, leads kids in the right direction. Ms. Amos, who has a daughter, is an auxiliary probation officer for the Juvenile Court, counseling and supervising juvenile delinquents. She makes weekly visits, telephone calls and provides the court with a monthly report. Ms. Amos volunteers for the Exchange Club at the Memphis Family Center in a program to prevent child abuse. In addition, she works with the youth department at her church, Monumental Baptist Church. "These kids are our future. They are our future mayors and presidents. It takes someone from the outside to put others on the right track. I'm here as a friend and to figure out what's going on," says the Indiana Hills Westwood resident.

 Elizabeth P. McGhee, 59, formed the first black circle of International Kings' Daughters and Sons Home in Tennessee. Mrs. McGhee, a sixth-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, has been involved for six years at Kings' Daughters and Sons Home, a nondenominational home for the handicapped. She teaches reading and math to the residents and helps them with their ceramic work in the occupational therapy shop. She also runs errands for the residents and goes on field trips with them.

Jerry Huston is a staff reporter for the Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Toll for the Belle preserves a part of U.S. aviation history

By Tim Ivy

By Jim Terrell

IT'S the belles for whom Frank Donofrio toils.

The East Memphian, who started and for years led the campaign to save the World War II Memphis Belle B17 bomber, looks to lead belles on the dance floor now that he's trying to establish a local chapter of the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association.

Along the way in 22 years of community service leadership, the former businessman spent \$25,000 of his own funds for the Memphis Belle, devoted untold hours of his retirement, founded the Memphis Herb Society and, at age 61, got his pilot's license. He is now 74.

"I do an awful lot of ballroom dancing," says widower Donofrio, who also is trying to get ballroom dancing, which will be an Olympics event, added to the Memphis State curriculum. "I have 13 members; I need 25 to form a chapter."

After becoming interested in the Belle in 1967 when he owned Mid-South Metal-Treating Co., Donofrio obtained a government film about the plane and presented it to the city, thinking "that ended my civic gesture." Instead, it kept him occupied for two decades.

When the Memphis Belle Committee was formed to restore the plane, which had suffered disrepair and vandalism while on display at the corner of Hollywood and Central, Donofrio was named president.

"It was the last meeting we had. I tried to get people together so I could resign, but I couldn't," says Donofrio, who taught chemical warfare in the Army Reserve. "So for the next eight years I was the sole member. I was free to do anything I wanted to."

What he did was become the Belle's patron, promoter, and "as long as I paid the expenses, which ran \$2,000-2,500, I could say I was chairman of the Belle committee." By the mid-1970s, George Lewis, now chancery judge, and John Emerson joined him and headed an effort to incorporate the group as the Memphis Belle Memorial Association, Inc.

Donofrio wrote about the Belle's history for an airline magazine and began a Buck for the Belle fund-raising campaign that raised \$295 and brought in 500 members. Then he was elevated to permanent chairman and was inactive in the project for the next nine years. The Belle was moved to the Air National Guard headquarters at Memphis International Airport and restored.

But with the plane's future in jeopardy, he was re-elected president of the



Frank Donofrio, with the Memphis Belle B17

organization in 1986. The Air Force threatened to move the Belle to its museum at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio, if Memphis didn't build a permanent facility to shelter the plane from destruction.

Then Ward Archer Jr. of Ward Archer Advertising, newly enlisted in the cause, proposed a site for the Belle on Mud Island, ABC-TV's 20/20 show featured the plane, and \$576,000 was raised for the project with \$100,000 gifts from Federal Express and Boeing and \$150,000 from the city. And on May 17, 1987, dedication was held for the Belle's new home in a pavilion on Mud Island.

"I'll always be a member," says Donofrio, whose presidency of the Belle organization ended in 1988. "After all, I created that thing. I've got to stick around and see what they do."

Other points of light in the Mid-South:

Barbara Bradley, 51, of Kennett, Mo., volunteers to serve the unborn. Mrs. Bradley is the volunteer director of Birthright of Kennett, Inc., a pro-life organization to help women with problems before and after their pregnancy. She worked for the organization for eight years in Memphis until 1974, when she moved to Cape Girardeau, Mo., and became more active in Birthright. She became director after moving to Kennett in 1981. "I just believe in the pro-life movement. There is a positive alternative, a positive way of helping women who have problems (with having a baby). But, I couldn't do this without the volunteers," she said.

Shirley Mason, 43, banks on community service. "I'm giving back to Memphis what it has given me," says Mrs. Mason, who is in her first year as chairman of the First Tennessee Volunteer Bank program, begun in 1988 to get

First Tennessee employees involved in community work. She has recruited and volunteered for the Read-a-thon at Hurt Village in North Memphis, the Free The Children project sponsored by Shelby County, and the Salvation Army's Adopt-an-Angel program. Mrs. Mason also taught a course in fundamentals of consumer banking to potential dropouts at Middle College High School at Shelby State 1988-89. Mrs. Mason, whose daughter and son are nearing college graduation, lives in Frayser and attends Springhill M.B. Church, where she participates in career awareness programs for youth.

For Robert Crowder, 34, of Batesville, Miss., volunteer service means helping everyone from the young to the young-at-heart. Weeks ago he helped rescue an elderly woman, who was suffering heat exhaustion in her home. He frequently checks on the elderly and provides transportation for them. He has become part of a tutoring program to help youngsters with math, reading and spelling. Although he didn't complete high school and has never been employed because of a physical disability, he started a community group called Operation CARE (Concerned About Reaching Everyone). He also arranges workshops on AIDS awareness and speaks to groups on teenage pregnancy and drugs. A married member of New Hope M.B. Church, he says, "I feel like it's something I have to do."

Wade C. McKnight, 34, of East Memphis, figures to be a volunteer. He deals with figures in his profession as a CPA and volunteers as a father-figure through the Downtown Rotary Club's Mentor Program. "Sometimes I think spending a few hours with Clarence might not matter to him," he says of the disadvantaged child he helps through the program. "But the feedback is that it does matter." A native of Kentucky, he joined the Phoenix Club, a Boys Clubs support group, for community involvement after he moved here from Houston in 1983. Since then, he's worked with the Buckman Boys Club in North Memphis, as vice chairman of the board of directors, and has been involved in its fund-raisers. McKnight, who has a wife and three young daughters, says of volunteer service, "I'd be lying to you if I didn't say it made me feel good."

History is a favorite subject of Roberta Church, a retired administrator of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The downtown resident has been a volunteer of the Memphis Public Library for three years, helping the staff index old city directories and working with the history department. The co-author of *Nineteenth Century Memphis Families of Color 1850-1900*, Ms. Church thinks "history is something people should be more aware of." She has also researched facts about the early aspects of Memphis, First Baptist Church of Beale Street and the oldest families of Memphis.

Jim Terrell is a staff reporter for The Commercial Appeal.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home () work ()

Here's what this person does to help others: _____

Your name: _____ phone: () _____

A taste for helping

By Jim Terrell

RUDY Cerrito whets appetites for community service.

The owner and chef of Giovanni's restaurant, in 1985 he founded what has become Memphis' gourmet event of the year. Cerrito's annual Great Chefs Tasting Party, a benefit sampling of dishes from top chefs, has raised about \$55,000 for United Cerebral Palsy.

"It's an afternoon of grazing for a \$20 donation," says Cerrito, twice chef of the year for the Greater Memphis American Culinary Federation (ACF). Proceeds go to buy eating aids and equipment for handicapped children.

Through his efforts, the benefit has been adopted as an ACF regional project with Great Chefs parties to be held this year in Miami, Tampa Bay, Orlando, Birmingham, Little Rock and several other southeastern cities.

"I wanted to do something for the community, and particularly for children," says Memphis native Cerrito, 39.

"And now with the Chef and the Child program, which will actually feed and educate disadvantaged children on nutrition, the service will be part of something nationwide as well."

The ACF's national Chef and the Child program, of which he is southeast region chairman, will be held in Memphis early next year, with a dinner and a program for several hundred children, he says. The plan is to involve MIFA and local businesses.

His first taste of community service came in 1980 when he and a friend, Michael Gallagher, founded the Midtown Music Festival, a two-day event and auction, which raised \$25,000 for Muscular Dystrophy.

The project became a benefit for United Cerebral Palsy after that because of conflicts with other events.

"I just felt like it was time in my career to do something and I found myself with the time," says Cerrito, who lives in Midtown with his wife Rita.

Other points of light:

 **Lynn Halliday**, 46, of Collierville, is involved in three volunteer efforts. She counsels women who have undergone mastectomies for the American Cancer Society, delivers meals to the elderly for Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association and helps provide physical therapy for a 2-year-old girl who suffered brain damage from an illness. "It only takes a few hours here and a few there, but it's very rewarding," Mrs. Halliday said.

 **Eleanor Barnard**, of northeast Memphis, blossoms as a volunteer. Mrs. Barnard, a 75-year-old widow, volunteers regularly at St. Francis Nursing Home. She takes flowers and fresh-baked goodies to the residents. She says the staff at St. Francis "was so nice to my husband. I began to get this feeling to give back something and it kept growing. So, when I retired (a year ago), I decided that it would be the thing to do." Mrs. Barnard was also secretary for Bethel La Belle Civic Club

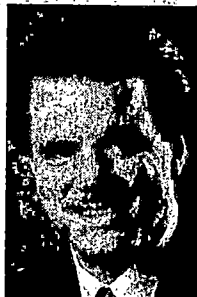
from 1948 until the club's demise in 1962. She is a charter member of Bethel Grove Garden Club for 42 years and also does volunteer work at her church, First Cumberland Presbyterian.

 **Edith Malone**, 67, takes her volunteer work to prison. As the volunteer coordinator of the Shelby County Baptist Association, Mrs. Malone is also in charge of its Women's Missionary Union prison ministry. She and 15 to 30 others conduct a chapel service for inmates at Shelby County Correctional Center (old penal farm) each Tuesday and Thursday and at Mark Luttrell State Reception Center when they can. They also give Bibles and other personal items. "Seeing the gratitude and the changed lives," Mrs. Malone says, is her reward along with helping "people to know that there are different choices that they can make." She has been with the organization for seven years. A Midtown homemaker, she is a member of Bellevue Baptist Church, where she has taught an adult Sunday school class for 30 years. Mrs. Malone insists she could not do all this without the help of her husband, Harry.

 **Dr. C. Roy Stauffer**, 42, says "until we learn to love others we're not alive." The senior minister at Lindenwood Christian Church volunteered in the "Room at the Inn" program last winter to provide two meals a day and a place to sleep for homeless people in the church's Life Center. "It not only helps the homeless but it helps make others realize that they are people; it reduces fear that people have in them." Dr. Stauffer, a Midtown resident, has pastored Lindenwood for 17 years and been on the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association board of directors for 10 years. He initiated the concept of the association's Jobs Bank program.

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light



Cerrito

A taste for helping

By Jim Terrell 8/21/82

RUDY Cerrito whets appetites for community service.

The owner and chef of Giovanni's restaurant, in 1985 he founded what has become Memphis' gourmet event of the year. Cerrito's annual Great Chefs Tasting Party, a benefit sampling of dishes from top chefs, has raised about \$55,000 for United Cerebral Palsy.

"It's an afternoon of grazing for a \$20 donation," says Cerrito, twice chef of the year for the Greater Memphis American Culinary Federation (ACF). Proceeds go to buy eating aids and equipment for handicapped children.

Through his efforts, the benefit has been adopted as an ACF regional project with Great Chefs parties to be held this year in Miami, Tampa Bay, Orlando, Birmingham, Little Rock and several other southeastern cities.

"I wanted to do something for the community, and particularly for children," says Memphis native Cerrito, 39.

"And now with the Chef and the Child program, which will actually feed and educate disadvantaged children on nutrition, the service will be part of something nationwide as well."

The ACF's national Chef and the Child program, of which he is southeast region chairman, will be held in Memphis early

next year, with a dinner and a program for several hundred children, he says. The plan is to involve MIFA and local businesses.

His first taste of community service came in 1980 when he and a friend, Michael Gallagher, founded the Midtown Music Festival, a two-day event and auction, which raised \$25,000 for Muscular Dystrophy.

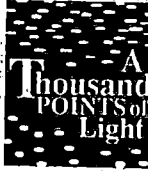
The project became a benefit for United Cerebral Palsy after that because of conflicts with other events.

"I just felt like it was time in my career to do something and I found myself with the time," says Cerrito, who lives in Midtown with his wife Rita.

Other points of light:

 Lynn Halliday, 46, of Collierville, is involved in three volunteer efforts. She counsels women who have undergone mastectomies for the American Cancer Society, delivers meals to the elderly for Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association and helps provide physical therapy for a 2-year-old girl who suffered brain damage from an illness. "It only takes a few hours here and a few there, but it's very rewarding," Mrs. Halliday said.

 Eleanor Barnard, of northeast Memphis, blossoms as a volunteer. Mrs. Barnard, a 75-year-old widow, volunteers regularly at St. Francis Nursing Home. She takes flowers and fresh-baked goodies to the residents. She says the staff at St. Francis "was so nice to my husband. I began to get this feeling to give back something and it kept growing. So, when I retired (a year ago), I decided that it would be the thing to do." Mrs. Barnard was also secretary for Bethel La Belle Civic Club



Cerrito

from 1948 until the club's demise in 1962. She is a charter member of Bethel Grove Garden Club for 42 years and also does volunteer work at her church, First Cumberland Presbyterian.

 Edith Malone, 67, takes her volunteer work to prison. As the volunteer coordinator of the Shelby County Baptist Association, Mrs. Malone is also in charge of its Women's Missionary Union prison ministry. She and 15 to 30 others conduct a chapel service for inmates at Shelby County Correctional Center (old penal farm) each Tuesday and Thursday and at Mark Luttrell State Reception Center when they can. They also give Bibles and other personal items. "Seeing the gratitude and the changed lives," Mrs. Malone says, is her reward along with helping "people to know that there are different choices that they can make." She has been with the organization for seven years. A Midtown homemaker, she is a member of Bellevue Baptist Church, where she has taught an adult Sunday school class for 30 years. Mrs. Malone insists she could not do all this without the help of her husband, Harry.

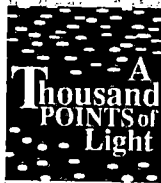
 Dr. C. Roy Stauffer, 42, says "until we learn to love others we're not alive." The senior minister at Lindenwood Christian Church volunteered in the "Room at the Inn" program last winter to provide two meals a day and a place to sleep for homeless people in the church's Life Center. "It not only helps the homeless but it helps make others realize that they are people; it reduces fear that people have in them." Dr. Stauffer, a Midtown resident, has pastored Lindenwood for 17 years and been on the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association board of directors for 10 years. He initiated the concept of the association's Jobs Bank program.

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Motivating girls through Scouting proves fulfilling

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

 Lorene Robinson, 32, of Jackson, Tenn., scouts her full work schedule for time to set girls in a positive direction. She volunteers as the association chairman for North Madison County in the Girl Scouts' Reelfoot Council, which includes 17½ Tennessee counties. She is responsible for 15 troops, including one she leads herself. Mrs. Robinson has been with the Girl Scouts for seven years. What keeps her with the Scouts, she said, is "to see the girls motivated to help others. . . . It's just good to see that you've done something good. You can see it." She and her husband, Norvell, have two children, and she is a computer operator for Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Although she already has two bachelor degrees, she is working on her third in business administration at Lambuth College.



 Ina Mae Miller, 80, cuts up as a volunteer. She gives free haircuts, repairs clothing and does other things to help the homebound elderly in her neighborhood. "I used to do that for my daddy when he was in the nursing home. I just like to keep busy, and I love it. . . . It helps me keep my spirits up when I can do something for somebody else." Mrs. Miller also volunteers to help with deliveries for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association's Meals-on-Wheels program. A widow with two sons and a daughter, she lives in East Memphis. Mrs. Miller attends First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where she quilts, bakes cookies, and makes sandwiches for social functions.

 Deborah Northcross, 38, is devoted to the Young Women's Christian Association, but other community groups benefit from her service as well. "I like our efforts to empower and enrich the lives of women and their families. A sense of serving or giving back is rewarding to me," she says. Ms. Northcross has been a member of the YWCA for 10 years and on its board for three years. As chairman of its financial development committee, she will chair this year's awards ceremony with YWCA's 70th Anniversary Heritage Celebration. Vice chairman of Leadership Memphis' board, Ms. Northcross was presented with the Kate Gooch Award for Alumni Contributions to the Leadership Memphis Alumni Association. She also serves on the American Cancer Society board, is secretary on the Memphis Zoological Society board and serves on the Memphis Partners Operations and United Way Student Development Volunteer Committees. A resident of South Memphis, Ms. Northcross attends Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, where she chairs the Christian Education Commission and is on the Pre-School Advisory Committee.

 Joe Carr, 59, Memphis NAACP branch president, volunteers his time through the Moolah Shrine Temple, a charitable organization, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church. He is a past president of Goodwill Homes for Children, and works with his church's outreach program and annual drive for the needy. As a retired employee of Memphis City Schools, he has tried to encourage students to participate and volunteer with charities. He believes each person should do all that he or she can do to improve the community. As he puts it: "If it is to be, it is up to me."

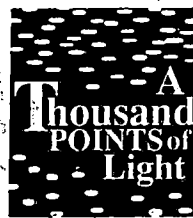
 At age 74, George A. Fulghum keeps hammering away at volunteer service. "Since I retired, I've worked harder than I did in when I was in business," jokes the former building contractor. You see, he's transferred his vocation to his volunteer work by running construction projects through First Baptist Church and the Baptist Brotherhood. That work, mostly building new churches or church additions, has taken him to West Coast, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states and west Africa and South America since his retirement in 1981. And when he's not traveling at his own expense with his wife Maxine on mission projects, he volunteers here to help the poor, the handicapped and the elderly with home improvements. "It's just a joy to see things done where they're needed," he says. "If we worked as hard in our regular work as we do in our mission projects, we'd get things done a lot quicker."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

VIEWPOINT

Giving comfort to those in need

By Steve Gaither



IT's difficult for most people to try to comfort a terminally ill patient. Searching for the right words or being unsure of what to do can be frightening.

But Phyllis Evans believes a kind word or deed can be a big relief to a terminally ill cancer patient. That's why she volunteers her time to coordinate a program to help cancer patients and their families at St. Francis Hospital.

Four years ago, Mrs. Evans and her husband, Kenneth, moved to Memphis from Roanoke, Va., where she had organized a hospice program at a cancer center. Shortly after she moved here, she became involved in organizing a similar program at St. Francis.

The program has about 20 trained volunteers who visit cancer patients in the hospital and at home. The volunteers

run errands, feed the patients, and try to make them more comfortable physically and emotionally. They also serve as a link between medical staff and the patient. "They are a friend during one of the hardest times in their (the patient's) life."

Mrs. Evans said sometimes they just sit with a patient during his or her last hours. "Just like with anything, certain people are able to do this without it being something they take home and fret over. But often it is very hard."

Mrs. Evans, who worked as a medical secretary before quitting to raise two children, helped care for her mother-in-law, who died of cancer 26 years ago. She said that several family members and friends had cancer after that and she became involved in helping them. After her daughter left for nursing school, she organized the cancer hospice program in Virginia.

"Most of the volunteers have had some tie with cancer, and that is why they do this," she said.

Mrs. Evans has donated more than 1,000 hours to St. Francis Hospital. She was named the hospital's Volunteer of the Year this year and received similar recognition in 1984 in Roanoke.

Other points of light in the Mid-South:



Pera Taghavi, 14, a freshman at Snowden Junior High School, makes time to help others because she "loves working with people." At B'nai B'rith Home, she donated 350 service hours last summer, then reduced her hours to 20 a month when school start-

ed. Her tasks varied from letter-writing to computer data entry, and she recruited six of her friends as volunteers. This summer she volunteers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, visiting patients and working in the gift shop. Time for community service is no problem for the busy student, who makes A's and B's in her optional-program classes. "I fit it in my schedule."



Volunteer service has come full bloom for Mrs. Bess Brown, 65, of East Memphis. Since 1975, she has volunteered 35-plus hours weekly at the Memphis Botanic Garden, working in the Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden. "I like working out there," says the housewife who was a botany major at the University of North Carolina. "It's awfully rewarding when people stop you and thank you for all your work to make something beautiful." Mrs. Brown's husband, Edward, is a retired Memphis State botanist and their son, Jim, is the botanic garden's botanist-horticulturist. Her volunteer work increases with major events such as the annual Iris sale, which is scheduled Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Steve Gaither is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people, please write us with the nominee's name, address phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

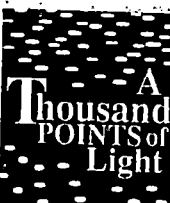


Mrs. Evans.

Work with kids 'thrills' volunteer

7/23/89 pg B8
By Jim Terrell

By Tim Ivy



SOMETIMES Sidney Boyd, 40, seems nothing more than a puppet volunteer. But only when his hands are full with his hand-puppet troupe.

Director of the new Southside Boys Club, Boyd otherwise volunteers in enough leadership roles for community service projects to require that he be a schedule-juggler, too.

"I do volunteer a lot," says the former director of the Goodwill Boys Club and a longtime puppeteer. "I select particular programs I want to volunteer for, making sure I have the time to complete them and making sure I do it."

Boyd and his puppets have been performing at family activities for years.

The pastime proved so popular that Boyd, his wife Louise, daughter Latrice and son Sidney took their show to Sunday school and Bible school at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. They are members of Mississippi Boulevard. As word about the show spread, the family performed at other churches on request.

With people, animal and cartoon puppet characters, Boyd also has put together a hand-held musical, *The Good, the Bad and the Restless*, which will be performed at five Boys Clubs at the end of this month and in August.

"I'm just thrilled to work with kids," says the Memphis native. "As long as I can affect the life of some of the kids in this neighborhood, I'll do it."

Boyd has served as chairman of the city school superintendent's System-wide Community Council, the District



Sidney Boyd, puppeteer and director of the new Southside Boys Club on Richmond Avenue, works to keep young people off the streets.

Community Council and the Georgia Avenue Elementary School Community Council and as a Boys Club of Memphis director.

The Whitehaven resident has worked with Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity's Youth Leadership Memphis volunteer program. For the past five years, he also has counseled Georgia Avenue Elementary boys who have behavioral or academic problems, and he was a volunteer for Booker T. Washington High's 1987-88 Role Models Extraordinaire program.

Other points of light in the Mid-South:

George Berry, 52, is carving out a record of helping the handicapped. A wood-carver from Pearl, Miss., he teaches children at the Mississippi School for the Deaf in Jackson how to carve wood. "Some of the children don't really want to do a lot, so we try to kinda mix it up and make it differ-

ent," says the former Piney Woods Country Life School teacher. "At first I had them to do little owls and some were able to complete the owls. Some draw pictures on a piece of board and then carve it out." He has helped them do some wood carving and wood burning. Berry says he likes working with the children and really enjoys their smiles when they accomplish something.

Bryant Boswell, 43, of Jackson, Miss., takes volunteer service on the road. A scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 18 in Jackson, he has worked with Scouts for more than seven years and has taken them on trips to the Wood Scout Reservation in Hazlehurst, Miss., the Buffalo River in Arkansas for canoeing and the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M., and to Miami and Washington. His troop now has 35 members including his two sons, Peter and Michael. The troop now has two Eagle Scouts, and has produced a lot of Eagle Scouts over the years.

"It's kind of a hobby for me working with them," says the dentist. "I enjoy it and I think Scouting is good for the boys. It gives them an opportunity to learn responsibility."

A lot of people in McKenzie, Tenn., owe their jobs to retired brick distributor Harold 'Hoot' Gibson. "We have been fortunate. We have worked hard and we have been lucky," says the volunteer industrial recruiter. "The saying is that the harder you work, the better your luck."

Chairman of the McKenzie Industrial Development Board for seven years, Gibson helped lure to the economically depressed area 10 companies that will employ 2,400 workers when they operate at capacity. The community 120 miles northeast of Memphis built an airport with a 5,000-foot runway and developed a 150-acre industrial park to serve the growth. For his successes in attracting industry, Gibson, 56, was named 1987 Tennessee Volunteer of the Year.

Jim Terrell is a staff reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home () _____ work () _____

Here's what this person does to help others: _____

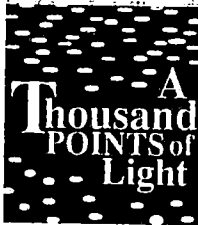
Your name: _____ phone: () _____

7/20/89

Making time to give

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

 **Gene and Lindsey 'Lindy' Cox** are a husband-and-wife volunteer team. For the past 15 years, the Coxes have worked with various organizations associated with the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. Both Coxes help out in the emergency room, doing whatever odd jobs need to be done, and they also help doctors by taking the blood pressure of patients. Lindy, 78, also counsels patients on the importance of eating well and taking prescribed medication. And Gene, 83, spends his spare time building bird feeders, which he gives to senior citizen groups and other worthy organizations.



 **General Sessions Judge John Getz**, 54, of East Memphis, spends his salaried hours on the judicial bench and much of the rest of his time at his writing desk — and the results may benefit all Mid-Southerners interested in the region and its history. For some time, Getz has been writing biographical sketches of all the judges who ever served in Shelby County. The work is a labor of love, he said. "There's no market out there for what I'm doing. It's just for the sake of history." When he finishes his project, he said, he will donate it to the Main Library. In addition, he wrote a history of the old St. Bridget's Catholic Church, which closed in 1938 and was torn down in 1962. He donated that work to the Catholic Diocese of Memphis. He and lawyer **Frances Loring** currently are working on a history of St. Peter's Catholic Church, which they also will donate to the diocese.

 **Bill Stoots** of Midtown has shown his love for the Memphis Belle for more than 40 years. Stoots, 66, was an aircraft mechanic during World War II, and he worked on the legendary B17 bomber in 1944 when it returned to

the states after completing 25 missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. Since the Belle moved to its own pavilion on Mud Island in 1987, Stoots has been one of the most diligent members of the volunteer restoration team. He said he has spent more than 2,000 hours working on the plane since it went on display. "I remember the way it was, so I strive for authenticity. I work just about every day doing something for the Belle, whether it's working on it, or scrounging for parts, or getting some business to donate something." The plane's restoration is sponsored by the Memphis Belle Memorial Association.

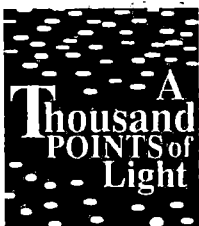
 **Sarah Weinberg** of East Memphis devotes her spare time to many different activities. She volunteers several hours a week to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, working at the reception desk or leading tours. She is an active volunteer at the Memphis Jewish Community Center, helping with the senior women's group and in the gift shop. She also performs volunteer duties at her synagogue, the Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation. In addition, she cares for her 94-year-old mother.

 "Lord have mercy, you mean they're telling tales on me?" said **Inez Puré**, 84, when told that friends believe she is the kind of volunteer worthy of being considered one of this community's Thousand Points of Light. For the past 14 years, Mrs. Puré, of East Memphis, has devoted her time to the Memphis Jewish Community Center and the B'nai B'rith Home for the elderly. She shops for presents and helps organize birthday parties for residents of the home, and helps transport wheelchair-bound patients. At the center, she has served meals provided to the needy by the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association. Also, for the past 15 years she has been president of the Golden Circle, a club for senior citizens.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Storytelling fills need

7/21/89
By Jill Johnson Piper



Judy Card, '40, a staff development officer and Friends liaison at the Public Library and Information Center, could be called the Hans Christian Andersen of this neck of the woods.

She is co-producer of a storytelling program called "Pass It On," broadcast by community radio station WEVL (FM-90) every Saturday from 9:30 to 10 a.m. "I also tell stories to people of any age who are willing to listen," said Ms. Card, who started telling stories as part of her job as a children's librarian.

"I guess what first got me hooked was going classroom to classroom and watching them respond. The most challenging group of people to tell stories to is junior high kids because they don't know whether they're kids or they're grown. But you can win them over with a good story," she said.

In 15 years of storytelling, Ms. Card has come to believe that stories fill an important need for both children and adults.

"I think stories are a way of slowing time down a little bit, and a wonderful opportunity to bring people together. It expands your horizons, and gives you insight into yourself too," she said.

You may have heard one of Ms. Card's tales at the Center for Southern Folklore's Heritage Festival on Mud Island last year, or at a Memphis in May event. She belongs to a group of Memphis storytellers called Yarnspinnners, and a women's storytelling collective, Delta Rising.

A member of the board of directors of the Tennessee Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling (TAPPS), Ms. Card will chair the Tennessee Storytelling Festival in 1990.

She is also a volunteer with Memphis

Literacy Council, and a founding member and past president of Women of Achievement.



Of Vicki Grimes, says Mental Health Society (MHS) executive director Nancy Williams: "If I needed to get something done, I'd call Vicki." A 41-year-old Southeast Memphian, Ms. Grimes gets things done for the MHS, her church and women's programs, among others. She coordinates a Paired Care program for Bishop Otey Episcopal Church, where she's served in the vestry, and a privately owned care home for the mentally ill, and she volunteers as a MHS spokesperson for the program. Paired Care arranges for church volunteers to adopt care home patients for visitation and recreation. Of her work with Women of Achievement and Network women's programs, the coordinator with Touch of Magic, a special events firm, says "That's my primary concern, being with and helping my sisters."



Dean Goldsby, 18, of North Little Rock, Ark., won't graduate from volunteer ranks. The recent graduate of Ole Main High School, where he was an active teen volunteer, looks to continue community service, as time allows, when he is a freshman at Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio this fall. The son of W. Dean and Opal Goldsby, he took to volunteerism at the encouragement of parents and teachers when he was in the eighth grade. The theology-speech and drama major found time to tutor and coach children at the Boys Club of North Little Rock and to work with safe-driving and anti-drug programs for teens, despite involvement in speech, debate, band, student council and church activities. A member of Bethany AME Church, he was president of the Arkansas-Oklahoma youth division of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Ms. Card

Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Tues. Nov. 7, 1989

Local history spawns projects for volunteer

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 As a member of the Shelby County Historical Commission, Bettye S. Reed has two pet projects. One is the completion of the park in Victorian Village, including a gazebo where band concerts can be held. The other is finding a permanent home for all the old Shelby County genealogical records that are stored at the Cossitt Library.

Considering her track record she'll no doubt succeed in both endeavors. For the past 8½ years she has done volunteer work in the ICU at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center. She has been national DAR representative to the VA Voluntary Services Advisory Committee for four years. When the VA hospital needed a bus for wheelchair patients, she chaired a committee that raised \$65,000 in nine months.

 "It was my family's way, that's what I grew up with, my mom helping when people needed help," says Ruth Knight Allen. "My daughter and son have grown up that way, they're busy, too. If that's what I've passed along, a willingness to work hard and help people, then that's enough. They'll get by and so will the people who need them."

Proud of her Cherokee-Choctaw heritage, Mrs. Allen was a founder of the Far Away Cherokee Association. She was appointed to the Tennessee Commission on Indian Affairs by former Gov. Lamar Alexander and reappointed to a second term by Gov. Ned McWhorter. She is also national secretary of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council.

Working from her home, which houses a resource library of more than 3,000 volumes, Mrs. Allen is searching for a vacant school building to develop into an Indian center that will house the library, sponsor programs from Head Start to senior citizens, contain a clothes closet and food pantry, and serve as a center for those traveling through the area. She is active with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Red Cross, and is a qualified emergency medical technician. She sings in the choir and is an active member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

 Lucille and Ralph Moose are members of Tipton County Volunteers for Christian Service. From their home in Munford, Tenn., they are involved in many county programs, including Meals on Wheels, senior citizens and the literacy council. Mrs. Moose heads the task force for staffing and operating Clothes-N-Things, a shop in Covington, Tenn., that raises money to help the underprivileged in the community.

Retired teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Moose teach adult slow learners to read and do remedial teaching with youngsters.

 "If the Lord gives you some sort of talent, you should use it," Mrs. Arthur Best has used her talents since she was in high school to make things a little more beautiful, a little more fun. She has been in charge of display in the Woman's Exchange shop for five years, creating seasonal displays. She enjoys changing the display case for the Woman's Exchange in the lobby of The Peabody.

She creates centerpieces, props for displays and for skits for many organizations, including the Duration Club, Salvation Army Auxiliary and Memphis State sororities. When her father managed the Orpheum back in its vaudeville days, she worked with him on programs for the Shrine Club. She also writes skits and plays the piano for several organizations.

 Dr. Gordon Stalcup has been a teacher and counselor in public schools since 1949. He also spends his spare time teaching and counseling. He has been group chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol for 20 years and especially enjoys working with the young cadets. He is a volunteer chaplain at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center and has just completed a three-year experimental program counseling three days a week at Juvenile Court.

Dr. Stalcup is a member of Highland Street Church of Christ, where he conducts a prayer meeting every Wednesday night. And, for the last five years, every Sunday has found Dr. Stalcup and his wife, Ellen, ministering to a "little country congregation in the middle of a farm field" in northern Arkansas. He and his wife teach Bible classes, then he leads the worship service, spends the afternoon doing maintenance on the building, and after the evening worship service they drive back to Memphis.

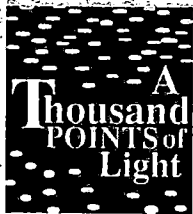
ZIGGY



Helping children succeed

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

 Aside from her work as a speech therapist in Fayette County schools and her family, Dena Gentry, 30, spends a lot of her time with Special Olympics. She became involved in it in 1981 and since then has become the Special Olympics county coordinator for Fayette County and Memphis. Mrs. Gentry, of Hickory Ridge, works with the group on Saturdays and after school. Each season emphasizes a different sport: "Once you get started you really can't stop. I get attached to the kids. They feel good just to finish." Her students include both the mentally retarded and learning disabled.



 Known affectionately as 'Bloody Mary,' Mary Troxler has helped Mississippi Blood Services with the January blood drive for 13 years. The importance of blood supplies became apparent to her with the birth of two of her children. "Both had to have transfusions when they were born, but blood wasn't available. It took many hours before some was found. Other children in my family had died of blood problems. Most people don't even think of the possibility of blood not being there when they need it," the Batesville resident says. Mrs. Troxler, 46, who with her husband owns a durable medical equipment business, also finds time for other organizations. She's involved in the service and rehabilitation committee for the county cancer board and with the Mississippi Hospital Association Society for Hospital Auxiliaries.

 Since 1974 Mazie Morris of Raleigh has been going to the Lewis Senior Citizens Center several times a week to help out. There she helps make quilts and teaches others how to quilt. On Wednesdays the 82-year-old uses her sewing talents at her church, Raleigh United Methodist. "Hospitals give us old sheets, which we tear up, put paper between and sew for use as pads for cancer patients," she says. "I also help my neighbors by looking after their homes when they're away. I do things because I love people, not for praise."

 Jeani Grinalds, 50, of East Memphis, gives her time to the dying and their families. Through St. Francis Hospital, she provides hospice care for several patients each week. She sits with the terminally ill in their homes or in the hospital, tending to their needs. "Many times the families need me more than the patients do," she says. "They are completely worn out from staying around the clock with their loved one. I'm able to help out for a little while and give them a rest." She also volunteers each week at the McWhorter Senior Center, where she records new memberships.

 Frank DeCostanza, 37, volunteers to help inmates at the Shelby County Correctional Center. Since 1982, he has been involved in a program called Decisions, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Memphis. He and other volunteers in the nondenominational program teach an eight-week course in decision-making skills to groups of nine to 12 inmates. The courses run year-round, and enrollment is voluntary. "We try to teach the participants how to respond to situations, rather than react to them," says the Maybelline Company employee. "We have lessons on self-awareness, self-acceptance, responsibility and economic lifestyles." DeCostanza emphasizes that there are 30 to 40 other volunteers in the Decisions program, presently coordinated by Alice Broderick. "This is purely an act of faith on our part," he says. "We can only hope we make a difference in these people's lives. I believe our greatest impact is showing them that others are interested in them and care about them."

 "When I walk down the runway at The Peabody for the annual Reach to Recovery fashion show, in front of 800 or 900 people who all know you've had a mastectomy, it makes you feel that cancer doesn't have to be an end," says Jo Ann Thweatt, 53. "More needs to be said about the survivors." The Raleigh-Bartlett resident has been with Reach to Recovery for 11 years and once was named their volunteer of the year. She's also worked with Memphis Area Mastectomy Association, a self-help group. "It's rewarding to see people go on with their lives," says the school secretary at Snowden Elementary and Junior High. Mrs. Thweatt also takes an active role at her church, Bartlett United Methodist.

Thurs.
Nov. 9, 1989

A15

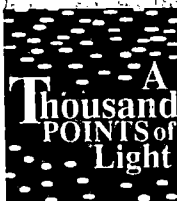
7/29/89

Potter helps shape lives through gift of reading

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 Volunteer service can leave Dale Baucum, 37, with feats of clay. Baucum and his wife Brin, 41, both potters, have conducted pottery workshops for students at Snowden School. Parents of children ages 6 and 10, they also take students on educational and recreational field trips. But volunteer service as a reader for elementary students fires the potter's heart. "I used to tell the children that I felt like learning to read is like having the keys to the kingdom," he says of reading for classes at Snowden and Springdale Magnet School. A Memphis College of Art graduate, he serves as a volunteer reader through Evergreen Presbyterian Church for the Free the Children program.



 JoeAnn and Monroe Ballard of Midtown have taken 40 underprivileged children under their wings in the past five years. Mrs. Ballard is executive director of Neighborhood Christian Center. The couple will help anyone who is in need. She says she and her husband have no assistance from welfare or government subsidies, and finances have always been a concern, but she sees the need because she is a Christian and was a foster child herself. Twelve youngsters are living with the couple this summer. The Ballards bought a house across the street from their home for additional space. Mrs. Ballard wishes more people would help poor youngsters. "My concern is that the world is too selfish," she says.

 Pam J. Haver, 44, of Jackson, Miss., has done her share of volunteer service. She has worked in children's homes and shelters for abused youngsters and with the elderly. "The main purpose in all of this is just to let somebody know that you care," she says. More recently, she has been working with juveniles in the Jackson Juvenile Youth Court. She and fellow members of Christ United Methodist Church visit detained juveniles, play board games with them, and witness for the Lord.

Through her church, Ms. Haver was involved in mission work that renovated churches in Mexico and Jamaica.

 A traffic incident 25 years ago has Dottie Crunk of Midtown

looking at injured animals in a different light. "I was coming home from work down Union in that awful traffic," she says. "One little dog had been hit by a car." She remembers another dog standing in the middle of the busy street trying to rouse the injured dog. This scene moved her to work for the Memphis Humane Society, then operating out of the living room of the late Mrs. Adele Orgill. She says she has done work with the Pet Therapy Service, which allows patients at nursing homes and children's hospitals to enjoy animals. A court reporter, she has worked with cruelty investigators. She describes her work as "very tragic and emotionally stressful, but also heartwarming." She also works weekends at a thrift shop.

 Brian Waldron is a natural for nature. Waldron, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Waldron, is an assistant naturalist at Lichterman Nature Center where he has done volunteer work for six years. "I like working in nature," says the East Memphis resident. "When I was 3, I went to the Rocky Mountains and I have been interested in nature ever since." He works in the rehabilitation center for injured animals which is a part of Lichterman. For two years, he also has worked on the gazebo project, restoring and landscaping it with 31 different types of plants. He put in the trail system for the gazebo and the butterfly gardens. Waldron has been a Eagle Scout for five years for his church, St. Louis Catholic Church.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Runaways, families get help

9-5-89

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 When **Bonnie Bridges**, a retired nurse, visited Juvenile Court with a group about a year ago, she learned of the need for volunteers. So she did.

She's one of 18 members of the commission on missing and exploited children. She spends a day a week on such things as checking whether runaways have returned and helping those with drug problems find medical treatment. Sometimes parents or other relatives are more willing to talk if they aren't dealing with law enforcement officers, she explained.

Mrs. Bridges, 57, said she volunteered because of the satisfaction it gives her. "I felt like I had the time, so I did."

 **James Walter Porter Jr.**, 65, started work with the Union Railway in 1943. Now retired, his interest in the railroads has combined with a desire to save lives. Concerned about the number of children killed while playing on railroad tracks, Porter took a course in North Little Rock and became active in Operation Lifesaver. He takes his message to schools, saying "so many lives have been lost through lack of understanding. You can't beat a train." A past PTA president at Alcy Elementary, the Southeast Memphis resident also works hard for his church, New Life Mississippi Baptist.

 "Just mention it and I do it," **Peggy Banks**, 37, says of her work at Egypt Elementary. The volunteer called "Miss Piggy" by the students has

helped in the school library, at the clinic, gone on field trips and cared for injured children. "I feel like I have one natural child and 5,000 adopted kids," she says. Mrs. Banks had been a secretary before her daughter entered school, but quit because "I feel as a parent that if we don't speak up for our kids, who'll take care of them?"

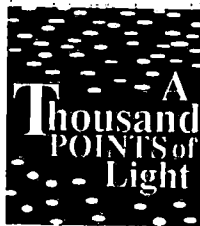
Recently moved from the Raleigh area, Mrs. Banks has every intention of continuing her work in Somerville.

 "When kids come up to me and tell me they're doing better in school, that's one of the rewards," says **Charles McNeil**, 41, of his work at Lanier Junior High School. A supervisor, McNeil got interested in the Junior Engineering Technical Society and Junior Achievement at the school through his employer, Cleo Wrap, adopt-a-school sponsor for Lanier. Volunteering 20 hours a week, McNeil, who lives in Whitehaven and works a late shift, presents motivational talks and works to keep kids in school.

 **Roscoe McWilliams** estimates he has spent 25 to 30 years working with civic groups. Now a retired school librarian, the 66-year-old still works as lay adviser at Church Health Center and in the 31st Ward Civic Club. "We try to see what we can do from a civic, not political, viewpoint," he says. Encouraging voter registration, teaching residents about diseases and nutrition, and working with unwed mothers are a few of his concerns.

"There's such a need," the Midtown resident says. "If I could I'd be doing something every day."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



pg. A9

Food pantry helps family share blessings

By Jill Johnson Piper



In most households, doing the grocery shopping ranks up there with washing the windows and dishes for sheer drudgery, but it's the highlight of Becky Meals' month, especially when it's for hungry families in Memphis.

"You always leave with a smile on your face because you know you've truly done something for someone else," Mrs. Meals said of her volunteer job as chairman of the food pantry at Lindenwood Christian Church.

Mrs. Meals, 37, does whatever it takes to get 100 bags of groceries to hungry families once a month, and that includes doing the shopping and finding enough hands to do the sacking.

The last Thursday of the month, Mrs. Meals picks up her order at the Memphis Food Bank, and supplements it with produce purchased with funds from a local wholesaler. The next day, volunteers at Lindenwood double-bag and sack groceries for 100 families. Then, St. Patrick's Catholic Church picks them up and distributes them.

"We pack 60 bags with enough food for a family of four for three days, and another 40 bags for smaller single-parent families," said Mrs. Meals, in her second year as chairman.

"I still feel like the new person on the block, because there are others who've been at it for eight years. The majority of them are retired, but during the summer months I take my children. I've tried to stress to them the importance of what we're doing. I tell them that there are people who are hungry and not as fortunate as they are, and that we are responsible to share what we have. We have been very blessed and it is our duty to share with others," she said.

Mrs. Meals is also involved in the Carousel of Shoppes sponsored by Subsidium, the support group for Memphis Oral School for the Deaf.

Her husband, Joe Meals, 34, is chairman of the deacons at Lindenwood, and coached the girls' softball team this summer. He has also served on several church committees and helped furnish one of the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association's emergency homes for families. As liaison between the Disciple Sunday school class and its adopted family, he helped determine and meet the family's needs, from assistance with utility bills to the acquisition of bunk beds and eyeglasses.

The Mealses have two daughters, 7 and 9, and they live in East Memphis.

Other points of light:

William Tagg, 43, gives his spare time and efforts to more than one Memphis cause. Each May he lures to town head football coaches and other celebrities to play in a golf tournament benefiting St. Peter's Children's Home.

The East Memphis Realtor is on the board of the Memphis Touchdown Club, which supports the local Boys Club. During football season, the Touchdown Club presents a weekly award to the outstanding offensive and defensive high school player in the city. With the College Football Associ-

By Dave Darnell



Becky Meals, chairman of the Lindenwood Christian Church food pantry committee, helps pack 100 bags of groceries for hungry Memphis families.

ation, it gives its annual Academic Achievement Award to a college which graduates the largest percentage of student athletes.

Each Christmas Tagg and his son, Taylor, assemble food baskets at Federal Express Corporation and deliver them to 50 needy families. He says he receives greatest satisfaction from his work as a "Eucharistic" minister.

Through the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Anne's Catholic Church, he ministers to the sick at home and in hospitals by taking Holy Communion to them.

One would think volunteer time is hard to come by for a man with three jobs. But Rev. Joe Henson, 48, of Kilmichael, Miss., proves it can be found if the desire is great.

As police chief of Kilmichael and pastor of two area churches, he sees troubled young people every day.

He uses what spare time he has to counsel children in crisis and prevent others from getting into trouble. In homes, schools, and churches, he speaks about drug abuse, child abuse and teenage pregnancy.

When he can afford it, he takes children on vacations from Memphis to California to "let them see other places and things." He says, "I want to give kids some hope and a positive mental attitude. I left my community at age 20 and returned at 35, because it was more important to help the kids here than to live in a big city."

Louis Turétsky, 75, found he had time on his hands when he retired in 1980 and decided to use it for something worthwhile. Through his synagogue, Baron Hirsch Congregation, he gets a list of Jewish patients in Baptist Memorial Hospital and visits them weekly.

As chairman of the visiting committee at Leila Schott Masonic Lodge, he also visits all Masons who are patients in the VA Hospital. Both hospitals are near his Midtown home.

"I love people and get a lot of pleasure from visiting those in the hospital," he says. "I think I bring a little happiness to them."

Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home () work ()

Here's what this person does to help others: _____

Your name: _____ phone: _____

West Memphis volunteers honored

SEPTEMBER has been declared Arkansas Volunteer Month by Gov. Bill Clinton, and many West Memphis volunteers will be honored tonight with a Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

Those honored will include:

 "A rut is a grave with two open ends," Forrest Dunlap likes to say. Dunlap has volunteer work to keep him out of any ruts. He was working as

marketing director for Exxon in 1986 when he had heart surgery and was forced into early retirement.

"When I recovered I vowed to do something with my new life that would have meaning

something as repayment for all the blessings I have received," he said. An active member of First United Methodist Church in West Memphis, it was Dunlap to whom Mayor Keith Ingram turned to coordinate relief efforts following the Dec. 14, 1987, tornado.

"Forrest was on the front line at City Hall for months directing our relief efforts," Ingram said. "That included coordinating manpower, finding some place to store massive amounts of donated food, and generally channelling the hundreds of volunteers who wanted to help."

Said Dunlap, "A man who has held responsibility, worked hard, and taken pride in his work for his entire adult life, enjoys retirement for about two weeks. Then, he wakes up one morning with no challenges to face, nothing to build and nurture and no peers to appreciate his labors. At that point, he withers up and waits to die, or gets out and finds something to do."

In Dunlap's case, he began with co-

ordinating tornado relief and progressed to the long-range project of developing the Good Neighbor Center, of which he is chairman of the board of directors.

When Haiti was hit hard last year by hurricanes and floods, Dunlap led a group of Methodist doctors, nurses, mechanics and farmers on two trips to help the Haitians rebuild.

Another thing Dunlap likes to say: "Volunteering makes you feel good. It is literally good for your health."

 Even though she lost her sight as an adult, Betty Stewart has a special vision of life. Mrs. Stewart, who lost her vision to macular degeneration, attended the Arkansas Institute for the Blind in Little Rock to regain her independence.

"The first two years were hard," she recalled, attributing her ability to build a new life to the love and support of her husband, Roland Stewart, and their two children.

She now serves on the institute's board of directors and travels to Little Rock several times a month. She has served two terms as a board member of the State Division of Services for the Blind, to which she was appointed by Gov. Bill Clinton. She is first vice president of the Arkansas Council of the Blind and the East Arkansas Council of the Blind and is a past president of the Marion-West Memphis Lionesses. In 1988, the Arkansas Lionesses recognized her as "Lioness of the Year."

 Robert 'Bob' Hobbs, a rehabilitation counselor with the Arkansas Department of Rehabilitation, is planning to retire soon, but doesn't expect to stop working.

For the past 30 years, Hobbs has remained active in a variety of community projects. He has been an adviser to Sigma Phi Omega fraternity, an organization of teenage boys involved in community projects; music director at First Presbyterian Church, and a producer, director and performer with West Memphis Little Theatre.

"When Bob makes a commitment to a project you can absolutely depend on him to do a superb job," said Bobbi Dodge, who recently co-produced *The Sound of Music* with Hobbs for West Memphis Little Theatre.

Hobbs helped develop a local chapter of the American Cancer Society, and has acted as an adviser to the East-Ark Enterprises sheltered workshop, the Love Center, the Good Neighbor Center and the Eighth Street Mission for Jesus Christ.

 Rev. Mike Scott and his wife, Laura Scott, run the Eighth Street Mission for Jesus Christ in West Memphis.

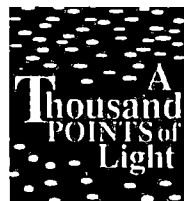
Mr. Scott says his wife is the backbone of the mission, preparing about 25,000 meals a year for indigent men who come to the mission. The couple came to West Memphis in 1987 and opened the mission, where they serve hot meals and provide shelter, clothing and Christian counseling to as many as 15 men a day. In the last year they have expanded the mission's work to include drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and have opened a mission in Hot Springs. Mrs. Scott also counsels abused women and families.

 Raymond Webb often gave food to needy residents when he operated a small general store in rural Crittenden County. Now that he's retired, he hasn't stopped helping people. Webb was one of the original organizers of the People that Love Center, now known as the Good Neighbor Center.

"More than any other one person, Mr. Webb is our strength and guiding light at the center," said Sherry Anderson, executive director of the Good Neighbor Center.

Each morning, Webb brings the day's supply of bread to the back door of the center's food pantry and then proceeds to make himself busy sweeping floors or helping to shelve canned goods. Or he might show up at a public event to collect aluminum cans, which are recycled to raise money for center clients in need of medical care.

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Dunlap

9-12-89

Tennessee Girl Scouts reap benefits sown by this mother-daughter team

By Larry Williams.

A Thousand Points of Light

Jane Hazlewood, 88, is a multifaceted woman who defies easy description because her life has been one of involvement.

But her daughter, E. Jane Hazlewood, 56, probably came as close to an appropriate summation as anyone could: "She is very young in her thinking — for any age."

Mrs. Hazlewood and her daughter, of Humboldt, Tenn., devote about 10 hours a week to the Girl Scout program.

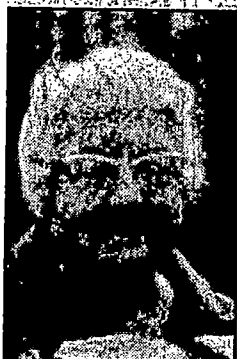
"They are wonderful, wonderful people," said Denise Warren, executive director of the Reelfoot Council of the Girls Scouts. "They are a perfect mother-daughter combination."

"Mrs. Hazlewood is always there to provide answers for questions I have and she is always available for input for our programs. She has been around as long as we have had a council. She is a very valuable asset to our organization. She is a kind and thoughtful woman."

"And everything I say about the mother, I add for the daughter. These ladies are extremely knowledgeable, very dedicated and very progressive. They are so supportive and I don't know what we would do without them."

"They have been the heart of Girl Scouting."

Both have served several terms as president of the Reelfoot Council,



Mrs. Hazlewood

which has more than 6,000 members. Camp Hazlewood at Paris Landing, the resident camp for Girl Scouts in Tennessee, was named for Mrs. Hazlewood. Both have received the GSA "Thanks Badge" for meritorious service.

Mrs. Hazlewood grew up with the Girl Scouts organization, which is 77 years old. Her daughter was in the program but was away from West Tennessee 20 years working as a bio-statistician before returning and getting involved again.

E. Jane Hazlewood is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and earned a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina. She came back home to help run the family farm and, of course, to help in the Girl Scout program.

"I started out just advising and helping my mother, but it wasn't long before I was totally involved in the Scout program because of her great example," she said.

The Hazlewoods are active in church work. Mrs. Hazlewood does volunteer work at First Presbyterian and her daughter at St. Thomas Episcopal.

Asked the most important thing they can tell a girl to interest her in the Scout programs, the Hazlewoods do not hesitate.

"It's fun," they both say.

Other points of light:

"I don't have a green thumb," says Nancy Jarratt, the woman behind Memphis City Beautiful Commission's "Plant the Town Red" campaign. But the 46-year-old East Memphian does want a beautiful, clean city everyone can take pride in and has

been working for that goal in six years at the commission. Catering sales manager for The Peabody, Mrs. Jarratt got the idea for the project on a trip to Dallas. She was inspired by the Dallas Museum of History's red-tie gala fundraiser and translated the red part into a Memphis effort.

"With my job, I've put in 80-hour weeks," she says, "but it was fun to watch the idea bloom across the city."

Shirley Lüpfer, 51, likes the idea of "helping girls develop options for their lives." So, six years ago she joined the Girls Club of Memphis and acted as president for two years.

"Our motto is, 'It doesn't matter where a girl comes from as long as she knows where she's going,'" says Ms. Lüpfer, who is on the faculty at Memphis State University.

The Midtown resident enjoys the rewards of seeing girls take charge of their lives and not "end up a drain on society. They have goals in their lives."

To Lee Miller, 41, helping others find jobs is an important goal. As vice president and manager of computers at First Tennessee Bank, Miller is a member of his company's volunteer bank and helps at the Memphis Urban League, giving talks on jobs and what to expect in the business world. He also targets skills development, giving students training on personal computers. Miller, of Midtown, says when he got out of college he had wanted to teach and "this gives me the chance to be involved in education. And helping someone find a job is so important!"

Larry Williams is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, send the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Ms. Hazlewood

9-14-89

Helping others is worth time, effort

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 The best thing about working as a reserve police officer for the Yazoo City Police Department for Richard Davis is "assisting people. I like helping people from out of town, finding addresses for people and consoling burglary victims." He does more than that, though — the Benton resident also gives his time directing traffic at the Christmas parade and working on the shopping mall detail during the holidays. At Halloween the 38-year-old control operator at Mississippi Chemical helps keep kids safe and he's always willing to fill in for regulars when needed. Davis says it's his way of helping and will continue "until I'm physically unable."

 Jim Derryberry's work with the Optimist Club's Youth Foundation takes a lot of the retired businessman's time. Chairman of the Marty Hart Scholarship committee, Derryberry be-

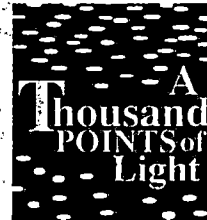
gins by distributing applications to city, county, Catholic and private schools. Next he and the six others on the committee do preliminary screenings, this year choosing 42 students for personal interviews. In June, winners are selected. This year 28 students collected \$23,000 from the fund. The 67-year-old East Memphian doesn't mind the drain on his time, however; he believes the extra work is worth it.

 Several years ago Joy Morton and some friends began Help for the Handicapped when they saw how many children didn't have the funds for special wheelchairs. Through bake sales and garage sales, they raised enough money that first year to buy seven wheelchairs; last year they landed a corporate gift of \$25,000 and bought 20. "The money people donate goes totally for the chairs," says Mrs. Morton, who works at an insurance agency. "The prices range from \$1,500 to \$6,000, de-

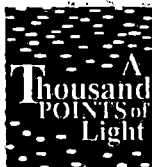
pending on the child's need," the 50-year-old who lives near Millington explains. "It's heartwarming to see a child get one — they are so appreciative — and you know it's worth the time you put into it."

 When Lee Wilson, 35, ends his day as a "DUI school" instructor at the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, his work for others begins. In his Sherwood Forest home, he and his wife Jacoba counsel persons suffering from substance abuse and marital problems. Word-of-mouth brings people to Wilson's Living Water Ministry, which offers "emotional and spiritual" healing based on Biblical principals. He says his own life change prompted this endeavor. "My dependence on alcohol brought devastation into my life, and I want to extend to others the hope I found through Christ and recovery."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Retirement doesn't stop volunteers



John H. Muntian spent his career traveling the South for Xerox.

Now, in retirement, you can still find him on the road, traveling for three charities that help children or older people live better lives.

As an active Shriner, Muntian, 77, drives twice a month to Shriner's hospitals in St. Louis, Galveston or Cincinnati to take burned or crippled children for treatment.

Muntian, a Shriner since 1954, organized the Shriners transportation project in Memphis after seeing it in action in St. Louis.

In 1984 he and two friends used their own vehicles and rented a van or station wagon if more than one child needed to be moved. Now the project has 15 pairs of drivers, five vans and use of a small airplane. They help 260 children in West Tennessee get to surgeries, skin grafts and check-ups each year. A parent of each child goes along, all expenses paid.

Muntian also helps mentally retarded youngsters through his work with the Civitan Club's candy box project. As chairman of the project for the Downtown Civitan, he oversees operation of 22 boxes in restaurants where patrons can buy the candy as a donation to Civitan.

The money goes to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, the Arlington Developmental Center, Special Olympics and a Scout troop for mentally retarded boys and girls.

At the other end of the age range, Muntian checks on frail senior citizens as part of the Shelby County Sheriff's Senior Citizen Crime Watch. At least one day a week he calls on about 30 seniors in his assigned zip code area. "They might be ill, incapacitated, somebody might be bothering them and we find out what the problem is. We try to help them know what to do. Most of them are in their 80s — a lot of people that are locked in."

When Muntian came to the United States in 1927, his home was in Russia. Now it's part of Romania. He came to Memphis in 1952 to introduce Xerox products to the region and was so often on the road that he had no time for civic work.

That changed after retirement — and he was further motivated after his wife entered a nursing home.

"Some people sit and do nothing, so I decided I should do something for people that need it. . . I don't just want to sit and look at four walls. They get tire-some. By doing all this it's a wonderful feeling."

Other points of light:

Idleness doesn't agree with Carolyn Dodson, 53. She first tutored dyslexic children at a ghetto school. Then five years ago she started work-

ing on the sack lunch program at her church, First United Methodist, and soon the Frayser resident was running the food pantry and travel sack programs.

After a brief rest due to back problems, the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA) drafted Mrs. Dodson for their food pantry. "Then I started work on the coat drive, which later involved me in the clothes closet." Now she handles much of the inventory and paperwork for the closet. "It's a whole different world for me," Mrs. Dodson says enthusiastically. "It's different from anything I've done before."

When Ann Knapp retired after more than 30 years with the Red Cross, she didn't want to sit at her Midtown home. "I had always been interested in MIFA and seen what a wonderful job they do."

So she figured she would give one day each week to helping that organization. First she worked in the food pantry and now mans the phone at the job bank, which matches people seeking jobs with those who need help. Finding the work rewarding, Ms. Knapp lauds her co-workers and says she plans to continue helping out.

Baking cookies for friends and church activities, delivering meals for MIFA, visiting the home-bound and working in the clothes closet at Regional Medical Center at Memphis keeps 91-year-old Mary Love going. "I don't like to sit around," the Midtown resident says. She works as much as four hours most days in volunteer work.

Part of that time is for the Johnson Auxillary at the hospital in the clothes closet named for her. "It was named after me 14 or 15 years ago," Mrs. Love remembers. "There's a brass plaque with my name on it on the door." There she keeps track of the clothes, solicits donations and makes sure clothes are clean and mended. "I enjoy life" is the motto Mrs. Love says has guided her life.

The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Muntian

VIEWPOINT

Helping students, elderly is at top of priority list

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 "Unless we educate the children, Memphis won't progress as it should," believe Dr. and Mrs. Laurence Fitzgerald. To do their part, the Midtown residents have been active members of the Memphis Better Schools Committee since 1957. "We had three children in city schools and were aware of problems, particularly in the area of financial support," says Mrs. Fitzgerald, 73. She is a past PTA president and, with her husband, now 72 and retired from his job as an anatomy professor at the University of Tennessee at Memphis, worked for more equitable distribution of funds and for special programs for schools.

"We feel money is better spent for schools than for prisons and (there's) less cost in welfare and crime," Mrs. Fitzgerald explains.

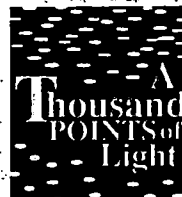
 "I am a youth adviser," explains Derrick Byrd, 26. "I get with teens and find out what they want to be and set them on their goals." He started about six years ago and still works with the Gaston Park branch library's Young Adult Service and as a probation officer at Juvenile Court. The South Memphis resident with "a genuine interest in kids" wants them "to become productive citizens." By helping to combat dropping out of school and teen pregnancies and helping kids complete their GEDs and college training, Byrd feels he can attain his goal. "Two I recently helped got college scholarships and nine are in the GED program and plan to complete it," he says proudly.

 His interest in the elderly first came about because of older family members, but Matthew Gray says later "it came as a ministry." Now 74, he has worked for years to improve the lives of senior citizens. Gray regularly takes them to church and to the doctor, visits the homebound and helps others with financial advice. The North Memphis resident is active in his church, St. John Baptist Church, as well. "It seemed to be my lot to find fulfillment doing for others," says the retired Firestone employee.

 "I wish I had more time to volunteer," says Allen Blair of Ger-

mantown. He's kept busy by his job in sales for radio station WEGR, but does squeeze in work with the White Station Optimist Club, Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association and the Tri-Star Basketball team for underprivileged youth. The 38-year-old has been on the special events committee for United Way and on the board. His work with the Memphis Advertising Federation, where he links Memphis State students with businessmen, led to the Aid to Advertising Education Award. "It's a battle to balance career, family and church, but volunteering takes a lot of people. Otherwise things don't get done."

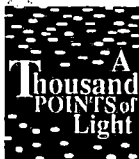
To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Rose Vescovi (left) and her sister, Ida Richmond, fold bed pads sewn for cancer patients and other ill shut-ins as part of a program organized by the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association:



Volunteer power makes senior citizen center go



Rose Vescovi, 83, can be found most days in the dining room at the Lewis Center for Senior Citizens from 8 a.m. to at least 1 p.m.

She's not obsessed with food. She's just a dedicated dining room assistant, game coordinator and grocery store manager — all volunteer, of course.

"I started here in the dining room, filling up salt and pepper shakers, and I've been in the dining room ever since. What work goes on downstairs I never know about it!" Mrs. Vescovi said.

She has been helping at the center for 15 years, along with her sister, Ida Richmond, who is 90. They and other senior volunteers keep the center running. "It does keep us pretty active around here, especially because we meet up with so many people," she said. "It's a pleasure to do things like that, when you help others that can't help themselves. We all pitch in when we're needed!"

Mrs. Vescovi carries trays for seniors and keeps coffee and tea cups filled.

She was the center's bingo coordinator until Tennessee's crackdown on gambling forced a change to The Price Is Right or bunto for the biweekly games played in the dining hall. She also organizes the grocery store, which is a long table loaded with basic foodstuffs and personal care items. "It's just for the accommodation of members who can't get out," she said.

The sisters also volunteer at the Salvation Army, serving coffee and doughnuts once a month and working during the harvest festival. "We used to ring bells (at the Army's Christmas donation buckets) but we discontinued that because we got too old," Mrs. Vescovi said.

She also sews bed pads for cancer patients and other ill shut-ins as part of a program organized by the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association. Hospital sheets are cut and lined with sheets of paper by 400 volunteers, she said.

As a volunteer with the League of Mercy, she visits patients at Memphis Veterans' Medical Center nursing home.

Mrs. Vescovi worked as a cashier at various places earlier in her life, and she raised one daughter. Her husband died in 1971.

In 1988 she was one of 10 Volunteers of the Year. "It gets me away from home and keeps me in pretty good health, I think," she said.

Other points of light

Walker Morris Jr., 46, of East Memphis, encountered difficulty several years ago in finding an appropriate softball team for his Down Syndrome son. Because of his handicap, Walker III was unable to play with boys his age, and younger teams often did not exist.

This summer Morris solved the problem by forming a team exclusively for handicapped players. Sponsored by Holy Communion Episcopal Church, the team was composed of 15 boys, ages 9 to 19. With the help of several other parents, Morris coached the team and held practice twice a week. The team played games against itself and against another Holy Communion team of 8- and 9-year-olds.

"Most of these kids had never held a bat or ball in their hands," says the Northwest Airlines pilot. "They learned new skills and had a great time."

Otha Tedford of Cleveland, Miss., raises "a pretty good vegetable garden" every summer, and it is appreciated by the many people who receive its bounty. The 65-year-old "semi-retired" farmer and cotton ginner shares the vegetables with friends, elderly neighbors and anyone who needs food. He also helps senior citizens by mowing their yards and running errands for them.

"I'm just being a neighbor, it's nothing big," he says. "I don't like to sit around too much."

Tedford's volunteerism extends to his 17-year involvement with the Gideon organization, in which he serves as chaplain. He is on the board and teaches Sunday school at the First Assembly of God Church, and he frequently witnesses to inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

Despite her 86 years and a broken arm, Dahlia Thompkin is always helping others. She cooks for sick friends and visits nursing home residents, passing out Gideon Bibles. She gives clothes to the needy and drives to collect commodities for those

who don't have transportation. She often cares for retarded neighbors to allow their families an opportunity to go out.

"As long as I'm still driving and going strong, it's my pleasure to do for others," she says. "I'd love to do more, but I try my best."

Vensons helped to bring blacks into mainstream

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 In the early 1930s, Ethyl Venson and her husband, Dr. R. Q. Venson, took a young nephew to the Cotton Carnival parade. The floats, pulled by black men in white coats, swept by as the crowd applauded.

"My husband and I were conditioned to think nothing of the black men's role in the parade," she says. "But my nephew said, 'I don't like this parade, because all the Negroes are horses.' We realized then what kind of message was being sent to all black children."

That moment sparked the creation of the Cotton Makers' Jubilee, an organization devoted to bringing black people into mainstream American life, including Memphis' Cotton Carnival. Mrs. Venson, now 81, and her late husband were co-founders of the group and she served as its chairperson from 1970-85.

Mrs. Venson also has been a volunteer for the American Cancer Association, American Heart Association, National Dental Association and Memphis Family Services. She served on the board of Memphis Housing Authority for 17 years and was its only female chairman. She is presently on the Mayor's Community Relations Commission and the State Commission on Aging.

 Although Jerry Herbers is retired, he knows what he'll be doing two days a week.

On one of them he and his wife, Dorothy, deliver meals for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association. On the oth-

er he helps serve food at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church's kitchen. And he sometimes helps in the church's ministry to the sick, making hospital calls.

Herbers, 67, helped deliver MIFA's Meals on Wheels to the elderly and disabled about six years ago and resumed the deliveries when he retired from Shelby County government the first of the year. He and Mrs. Herbers take food to about 20 shut-ins. Herbers, a permanent deacon at his church, said it serves food daily to 100-200 needy people.

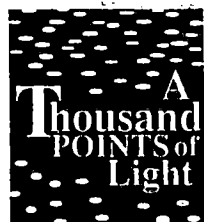
He got involved in the volunteer work "because the need is there and I have the opportunity to do it." Also, he said, it is in response to the Gospel's call to help the needy.

 Three years ago Alma and Lee Liles contacted United Cerebral Palsy with an unusual proposal. They would open their farm in Collierville to handicapped children for horseback riding.

"I thought horses would have a therapeutic effect," says Mrs. Liles. "And physical therapists have praised what a difference it has made. They say it helps autistic, retarded and spastic children to be more responsive. It gives them control over something, which is important since they can't control their bodies. It makes them feel more normal."

The Liles made their indoor arena handicapped-accessible and give three classes two times a week. "No amount of money could pay us for the joy we get in helping them," said Mrs. Liles.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



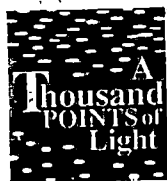
9-19-89

A  A

VIEWPOINT

A desire to help others fuels volunteer efforts

By Peggy Reisser Winburne



Betty Langdon of Rosemark, Tenn., didn't know anything about organizing a volunteer effort. She only knew there was need and she wanted to give it a try.

So in the spring of 1984, Mrs. Langdon and three friends — Joy Morton, Charm Thometz and Regina Haddad — chartered Help for the Handicapped Association Inc., a volunteer group that raises money to buy wheelchair seating systems for children and adults with multiple handicaps.

The group, now with about 25 members, helps finance all or part of the all-important custom wheelchairs for eight to 12 people a year.

Help for the Handicapped hit the big leagues of fund-raising last year when a Memphis corporation, ENPAK Inc., donated \$25,000 to its cause.

But the organization started out small.

Mrs. Langdon, 59, retired from her job in personnel at what is now The Regional Medical Center at Memphis in 1982, and moved to a neighborhood in Rosemark.

"I found I had some time and I wanted

to do something useful in the community," she said. "I was anxious to do something where all of the proceeds would go toward helping someone rather than salaries."

To identify needs, she contacted friends. One neighbor, who has a handicapped child, told of many children who were without equipment, such as specialized wheelchairs, that could make their lives easier.

Help for the Handicapped was born, with a charter, four members, some husbands and high hopes.

"There are so many people out there who really have to have some help to be able to even live a comfortable life," she said.

The first efforts at money-raising were bake sales and garage sales. Next came a successful fashion show at The Peabody.

The fund-raising continues, said Mrs. Langdon, who is the group's chairman of the board. In the future, a golf or bowling tournament may be scheduled.

And there's always room for more working members, for her group and, for that matter, for other volunteer organizations as well.

"If the desire is strong enough, to want to do something and you don't already know what you want to do, just talk to friends and get out there and see what the need is," Mrs. Langdon said. "There's such a great need and not enough people to fill it."

Other points of light:

Although as Channel 13 weatherman Jim Jagers is in front of the cameras much of the time, the 33-year-old Germantown resident does a lot of behind-the-scenes volunteer work. He's active at Germantown United Methodist Church, taking children on hikes at the Lichterman Nature Center, driving them in a bus to activities and helping them make puppets. Several years ago he joined the Make A Wish Foundation and is on the board of directors. "I liked the group because they have a wonderful reputation for going beyond what they're asked to do. If a child asks for a Nintendo we give them that and throw a party, too. Or, if we send a child to Disneyworld, we arrange to send the mother and father, too."

Jagers also enjoys working with United Cerebral Palsy on its telethon, the United Way and the United Negro College Fund. "People are nice enough to watch me on TV, so I can certainly do something for them."

"Instead of sitting in front of the TV eating popcorn and drinking Coke, I like to get involved," says Denise Bollheimer of Midtown. Besides her busy job as vice president of marketing and planning for University Physicians Foundation and marketing director for University of Tennessee, Memphis, Ms. Bollheimer has taken on other responsibilities. Chairman of the Memphis in May International Barbecue Contest

for three years, she is still a festival volunteer, believing it is a wonderful thing for the city. "I spend a lot of my time as chairman of the board for the Memphis Literacy Council" and she also works as 1986 class coordinator for Leadership Memphis and is on the board of directors for the Kiwanis. Free time often gets tight, Ms. Bollheimer admits, and she devotes a lot of week-ends and nights to projects and plans breakfast meetings. "The community's been good to me," she says, "so I want to invest in it and give some back."

Ken Powers Sr. began volunteer work in 1981. A few years later it led to a call to the ministry and now the 59-year-old Nashvillian says helping the homeless has become a full-time occupation. Powers spent 25 years in the military, then time as a free-lance journalist and editor of Tennessee Business magazine. But somehow it wasn't enough. "An associate pastor at my church was overwhelmed by the work of helping street people and asked me to help. Listening to their stories, my heart opened to them." Today he is a minister at Nancy Webb Kelly Methodist Church, "a mission in an area of deep poverty." There he helps provide showers, laundry, food, counseling and day shelter and supervises the Transitional Living Program to aid people back to a mainstream lifestyle. For Powers it's just "something I feel called to do."

The days and nights of Molly Todd brim with work and important causes. At 85, Mrs. Todd's interests are varied and reflect a lifetime of concern for her fellow man. "I'm sort of a do-gooder," admits the Nashville resident modestly. "Once upon a time I was a social worker; then had a family and started getting involved." Those involvements include the League of Women Voters, Peace Alliance, Nashvillians for a Nuclear Freeze, Church Women United and the Tennessee Council on Human Relations. "I get in touch with Senators Gore and Sasser so much that their staffs know my voice," says Mrs. Todd. Her present concerns are recycling and the environment, and reforming the state tax system, among others. "I had to get into politics," Mrs. Todd says. "You have to know what's going on and use your influence and vote to change things."

Peggy Reisser Winburne is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

From tax time to party time, volunteers pitch in to help

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 When Ester Hetman finishes her volunteer work people "kiss and hug me, try to sneak money to me which I have to sneak back," she says. It's not the usual reaction people have to an IRS worker, but the 69-year-old retiree is unusually giving of herself. "After years of experience working at IRS I knew quite a bit about business

and personal taxes. I contacted AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) before I retired in December of 1982 and in January I was in their classes." Since then she has helped elderly and low-income taxpayers with their returns, doing as many as 100 during a season. "It takes a lot of my time and I'm glad of it," the Highland Heights resident says. People have followed her from different library locations where she works. She says her work is very gratifying.

 Getting involved in The Memphis in May International Festival's salute to the Netherlands in 1982 sparked an interest in volunteerism for Wilma Taylor, 41, that hasn't dimmed. "I had lived in Holland and France as a teen," says Ms. Taylor of Fox Meadows. She enjoyed working on the Memphis in May events so much that she continued with that group, becoming head of International Weekend Activities. Her desire to help spread to Bethany Home, where she joined the board for four years, and Friends of the Zoo, where she has helped plan fund-raisers. Now a sales representative for Skyline Displays, a convention consultant firm, Ms. Taylor also served as executive director for the Multiple Sclerosis Society here. "I have never understood people who say there's nothing to do in Memphis," she says. "There are so many ways to help, and it's a good feeling when you know your work benefits someone."

 Jim Perper's contributions to his community earned him the title of Millington's Man of the Year last year.

The 70-year-old Perper, who still teaches at the Memphis Naval Air Sta-

tion at Millington, has been an active member of the Optimist Club for 28 years, including a tenure as the state organization's governor. The Boy Scouts also benefit from Perper's volunteerism. He was a Scoutmaster for 10 years, and is vice chairman of the Neshoba District (Millington and Frayser) of the Chickasaw Council.

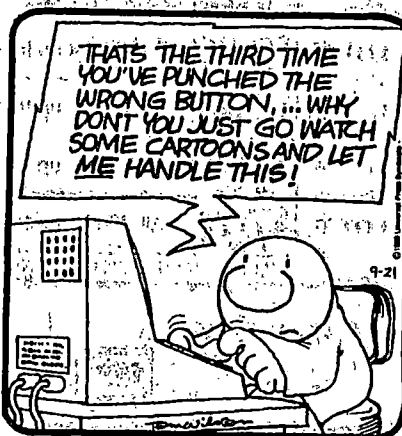
He is on the board of the First United Methodist Church of Millington and a member of the Millington Flag Day Committee and the USO Council.

"I'm busy," he admits, "but it makes life more pleasant."

 Church work, helping the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA) and involvement with AARP fill the days for Arline Szekely of Whitehaven. At 78 she says, "I need something to stimulate me" and these activities keep her quite busy. Mrs. Szekely is the treasurer at her church, Grace United Methodist, for the third year, and the volunteer coordinator for the church newsletter. She regularly helps out at MIFA and serves as vice president of the AARP's Memphis Graceland Chapter 3589, which means she devises programs and entertainment for members, among other duties. "I love people," Mrs. Szekely explains, "and my husband and I are so blessed to be able to serve others as long as we have."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

ZIGGY



#4

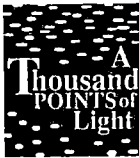
P.A.11

9-21-89

9-22-89

Publisher backs stories, editorials with action (#4)

By Jim Terrell



Billy Crews, 33, isn't just another paper volunteer.

As publisher of the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, he may have printer's ink in his blood, but his heart beats for Tupelo.

Hired 11 years ago as the newspaper's community representative responsible for education and economic development programs, he has served in numerous volunteer and business leadership roles.

Crews is president of the Northwest Mississippi Habitat for Humanity, a chapter he helped start four years ago.

A nonprofit, nondenominational organization with its fifth home under construction in Lee County,



Crews

the chapter enlists volunteer labor and support from individuals and churches to build the houses.

"Our hope is that, through the pride of home ownership, moving people from shacks into simple, decent

housing will have an impact on the cycle of poverty," says Crews, who with his wife Catherine has a son, Lowrey, 6, and a daughter, Mary Catherine, 7.

He is vice president of the Association for Excellence in Education, a private fund-raising support group for the public school system, and chairman of the building committee at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Crews helped found the Kid Company, a multibusiness-sponsored early childhood development center for infants-through-kindergarten children of workers from four local businesses.

"We try not only to write editorials and articles about human issues, but also to act on them. We put our money where our mouth is," he says.

Ten years ago, concerned about the reading skills of public school students, the publishing company launched a project that placed assistant teachers in every first- and second-grade classroom in Lee County and contributed \$1 million over six years to fund the effort.

"We realized that from a corporate standpoint, that we had a vested interest in those children being able to learn and read well."

The teacher assistant program, which through the Journal's initiative was later put in place in public schools statewide, is credited with helping to raise reading levels in Tupelo schools above the national average.

Other points of light:



Col. Emmett Scott, 75, and his wife, Maj. Frances Scott, 75, may be retired from the Army, but they have not removed their boots where volunteer work is concerned.

The Germantown couple is active in the Salvation Army; he as a member of the council for Adult Rehabilitation

Center and she as a member of the auxiliary. They were one of the five founding couples of Faith Presbyterian Church and they helped organize a nondenominational Bible study for couples.

Scott is chairman of the Penal Farm's work-release board. Occasionally, he counsels inmates.

"We've been well served by our country," says Scott, "and we're just returning the favor."



Angela Gilbert, 29, doesn't just like Scouting — it's part of her life. "I was a Scout as a girl and then became a leader, and my troop even sang at my wedding," Mrs. Gilbert leads a junior troop of fourth-through-sixth-graders and takes the group on camping trips two or three times a year. Her Troop 343 meets every Thursday at Idlewild Presbyterian Church. She also works on the Girl Scouts fund drive committee. She also was PR representative for the Ugly Bartender Contest for Multiple Sclerosis. Mrs. Gilbert is circulation director for Memphis magazine. Helping others "takes your mind off everyday problems," the East Memphian says. "You learn a lot from others, too."

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their volunteer efforts. To suggest people for this feature, send the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee:	
His or her address:	
Nominee's phone: home ()	work ()
Here's what this person does to help others:	
Your name:	phone: ()

Vacation work helps fire department

A13
9-23-89

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

3

 For one week in September Ann Hindman spends almost every waking moment working for others.

A waitress, Ms. Hindman sacrifices her vacation time and part of her income to volunteer for the county fire department in the food booth at the Henderson County Fair.

"I order the food, see that it gets there, help fix it, price it and serve it to more than a thousand people a night," says Ms. Hindman, who lives at Parker's Crossroads.

The fair food booth is the major fundraiser for the volunteer fire department and saves them from having to go

door to door asking for donations.

The fair has done so well for the department that "it's well equipped and was rated the highest in the state," brags Ms. Hindman, 39. "It's something the whole community is proud of," she says.

 Four years ago, Ardell Shrader began volunteering in St. Joseph Hospital's gift shop at the suggestion of her granddaughter. Mrs. Shrader's husband had recently died, and her granddaughter thought the work would ease her pain and loneliness.

What began as a distraction quickly changed to a happy pursuit. She has given more than 3,000 hours helping patients, staff and hospital visitors in the store, and she is considered one of the hospital's most enthusiastic volunteers.

"Everything here is so friendly and caring," says the 66-year-old Frayser resident. "They helped me through a very sad time, and now I'm trying to help others."



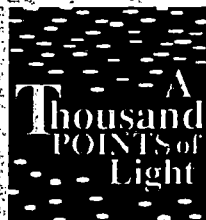
For 43 years, Sue Ellis, 72, of Munford, Tenn., has been the volunteer organist at Munford United Methodist Church. She plays at Sunday services and at the weddings and funerals of church members.

She recalls the first Sunday she played the organ: "I had been playing the piano but had never touched an organ before that day. But it was all right, half the congregation had never heard one."

The retired home economics teacher taught a nondenominational Bible study group for eight years, and she regularly visits the sick and makes quilts for her four granddaughters.

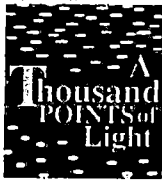
To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Couple devotes thousands of hours to helping others

By Larry Williams



Having been served by the "goody cart" while a patient at St. Joseph Hospital, Mrs. Thelda Stevenson decided she should return the favor.

When she recovered, pushing the cart filled with candy became another of her many volunteer acts.

She and her husband, Martin, of Midtown, have spent their lives "returning favors," doing for others and performing acts of kindness for friends and strangers.

Martin Stevenson got into the goody cart act for two big reasons.

He wanted to serve people and proceed from the sale of the candy go to buy equipment for the hospital.

The Stevensons personify the volunteer spirit. They each have given more than 2,000 hours of volunteer work to the hospital. "We just like to help people," Stevenson, 64, said. "The Bible says if you do it for others, you do it for God. We believe that."

Mrs. Stevenson, 66, said she enjoys

the volunteer work and benefits from it — "as much as the people I help."

Mrs. Stevenson's volunteer work dates back to 1968. "I was a housewife and I felt the need to spend my time wisely, helping others."

Stevenson, who was an environmentalist with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department before retiring two years ago, always encouraged his wife and pitched in to help in his spare time.

Stevenson is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Stevenson joined the church in 1952. They have many volunteer jobs there, including working in the soup kitchen to feed street people.



Stevenson

They also work at the Food Pantry at First United Methodist Church and were involved in the Conference On Aging. They are frequently asked to serve for receptions at St. Joseph for the hospital Christmas party, picnics and nurses' graduation so that employees of the food services department may take the day off to enjoy the fun with their fellow workers.

Structured volunteer work isn't their only pursuit. They regularly take elderly neighbors to the grocery store, barber and beauty shops, and the doctor and perform household and yard chores for them. They also provide

transportation for a 90-year-old volunteer to get to work.

They are members of the Memphis Zoological Society and work at host booths and on special projects for the zoo. They are involved with RSVP — Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

Stevenson said working for others has always been a thread in their lives "because we really, truly enjoy it."

Other points of light:

Several years ago, Carolyn Tuck's mother died in a nursing home. While her mother was a patient there, Mrs. Tuck, 55, saw firsthand the loneliness and isolation experienced by the elderly residents. "Seeing what I saw in the nursing home motivated me to help the aged stay out of similar places," she says. She does this by volunteering through Senior Citizens Services to care for the elderly in their own homes. Each week she visits two women, both in their 80s, who would probably be nursing-home residents if it were not for her efforts. She runs errands for them; takes them to the grocery store; helps cash their checks and takes them on outings, such as a visit to the Mid-South Fair. "There are a lot of lonely senior citizens in the city," she says. "Many have no family and are easily taken advantage of. I feel a need to help them, and it gives me great satisfaction."

Shirlee Charles, 42, took her interest in deaf children to the Memphis Oral School and its support group, Subsidium. She founded the teacher's resource committee four years ago and began developing teaching materials for the children at the school. "Working with deaf children is

very exciting, because they have the intellect and must only overcome their hearing handicap," she says. "The children at the Oral School learn to speak, and the teaching materials help in their quest to mainstream into society." Mrs. Charles is on the board of Memphis Oral School, past president of Subsidium and current treasurer of Subsidium's Christmas Carrousel of Shoppes.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home () _____ work () _____

Here's what this person does to help others: _____

Your name: _____ phone: () _____

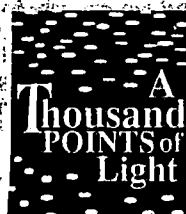
A mother of three, she is an adult leader of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at Christ United Methodist Church, past president of Woodlands Presbyterian School's PTA and a member of LeBonheur Club and Les Passees.

Larry Williams is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles:

Volunteer 'digs deeper' for children

A7
9-25-89

By Peggy Reisser Winburne



way beyond the call of duty when it comes to sick children.

For years, Mrs. Johnson volunteered to help recruit blood donors for the center's sickle-cell anemia program.

Her plan: When a new child came in for compatibility testing to determine a donor, she'd take note. When someone who looked like a compatible donor happened into Lifeblood, she'd make her move.

"I knew the child's blood type and most everybody who came in, I would ask them (to be a donor), and most everybody said 'OK,'" Mrs. Johnson said.

"I recruited donors for this program even in the grocery store," she said. "I'm one of those people, I don't take no for an answer."

Even though the sickle-cell program is scaled back now, she's still recruiting donors wherever she finds them.

"She's a neat person," said Sandy Heiss, a spokesman for Lifeblood. "She doesn't get any extra money for going the extra mile to help recruit people."

Said Mrs. Johnson, "It's just something about children. If there's a child in need of something, I'll dig deeper."

Other points of light:

Martha Winters, 78, of West Point, Miss., volunteers in memory of her daughter, Sally Kate Winters, who died in 1965 at age 21 in an automobile accident.

"I thought she would like for me to do that," she says of her commitment to community service two years after her daughter's death. "I decided God had left me for some purpose... and I've been doing volunteer work ever since."

In 1983, she and her husband, C. P.

Winters, a former city councilman and vice mayor, purchased downtown property the city had leased and donated it to West Point. It is named the Sally Kate Winters Memorial Park.

Mrs. Winters is president of the Concerned Citizens for Abused Children, which will open a home for abused, neglected and homeless infants and children through age 17. The home will also be named in her daughter's memory. She has also served in leadership roles with many other organizations, among them Safehaven, Inc., in Columbus; a center for abused women and children; the Cancer Society; Salvation Army and the Prairie Arts Festival. Last year, she was named to the West Point Hall of Fame.

Although she doesn't work through an organization, Dr. Martha McDonald looks after others and tries to help with "any little thing I can do. It makes me glad." The doctor, who owns apartments in South Memphis, began her good works there.

"I did a lot of work on the building myself and got to know the families and be concerned about them," she says. Soon she started giving the children a dollar for every "A" on their report card and buying specially chosen books on their birthdays.

Dr. McDonald helps the elderly with financial affairs, explaining Medicare and Medicaid and giving them advice. She tries to steer teenagers away from early pregnancies, and she has worked with Planned Parenthood, serving on the board for eight years.

"I see the biggest problem with poverty as pregnant teens. It just encourages the cycle of poverty to repeat. I try to break it," the Midtown resident says.

Rachel Shannon has an eye for community service. A retired schoolteacher, she had her fourth surgery earlier this year to correct what she says had been "extremely limited vision" for much of her life. Soon thereafter, she volunteered to do public service readings for the visually impaired. But even prior to the correcting of her vision problems, she kept an eye out for her neighborhood, founding the Ozark

Oaks Neighborhood Watch program in the early 1980s.

"It is the greatest blessing to be able to give back to others some of the blessings God gave," says the Kentucky native, who came to Memphis in 1951. Mrs. Shannon is an officer and board member of the Memphis Area Neighborhood Watch Inc., a member of the North Precinct Advisory Council, active in Raleigh Baptist Church, and has worked with literacy and Scout programs. She and her husband, Robert, a retired international Harvester employee, have a daughter and a granddaughter.

Peggy Reisser Winburne is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, send the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Mike Royko is on vacation until Oct. 2

ZIGGY



School, church receive efforts for children

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 Youth and children have always been an interest of Edith Taylor of Germantown. She often spends 20 to 25 hours a week in volunteer work.

"I love every minute of it," Mrs. Taylor says.

She has been president of the Shelby County Council of PTA and president of Dogwood School PTA and currently helps the Poplar Pike Arts Guild at Germantown High to mount productions. Serving on the City of Germantown Cable Commission, Mrs. Taylor, 47, finds time to help out at her church, Germantown United Methodist, with repairs and yard work, and she also chairs a preschool council there.

"The rewards from children are unbelievable when you know you've touched their lives," she says.

 One and a half years with the Peace Corps in Central America strengthened Bill Walton's desire to help others. Now with First Tennessee Bank in the corporate tax department, 34-year-old Walton uses his skills as a CPA to help at the Parenting Center. The Midtown resident had contacted the Volunteer Center and it placed him there to help keep records, file tax returns and assist with grants.

For Walton, volunteering means "working one-to-one on a grass-roots level. That's where change comes about and where you get results."

 For more than 20 years, Annie Summers has opened her home and heart to young people.

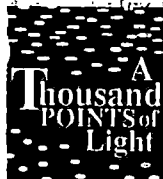
"I like to have them around me," says Mrs. Summers, who at 90 rents her duplex in the Memphis State area for a minimal cost to students and young people in the city for a brief stay. In those years Mrs. Summers has made a lot of friends — one in Caracas, Venezuela, still phones regularly — who appreciate her giving nature.

"My niece once commented that I'd touched so many lives," says Mrs. Summers. "But I've always had nice people. I fall in love with them and hate to see them go."

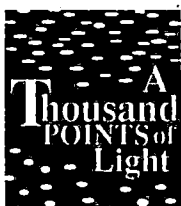
 "I love to help more than anything in the world," says Virginia Johnson of Tiptonville.

At the Reelfoot Manor Nursing Home where she has resided for two years, Mrs. Johnson helps aides take care of the elderly and wheelchair-bound, rolling them to their rooms, reading to them and writing letters for them. Mrs. Johnson, who is 66, gets up early to help clear tables and pick up trays. She also likes to embroider and takes pleasure in making gifts for others.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Giving talent and time



When Gregory O. Hnedak was a college graduate 20 years ago, he was suspicious of business people who volunteered their services in the civic arena. How could business people separate their profit-motivated need to craft a good public image from a pure desire to do civic good?

Now 43 and an architect who donates his services to local civic projects, such as Free the Children, Hnedak is no longer suspicious. "As a practical matter, it makes sense. It's good for business, but it is also good for the community."

As one of five principal architects operating the firm of Hnedak Bobo Group, P.C., Hnedak heads up the company's volunteer efforts.

Improving housing is one of the program's main goals in the initial target area in North Memphis.



Hnedak

About half the members of the 40-person firm have worked on their own and company time to help push three separate housing developments in the Free the Children area.

The company's help will also include producing a manual that new homeowners in the Free the Children program can use as a guide to home maintenance.

Hnedak helped found the Memphis Design Center, a local group of professional and student architects who help design community projects at no charge.

Other points of light:

When March Hall was asked to be a Brownie troop leader, "I couldn't think of a good reason not to," the architect says. Sixteen years later she's glad she did. Ms. Hall's Midtown Brownie Troop 3 consists of about 24 first, second and third graders who meet each week. "It's a nice, traditional

thing for girls that's not covered by family, church or school," says Ms. Hall, who brings artists, storytellers and others to talk to the troop. They also have a garden each year, planting cotton, popcorn, tomatoes, cucumbers and flowers, says Ms. Hall, 47, of Midtown.

Josephine Howard is retired from her job with the Greyhound Bus Company, but she doesn't have any free time. "Not as long as something needs to be done," says the Mallory Heights resident. She helps with semiannual cleanup programs and neighborhood watch and patrols. Mrs. Howard serves as a probation officer for Juvenile Court and participates in clubs at Greater Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. For the Leukemia Society she organizes two fashion show fund-raisers a year. At Christmas she prepares and delivers Christmas baskets for the needy — an idea she came up with 15 years ago — for the Eastern Star Chapter No. 106.

Thomas McGuire recently celebrated 40 years of working with the Boy Scouts — and that doesn't even include his own years as a scout. "I was 39 when I became a leader," the retired salesman for Tectron Corporation says. "I joined with our 12-year-old son. I thought I would stay as long as they let me." McGuire, an East Memphian, is scouting coordinator for St. Michael's Troop 66 and Pack 66 and advancement chairman for the Northeast District of Council.

Ten children ages 3 to 20 have not deterred Jacquelyn Howard from allocating some of her free time for others. Ms. Howard, 39, of South Memphis, works at MIFA's clothes closet four days a week. "It's really rewarding to help others, especially when the burn victims come in. They've lost everything yet they can go somewhere where people will help," Ms. Howard says. She also is secretary of the PTSA at Vance Junior High School.

The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A15 9-27-89

(45)

VIEWPOINT

Helping others be part of the community

By Lela Garlington

A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light

Rod Ward draws on personal experience.

Ward, 34, has never been without a roof over his head but realizes there is more to homelessness. "Homelessness merely doesn't mean heat, food and a bed. It's feeling comfortable and a part of where you are at." He devotes at least 15 hours a week as a counselor at Genesis House, hoping to drive home a point with homeless clients. Ward wants them to understand they play a role in their desperate situation.

Ward, a former real-estate salesman, said he learned that lesson himself and now can help others. Often, clients of the home deny their actions have a part in their problem. "We all play a part in where we are today," he said.

Ward has gone from being down on himself after a faltering career and problems in his personal life to being thrilled by his role at Genesis House. He was among the nominees for Volunteer of the Year because of his work with the home's residents. He didn't win but he has the gratification and personal growth to show for his dedication of time, he says.

Ward is working on a double major at Memphis State University and receives some credit for his work at the house. He does one-on-one counseling and facilitates group sessions. He also helps get clients to outside support groups.

Outside socialization is a key, too, he says, because once their 90-day stay is up at Genesis House, its back into the world.

"We try to involve the residents with the community. When they leave they will have to mingle and communicate with the community."

Other points of light:

"I guess I'm the last of a dying breed," said Dr. T.N. Rodman, of Leachville, Ark. "I still work on Saturdays."

For the past 40 years, this general practitioner single-handedly delivered about 4,000 babies and performed 3,000 major surgeries in Leachville, where the total population is 1,800. He is the town's only doctor.

"We don't turn anybody away here," he said. "I run my own business. The town had a roast for me back in 1977, filled up the whole cafeteria, told lots of stories and brought in old friends. I think they thought I was about to quit, I guess."

Dr. Rodman established two organizations in his community: Leachville's Boy Scouts and Little League Baseball. A member of First United Methodist Church for 43 years, Dr. Rodman serves

on the board. For 15 years, he has been a school board member. He has also been active in the Chamber of Commerce since the 1950s.

On the daily ride from West Memphis to his Carter Seed Store on Front Street, Don Rodgers has stopped a thousand times to help people with car trouble, according to his wife, Jeannie Rodgers.

"We've probably lost a million miles of booster cables," said Mrs. Rodgers.

Rodgers will take flowers, donuts or ice cream to people who need cheering up. He'll stop by the roadside to help someone or just look for ways to make other people feel happy, she said.

"It's not like he pinpoints his help to individuals to impress them; it could be anybody on the street, a small child or someone in the grocery store," she said.

"You can make people feel better, and it doesn't cost anything. It's a blessing to give to people," he said. "If they thank you, and it's reciprocated, then you get two blessings, which makes it double."

Bryan Speed, 64, of Earle, Ark., retired from a career in education as a teacher and principal, took up a paintbrush and created The Crittenden County Museum.

"I guess I gave about two years of my life to it, and I've enjoyed it," he said.

Over the past four years, the abandoned depot was transformed into a

museum with artifacts of Crittenden County and eastern Arkansas, and is now preserved on the National Register of Historic Places. With the help of another Earle resident, Gladys Wright, the museum opened in 1987.

"I don't like to see things run down and dilapidated when a little coat of paint will make something a lot more beautiful," he said. "I want life to be the best around me, and if there's anything I can do to make it that way, then I'm going to do it."

If there's a ceiling lowered in Earle, Ark., Speed probably had a hand in it. He has worked on the city's library, the Masonic Lodge and First United Methodist Church. Last year, the community center was low on funds, so Speed painted it.

A member of the choir at the Methodist church, he also teaches piano lessons. "when I'm not painting houses," he said.

Lela Garlington is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

(45)

VIEWPOINT

Volunteers fill their hours with deeds for others

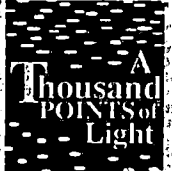
THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

On Wednesday nights, after Judith S. Harris finishes work as director of the Talk Line for teenagers at Mid-South Hospital, she goes to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, where she cuddles and feeds infants in the special care unit. The children of addicts, born with birth defects or prematurely, need "infant stimulation." Mrs. Harris talks, sings, feeds and strokes them.

"I love it. I'd go every day if I could," she said. "I go after I work all day, when I'm already tired. Even though I'm more tired when I leave, I feel wonderful."

Sometimes Mrs. Harris, 46, volunteers her own time on the weekends on the hot-line, 753-TALK, which received 340 calls last month from troubled youth. Even though her own two children are grown, the family gets together every Christmas to deliver Meals on Wheels



to needy families through the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA). "It's just so important to me to give to people who need it, people who can't pay you back. I think volunteering is important, and I just can't imagine not doing it," she said.

Sherry Keeton, 36, cooks about 672 chickens and 700 pounds of fish, all in one weekend. She coordinates 35 workers who serve 5,000 people at the St. Jude Coon Hunt each April when hunters come from 32 states.

"While they're hunting, we're cooking," she said. "Once you've lived through the weekend, you just sit. But the best feeling is taking the tour of St. Jude's and seeing the kids. You can't explain how you feel." Over the past 14 years, the coon hunt has raised \$600,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Center. A check for \$72,000, the 1989 contribution, will be given to the hospital in November.

Mrs. Keeton works for the hunt because she hopes some day there will be a way to help brain-damaged children like her son, Ryan, an 11-year-old with cerebral palsy. "The more you're involved, the more you get involved. When you worry about other people's problems, sometimes yours don't seem so bad," she said.

She is founder of Helping Hand for the Underprivileged of Decatur County. She also helps buy and serve 40 dinners at Christmas to needy families. "I'm not a limelight person, but if you need something done, call me," she said.

The folk songs, hymns and auto-harp of Aaltje Van Denburg, 70, can be heard in Martin, Tenn., nursing homes, rehabilitation and trauma center, development center for retarded citizens and at the University of Tennessee, Martin, where Ms. Van Denburg is a professor emerita of art. "Mostly now, I sing old hymns and the people sing with me, and I love it. It feels great, wonderful. It does more for me than it does for them, I'm sure," she said.

Originally from Syracuse, N.Y., she brought folk songs learned from her Dutch grandmother to East Tennessee. After recording seven long-playing records, Ms. Van Denburg began singing to her mother at a nursing home in Martin, and started a tradition at other homes for the elderly throughout Tennessee and Kentucky.

Donna Sanders trains cardiologists, bartenders, lawyers, chemical engineers, nurses and others

to become tutors through the Memphis Literacy Council, a position she's had since 1985. "It's thrilling to meet people whose profession is not teaching, who still have a desire to teach other people how to read," she said. "The volunteers are a super group, very caring and outgoing."

As the chief of naval technical training staff at the Memphis Naval Air Station, at Millington, Ms. Sanders leaves work to face three and a half hours of teaching, and comes away feeling refreshed, she said. She became a trainer after tutoring for several years where she helped a German woman get her U.S. citizenship. "That was a big day for both of us," she said. "Involvement... takes people out of themselves. It has done that for me, too. To see a change in another person's life is humbling and rewarding, and that's what life is all about."

Wallace H. Mayton, 69, works part-time at the Region One Mental Health Center in Clarksdale, Miss., in public relations. Since he retired as the director of continuing education at the University of Tennessee, Memphis (formerly University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences), he has spent the past 10 years in volunteer work.

At First United Methodist Church, he coordinates the Sunday school program, drives a bus to transport the elderly from the Flowers Manor nursing home to church, and feeds and serves meals to the hungry six days a week through the "Super Kitchen" care station.

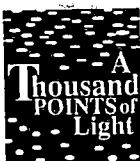
He is both a tutor and the vice president of the Clarksdale Literacy Council, the president of the Coahoma County American Cancer Society and the president of Camp Rainbow, an annual weekend camp for children who have cancer.

The 1987 president of the Clarksdale Rotary Club, Mayton is a Paul Harris Fellow, an honor given to Rotarians in his district. He also serves on the board of directors for the Clarksdale Chamber of Commerce and was chairman of the Mayor's Youth Committee several years ago. "This all does me a lot of good. It's rewarding personally in every way," he said. "I like to do things for people, and I guess that's the purpose of the whole thing."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Services for mentally ill grow through voluntarism

(5) By Jim Terrell



Betty Graham, 69, had long been a volunteer friend for mental patients in Alabama and Florida when one of her sons became seriously mentally ill.

"He was in his third year of college and on the dean's list. And suddenly something happened," Mrs. Graham, president of the Alliance for Mentally Ill of Memphis (AMI), says of the son, who is now in his 30s and is going back to school.

"This was a terrific shock. But in a very strange way, when I was taking him to the hospital, I felt like I was being prepared for this moment because all of his life I had been doing volunteer work in mental hospitals."

Mrs. Graham, who moved to Memphis 6½ years ago with her husband, Lee, associate clergyman at Calvary Episcopal Church, started a practice of regular visits and parties for mental patients 30 years ago when she was young mother working with her church group.

"We didn't know them before they got sick, so we could accept them just as they were," she says of mental patients at the state hospitals. "Family members can't do this. They want them to be like they used to be."

A mother of five and grandmother of four, she got involved with AMI, a family support group, shortly after moving here, when Mrs. Robert Hill, Mrs. David Schneider and Mrs. Vernon Teace were in the formative stage of its organization.



Mrs. Graham

"I've been involved ever since, hardly ever missed a meeting," she says. "Every day I do something for AMI. We don't have all the answers, but we do have a sympathetic ear."

Last year she was "president and staff of AMI" after its state funding had ended, and earlier she was instrumental in helping form the Tennessee Alliance for the Mentally Ill, which now has 20 groups.

"Things are changing for the mentally ill. Parents are beginning to speak up. Family members are going to make the difference," says Mrs. Graham, who has moved her office to her home now that the 200-member AMI has headquarters at Prescott Baptist Church and a paid director.

"We're pushing for research funds in a field that has been so neglected. But with the new imaging machinery, they can take a picture of the brain. They can see what's going on inside and with the new medication, there is new hope."

Other points of light:

The soup kitchen at St. John's United Methodist Church serves about a thousand free meals a month, and one of its most dedicated helpers is Jim McNulty, 66. He fills the drink cups with ice, and washes the dishes.

McNulty, a retired piano teacher, rides the bus to the church every Saturday and brings his own dishwashing liquid. It would be easy for McNulty to become isolated, being both blind and hearing impaired, but he says his work at the soup kitchen keeps him spiritually fit.

"In St. Matthew's gospel, Jesus said, 'As long as you do it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you do it to me.' It brings God closer to me, not way out there somewhere, but right here, right now," he said.

Julian Darlington, 71, has a voice in community service.

A retired biology professor at Rhodes College, he spends Thursday mornings reading The Commercial Appeal on radio WWTL, a special frequency for the visually impaired that is broadcast through the Reading Library at the Public Library and Information Center.

with the help of other volunteers, he highlights stories from the front page, metro, editorial and sports sections. Occasionally, he'll even read a book on tape for later broadcast.

"Once you're retired from teaching or any everyday job, you need a stabilizing effect," he said. "I can make a contribution and feel like people are being benefited by it. It gives me a good feeling."

Darlington also delivers food to 15 needy families for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association Wednesday mornings and helps transport food from the Memphis Food Bank for distribution to the needy from Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church. He also heads the "39ers," a senior citizens group at his church.

K. C. Sain is the right man to preach community service.

Pastor of the Elcanan Baptist Church in Whiteville, Tenn., he has been president of the Longview Heights Civic Club since 1981. The 70-member group helps the neighborhood in situations ranging from individual hardships to street improvement.

"I just love... volunteer work... I've decided I'm going to contribute my time and energy to the community in whatever way I can," he says. "I challenge other men and women to do the same. I want to be a role model for young people."

He also chairs his Neighborhood Watch, is a member of the Memphis Police Citizens Academy, serves on the board of the Whitehaven Southwest Mental Health Center and is involved in ministerial organizations.

Charles Flowers, a retired U.S. Postal Service employee, still delivers.

Flowers serves as president of the church board at Martin Temple Memorial CME Church, where he does custodial work and helps feed the hungry and needy on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He transports food from the Memphis Food Bank and helps set up the food and tables for 50 to 125 people.

"There is such a need... for people who have been blessed to share in helping others, and I've been blessed," he says. "If God blessed you and you are able, go out to a hospital, or anywhere, on a volunteer basis."

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home (____) _____ work (____) _____

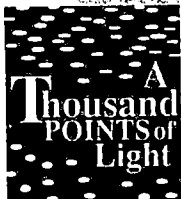
Here's what this person does to help others: _____

Your name: _____ phone: (____) _____

VIEWPOINT

Volunteerism extends to business

By Laurel Campbell



Not all clients of Walker & Associates advertising agency pay their bills. President Deloss Walker doesn't ask them to.

Walker, 59, who has built his firm over 24 years from a one-man shop to one of Memphis' largest ad agencies, has produced numerous promotional campaigns for nonprofit organizations, free of charge.

For Memphis Crimestoppers, the agency logged about \$30,000 in time to develop a public awareness campaign that included newspaper ads, bumper stickers, billboards and television spots.

"A great deal is donated by Walker & Associates, which is due to Deloss' commitment to the community," said Jane Himes, chairman of the Crimestoppers board. "It would be very difficult to place a value on what they've done for us."

Walker & Associates recently completed a 14-minute promotional film for First Step, an educational and support facility for mentally and physically handicapped children and adults in Hot Springs, Ark.

While the ad agency's cost to produce the film was \$30,000, "We did it for free because we felt there was an absolute need," Walker said.

"I have a strong belief that everyone owes a certain amount of civic rent to the community for what the community has done for us and for what our forefathers did to lay the groundwork for where we are today."

In the early 1970s, Walker was among the five people who formed the Memphis Development Foundation, which still oversees the Orpheum theater.

He also is past chairman of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, served as a director of Goodwill Industries, chaired the fund-raising drive for the Epilepsy

Foundation of West Tennessee and was on the executive committee of the Memphis chapter of the American Heart Association.

"Volunteer work has 'always been a part of my life,' Walker said. 'People who are involved stay involved.'"

Other points of light:

 Five years ago, Samuel Herring, 49, saw a need for black substance-abuse professionals to reach out to the black community. The Duke University-trained physician's assistant began speaking at churches, schools, clergy workshops and youth groups, educating about alcohol and drugs and available treatment programs. When the AIDS epidemic surfaced, he began emphasizing the dangers of intravenous drug abuse and its relation to the disease. In addition to his speaking, he voluntarily leads a therapy group for black patients at the Memphis Mental Health Institute.

"I use myself as an example when I speak to others," says the recovered substance abuser and director of the Midtown Medical and Counseling Center. "I tell them to avoid what I went through with alcohol and drugs, and, if they're already involved, to pick themselves up and turn their lives around. It can be done. I did it."

 As a Memphis City Schools teacher, Lillie Robinson, 48, knows the importance of motivating children to strive for excellence. Five years ago, the Raleigh resident organized a block club and, through it, created activities to encourage and honor children who do well in school.

Every six weeks, the block club gives an "honors party" for the neighborhood children. Everyone is treated to refreshments and those who have excelled in the areas of attendance, conduct or academics are presented certificates. A program on famous black Americans is given at each party. High school seniors are honored at a spring banquet, and the end of school is celebrated with a picnic at Shelby Farms.

"It's important for these children to

get all the encouragement they can," says Mrs. Robinson. "If they have the desire to succeed, they will have a bright future."

Mrs. Robinson's block club contributes food to the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association at Thanksgiving, and she and her husband deliver MIFA meals on Christmas Day.

 In 1985, Carolyn Barker, 34, of McMoresville, Tenn., saw a poem about "giving a child a happy home." It inspired her to become a foster parent, and she has cared for six babies in her home since then. Married and a mother of two, she is never without one or two extra children.

"Even if I need a rest, it's hard to say no," she says. "I do the best I can while I've got them."

Mrs. Barker also finds time to be the leader of her daughter's Brownie Scout troop and serve as citizenship and community outreach chairman of the Carroll County Extension Homemakers Club.

 During the Korean War, Nikki Greenoe began volunteering at the Naval Hospital Millington. Thirty-eight years later, the 70-year-old Millington resident continues to operate the Red Cross office there five days a week. She coordinates 25 workers and places them in various wards of the hospital. She strives to visit as many patients as possible each day to say hello and ask if they need anything. "I try to be friendly to everyone. Some of the patients and the staff are far from home, and I try to be their family."

Laurel Campbell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Neighborly work enriches two lives A) 10-3-89

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 Shirley Lete, 65, is a good neighbor to 80-year-old Deloris Goad, who lives in the same apartment complex.

Mrs. Goad is crippled and lives alone. Mrs. Lete takes her to the grocery store, the laundromat, checks her mail, takes out her garbage and helps her up and down the steps of her apartment.

"It's terrible to think of not helping someone in need," says Mrs. Lete. "We're a tight-knit apartment complex, and we help each other out whenever we can."

 Laura Dalton of East Memphis extends her work with the mentally handicapped into the area of volunteerism. The 32-year-old special education teacher conducts a fitness club for mentally handicapped people at Central Church. Each Wednesday evening, she teaches 30 people gymnastics and other sports, such as bowling.

She is also a volunteer with Special Olympics, coaching seven sports ranging from basketball to ice skating, and serving as gymnastics event director for Memphis.

"I get a lot of pleasure seeing the mentally retarded develop new skills and enjoy playing sports," she says.

 At 85 Mavis Jordan still finds the time and energy to help others.

A member of Merton Avenue Church of Christ, Mrs. Jordan helps others in the Ladies Bible Class to provide food for people coming home from the hospital or suffering the death of a loved one.

"I love to cook and will cook at the drop of a hat," the Midtown resident says.

She also orders flowers for the sick and sees that they get a fruit basket. Sick neighbors often find her bringing them food and little bouquets, and residents of the Christian Nursing Home are sent gifts.

Growing things is one of her favorite pastimes, and she is president of Dogwood Garden Club and a lifetime member of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs.

 Carl Watson has just returned from Jamaica, where he lent his skills and labor to help build a church. It marks the 14th church the 56-year-old has worked on; he has volunteered every year since 1976 with the Assembly of God Church. Watson's work has taken him to Mexico, Ecuador and Honduras.

"We pay our own way, take our own food and tools and do the labor," he says. "I felt they were missions where the Lord wanted me to be."

A private investigator, Watson, who lives in Midtown, has also worked with the Memphis Literacy Council. He teaches Sunday school at two fire stations every Sunday morning, a tradi-

tion he has upheld for 14 years.

 Ervin H. 'Buddy' Wright, 55, remembers how as a child it was difficult for a handicapped person to get around.

A paraplegic, Wright has worked hard to make the world more accessible to those in wheelchairs, and been instrumental in getting accessibility laws passed. He is active in the Architectural Barriers program and is working with the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association on a new complex for the handicapped. The East Memphian's efforts brought about funding for the Independent Living Center designed to help the severely handicapped find ways to become more independent.

A long-time volunteer with the Easter Seals Society, Wright was executive director and is also active in his church, Christ United Methodist. Now working on his master's degree, Wright feels people with disabilities "have concerns for others with disabilities and recognize how important service to other people is."

 "I'm a professional volunteer," says Delores Elder Jones, 49, director of planning and development at Memphis Housing Authority. Her list of activities confirms this: president of the Community Housing Resource Board, chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Mayor's Community Relations Commission, on the board at Memphis Black Arts Alliance and on the advisory committee for the Church Health Center.

As executive director of Northwood Park Apartments she motivated tenants to improve their lives, with job training and encouragement to get a GED.

Ms. Jones, of Whitehaven, gets excited helping others. "I believe people who need housing assistance have some dysfunction. If motivated, the quality of their lives improves dramatically."

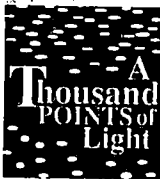
 Jessie Hammett remembers the nice things people did for her husband, a veteran, when he had to spend 40 months recuperating in a hospital. It has motivated the Raleigh resident to do volunteer work at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center averaging 12 to 14 hours a week.

She started the unicycle program, which turns a wheelchair into a bicycle-type vehicle for recreation, and works to raise money to purchase them for veterans. President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Hammett organizes special parties and outings for patients and serves coffee and doughnuts to veterans after Sunday services.

With the Need a Lift program she sees to it that the booklet telling students about scholarships is distributed to every school in the city.

Although she has always done volunteer work, Mrs. Hammett escalated her activities in the past six or seven years. "I thought I was doing very little, so I told myself to get on the stick."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



VIEWPOINT

wed.

Volunteer is addicted to people

By Larry Williams



A big smile spread across the face of Marie Anderson as she contemplated the question:

"I'm plain ol' hooked," said the Memphis resident. "I'm addicted. That's why I do so much

volunteer work."

She let it sink in.

"I'm hooked on and addicted to people," she laughed.

No one who knows her would argue with that. Ms. Anderson has dedicated her life to serving her fellow man because of a promise she made a long time ago.

"On Nov. 20, 1970, I was in a bad car wreck and they sent me home to die. But I told God if He would let me live, I would dedicate my life to the service of helping other people. I've tried to stick to that."

As a result of that accident, Ms. Anderson was paralyzed nine months. Her chest was crushed, she said. As she slowly regained her health and energy and baffled her doctors, she set about to keep her promise.

"I quickly discovered a valuable lesson which has formed into my philosophy. You must start with yourself by going out into your community and working to improve it. If you do, you have helped build a better city and county."

"If you accomplish that, your city and county can help build a better nation."

"I want to give my little bit each day to do what I can to make that happen. I get my reward through that. My reward is part of my addiction, my being hooked on people."

She crinkled her nose.

"I tend to overdo," she said. "I really do go until I drop, but I truly enjoy helping other people, particularly our young people."

"I want to help them be all they can be. I want to do all I can to teach them the evils of dope; I want them to build a pride in themselves."

"And I just get a big kick out of being with people. I like to talk and I also like to listen."

Her efforts started at Mt. Moriah East Baptist Church, where she helped find jobs for delinquent teenagers in her neighborhood.

Those efforts helped spawn the Youth Movement Job Corps Center Human Relations Program and served as a springboard for similar projects, such as City Slickers, a job program for youth under

the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association.

Ms. Anderson is chairman of the Volunteer Advisory Council for Shelby Health Care Center. She was named Volunteer of the Year in 1988 because her heart reached out to each of the 575 residents with gifts, visits and financial support. She rarely missed a day of work.

How many hours a day does she put in for volunteer work?

"As many as I have," she said. "I'm not happy unless I'm working for people. If I find myself with time on my hands, I just find something else to do. There is always something to do."

"I am 50 years old and my chest still gives me a lot of trouble. But I have tremendous energy. God has infused me with it. I use it."

"I get up about 5 a.m., drink my coffee, smoke a little bit — that's my vice, you see, smoking — and then I am off. Maybe part of this is therapy because if I don't do anything I get awfully bored."

Ms. Anderson recently gave 2,500 teddy bears to nursing homes across the city.

"I just felt that everybody needs to have something to hold on to," she said. "Teddy bears are nice for that."

Her most recent project was helping organize the Orange Mound Women's Optimist Club. That was a labor of love, too.

"It's the first all-black women's Optimist Club and we have a ball."

"I have more fun than anybody," she added, throwing her head back and laughing. "I feel like life is a gift."

Other points of light:

As cubmaster of Pack 27, Robert Singleton "feels like a kid again."

The 55-year-old enjoys his work supervising five dens of boys ages 7 to 11. "We camp two times a year; have swimming parties and cookouts, plus I teach them, as in our anti-drug programs," says the resident of Atwood, Tenn. Singleton works at the Foamex plant but devotes his extra time to meeting four times a month, making posters and signs and planning fund-raisers for the group.

Mary Ruth Kriger grew up a Girl Scout and has stayed involved as



Ms. Anderson

an adult. "I love seeing the girls grow through the years and how it affects their lives," says Miss Kriger, of Raleigh. For 10 years she's been a Girl Scout leader and now works with 13- and 14-year-olds in troops 007 and 1118. In addition, she's the Raleigh Service Unit director, a trainer for the Girl Scout Council and a Tenn-Ark-Miss. Council volunteer board member. Miss Kriger, 28, is a medical technologist in the blood bank at Baptist Hospital and president-elect of the Greater Memphis Association of Blood Banks. She teaches a basic life support class for the American Heart Association.

"I wish I could do more. I like to do all I can hoping that it will help people," says Mary Mooney, 57. To help others she is a volunteer treasurer for the Methodist Hospital Auxiliary, does volunteer work in the hospital gift shop and delivers meals for MIFA. At her church, Millington First United Methodist, Mrs. Mooney is treasurer for United Methodist Women and chairman for the work area on worship. In that job she delivers communion to shut-ins and helps plan special events for the different liturgical seasons. "I'll also run the vacuum in the sanctuary and classrooms or other cleaning chores because I don't think participation just means holding an office," the Millington resident believes.

Gary Ealy likes golf and he thought a tournament would be a good way to raise money for one of his favorite charities, Agape. "The first year we raised \$2,000-\$3,000 for the group, which is a local foster children care organization," says Ealy, minister of Brownsville Road Church of Christ. "Now we have two tournaments and raise about \$6,000." Ealy, 39, says planning for the September event begins in April and takes time and effort to organize. But, "children are a major interest of most of us and we do things for children we wouldn't do for others. Agape has a good reputation for child care." Ealy also plans a basketball game fundraiser between preachers for Agape and looks forward to next year's golf tournament.

Larry Williams is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Family tradition of volunteerism is carried on

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:



Katherine Hinds Smythe grew up in a home where doing volunteer and civic work was considered important. As an adult she has amply carried out that philosophy.

An active volunteer in the United Way, YWCA and a former president of the Memphis Public Library and Information Center board, Mrs. Hinds Smythe of Midtown is particularly interested in the Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

"My father was blind late in life for 20 years, and as our population grows older it is highly likely that more people will have sight problems," she explains.

She was one of the founders and first presidents of the Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The 57-year-old president and owner of Memorial Park Inc. devotes much of her time to the program, in particular to training blind people to be more mobile in their homes and in the city and to developing general living skills for greater independence.



Twin sisters Myrtle Crawford and Mildred Hodges of Southeast Memphis, share their widowhood, home and volunteer hours together.

Better known as "The Washburn Twins," these 69-year-olds lead a Brownie troop for the Girl Scouts, deliver Meals-on-Wheels to 21 needy people twice a month and care for a 99-year-old neighbor.

They are Lionesses at the Mid-South Sight Center at Methodist Hospital in the Medical Arts Center. Working with Welfare Ministry Services, they help with free medical screenings at health fair booths in Memphis and other communities.

"We enjoy working with people, and I also enjoy being out," said Mrs. Crawford, a retired teacher with the Memphis school system for 39 years.

"Volunteering is something I love doing. It helps me communicate with people, regardless of who they are or what they are," Mrs. Hodges added.



Vivian Stidham, 64, lives at St. Peter Manor, where she donates her time in church services and at the front desk.

In the past year, she volunteered six to 35 hours a week at Methodist Hospital, where she enters information about volunteer hours into a computer and keeps track of the data. Through the Senior Citizens, she also works 20 hours per week at Q. S. Storage and Transfer as a bookkeeper. With six children and seven grandchildren, Mrs. Stidham said she keeps busy loving other people so she can keep herself young and active.

"I just believe God can't be outdone in charity. It helps me to help other people. You can always find a few hours to devote to helping somebody else," she said.



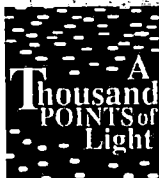
Chris Miller worked hard for the past five months to raise about \$80,000 with a Heartstrings/Memphis production last week to promote community awareness about AIDS prevention. He volunteers 20 hours a week to the Aid to End AIDS committee.

After a friend died of AIDS three years ago, Miller and the organization have targeted teenagers and heterosexuals as groups that are no exception to the epidemic. A poster should be posted in every bathroom in the city, he said, so people don't jeopardize their lives. A mirror on the poster reads, "Look who can get AIDS. Protect yourself."

"One of my best friends from Los Angeles called to tell me three years ago that he had AIDS. I tried to spread the word here in Memphis that it was a real thing because I saw it so early," he said.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

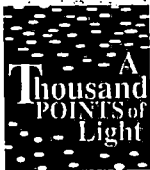


(A13)

10-5-89
Thursday

African American culture gets Memphis screening

By Jim Terrell



Dawnelle Hurd, 37, of Hickory Hill is a premier volunteer for black causes.

Among her community service credits are local premieres for two independent films by black filmmakers,

and the Memphis Film Society, which she created to promote black films.

"I wanted people to be able to see these films about African American culture," says Ms. Hurd, who is a Memphis Urban League counselor and instructor, business consultant and adjunct professor of sociology at Shelby State Community College.

"It was pouring so hard you couldn't see your face and it still sold out," she says of the 1986 premiere of black filmmaker Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It*.

"We had everybody from A. W. Willis to Willard Pugh's mother and father to Orange Mound residents."

Ms. Hurd dealt with promoters, independent filmmakers and the Fare Four theater management in arranging the showings of Lee's film and *Native Son*, which starred Oprah Winfrey, the next year.

With retrospectives of black filmmakers Spencer Williams and Oscar Micheaux in the works for African American History Month in February, she has been at work as a consultant and volunteer on a documentary about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The program is expected to be broadcast on KIX-106 FM in the near future, and she has hopes for its distribution nationally.

"I have a deep-rooted belief in God, and I believe it's our responsibility to volunteer," says Ms. Hurd, who was the first black personnel manager for Goldsmith's.

"I feel that I have been so blessed by people around me promoting me that one of the things I should do is give back and be there for somebody else."

That has meant 10-15 hours a week in volunteer service for Memphis Housing Authority recreational programs, the Memphis Community Relations Commission, Booker T. Washington High School's role-model program, and churches, including her own, Mt. Olivet Baptist.

She also volunteers for a state Human Services program that promotes adoption of black children from foster homes and the Shelby County Correctional Center's job readiness program for inmates.

"It hasn't been a smooth road. There have been lots of reasons to quit, but these are God-given talents and I use them as I can. I refuse to give up," she says of her community service commitment carried out in spite of adversity that has included six auto accidents and other problems.



Ms. Hurd

A native of Dayton, Tenn., she came here 14 years ago with intentions "just to run through Memphis" and get a master's degree.

"But I got in debt and fell in love," she says. "I fell out of love, stayed in debt and I'm still here."

Other points of light:

William and Carolyn Gallagher volunteered about 600 hours over the past five years at Methodist Hospital.

In their mid-60s, the couple helps wheel cancer and heart patients to the offices at the Medical Arts Center. As part of the Lion's Club Mid-South Sight Service, their time gets credited toward funding for needy people who need eye operations. The Gallaghers also sell pecans and participate in other fundraisers through the Lion's Club.

"When you work in a hospital, you see so many people our age and younger who are sick, especially with cancer, and you just feel blessed that you have good health. You need to give something back because you are so blessed," Mrs. Gallagher said.

Bill Burrows helps young people on probation stay on the right track with the Auxiliary Probation Service.

As division chief of the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Burrows voluntarily directs eight district chiefs in the training of probation officers. Each year, the officers in district four help an average of 120 young people. With nine divisions throughout the area, the whole service helps between 1,500 and 2,000 young people with a staff of 500 volunteers, he said.

"We work with the young person and the family to help the person get back on track. We want to nip it in the bud. Usually there's a communication breakdown in the family," he said.

With a son of his own, Burrows got involved because he could see how easy it is for youth to get in trouble and didn't want it to happen to his own. "You plant a seed of love. Once in awhile, some young person will come back and say, 'Here's what you did for me,' but I tell them, 'You did it yourself.'"

Billy Parris helped to raise \$17,000 to open a therapeutic and recreation program for head-injury victims at the Skinner Center in Memphis, a project that should be completed in January.

Five years ago, her 28-year-old son had a car accident and suffered the trauma of serious head injury. Eleven months later, her other son had an accident, but he died. She needed help and found it in the Mid-South Head Injury Association.

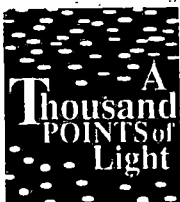
As a member now, she participates in auctions, helps out with health fairs and promotes awareness of bicycle safety, especially urging the use of helmets.

"Memphis doesn't have a rehabilitation center. The center will open before the first of the year," she said. "It will continue to be funded by the money that people are gracious enough to give."

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Using a full court press to establish scholarships

By Jill Johnson Piper



FOUR years ago, when Willie Burress wanted to do something for Memphis children, he realized the ball was in his court.

He started the annual Bishop's Basketball Tournament as a fund-raising event to establish scholarships for families who wish to send their elementary-age children to Catholic school but cannot afford to do so. Students need not be Catholic to qualify for one of the scholarships.

The tournament occupies two weekends in November, and the events include basketball games (local priests vs. local celebrities is the traditional opener), art and essay contests, a cheer-leading competition, and a free-throw championship. Proceeds from advertising sales for the tournament program go into the scholarship fund. At the end of the tournament, trophies, ribbons and certificates are awarded with Burress' compliments.

Anita Tracy, an employee of Union Planters Bank and mother of three, said she owes her children's education to Burress. "All three of my children have been helped tremendously by this event, and it's a blessing to know they can further their education this way and others can continue to enjoy it. My children say their classmates and teachers are just like family; they've all been made to feel that way because of Mr. Burress and his efforts. Children's interests are strictly his life," she said.

Because of the tournament's growth, this year it will be held in two locations — Christian Brothers College gymnasium and Memphis Catholic High School gymnasium.

"It was my initial hope that this type tournament would provide the means for many more children to take their rightful place in life," said Burress, a 44-year-old shipping supervisor at Kimberly-Clark. He and his wife have two sons and live in Midtown.

Other points of light:

Alberta Lee had a lot of experience helping others as a registered nurse with the Health Department. But retirement hasn't ended her desire to help others. Now 82, she takes elderly members of her church, St. Andrews AME, to the doctor, grocery store and services every Sunday. The Southeast Memphis resident also cooks balanced meals to take to sick friends and neighbors. "The Lord has blessed me with good health," she says. This is her way of showing her appreciation. Mrs. Lee also belongs to the Ruth Circle, a

church club, and is a member of Sunday school.

Three years ago Carolyn Murphy looked around her native town of Munford, Tenn., and saw a need. "There was no community center, and no help for the elderly, shut-ins and ill," she says. Her response was to instigate the Munford area MIFA program. "It's not a charity program, but a nutrition one," says Ms. Murphy, 62. They now have 57 volunteers to care for people, including a Meals On Wheels program. "I had lived here all my life," says Ms. Murphy, "and I knew the needs of the people. Helping them has made my life worthwhile."

The little things he does endear neighbors and friends to Jack Thomas, 70. Like putting the newspaper on the doorstep of the neighborhood widows, rain or shine. And sharing his garden crop of green beans, turnips and mustard greens with friends. Or taking people to the grocery store or bank when needed. The retired postman also helps others with yard work, odd jobs and painting chores. The East Memphian says he does it to ease life for others just a little, now that he has the time for it.

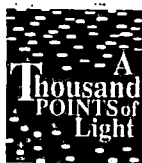
Ann E. Willis has done volunteer work most of her adult life. "I'm people-oriented," says the retired YWCA worker. While at the YWCA she started a clothes closet and worked to see it flourish, although it was not part of her job. President of Memphis Heritage, Mrs. Willis has an interest in preservation. She has worked for the American Cancer Society raising funds and has been on the community outreach committee since 1980. In her neighborhood Mrs. Willis works with the Care Home and along with others visits and takes gifts to residents of the Lamar Nursing Home. At the Smith Center in north Memphis she works with the summer feeding program and on Thanksgiving projects. "Helping others is so worthwhile and I get a lot of satisfaction from it."

When an opening in Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center's foster grandparents program came up, Willie Mae Johnson was happy to take it. That was in 1985 and since then the 77-year-old has worked with babies and now cares for children in the emergency department. Mrs. Johnson spends half of every weekday sitting with a baby or child whose mother has had to leave and "I talk to them, read to them and help keep them quiet." Mrs. Johnson lives near the hospital and enjoys working with others and the children.

Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles.

Family makes volunteerism a part of their daily lives

By Larry Williams



AN endearing, and enduring philosophy drives Vernua Hanrahan.

"Life is a gift," she says, "and because it is a gift it must be shared."

Mrs. Hanrahan, 32, has touched many lives in her roles as wife, mother, teacher and volunteer spirit of her school, church and community. She devotes about 30 hours a week to volunteer work and by so doing, "I help myself," she says.

A teacher of religion at Memphis Catholic High School for seven years, she finds a sense of community, a coordination in her various activities.

"I find my family, my students, my fellow church members and many of my co-workers involved in volunteer activities," she said. "There is a collective spirit working for others."

Mrs. Hanrahan's husband, Robert A. Hanrahan, also does volunteer work because "it is an integral part of our lives. It is us. As we help others, we help each other. It is something we do for the joy of it."

Their children, Katrina, 12, and James Daniel, 7, are being brought up in the tradition of helping others, Mrs. Hanrahan said, and are taught to respect the cultures, traditions and religions of others.

Mrs. Hanrahan is president of MICAH (Mid- and Inner-City Association for Heritage), an organization to save neighborhoods.

"My students say I am hyper," she said. "But I'm just eager to do what I can with the hours I have. I don't like to waste time. Most of what I do is really behind the scenes. I once took my faith for granted, but I learned a long time ago not to do that anymore."

A communicant of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, she is active in volunteer activities there, especially in working with youth groups. She coaches a girl's basketball team, "and mostly I just have fun with that."

The entire Hanrahan family — husband, brothers-in-law "and a lot of other people" — was instrumental in saving the Raoul Wallenberg Shell at Overton Park.

"The shell is unique. The acoustics are so grand. I can hear the music at night as I am working at Catholic High. Restoring the shell was preserving history. It could never be replaced."

Mrs. Hanrahan's list of volunteer organizations is long and goes back to her school days. One of her favorites was the Refugee Settlement Program. She helped in getting food, clothing and jobs for mostly Vietnamese, Cambodians and Polish refugees. She is vice president of Home And School Associations, and has worked with many neighborhood associations to train people in job skills and in securing low-income housing. She works with Life, a youth group that exemplifies "a living faith experience."

"I was in the hospital for a time last year and really missed my volunteer work and my associations from it," she said.

One of her most joyous feelings, she said, is having so many great teachers in her life.



Mrs. Hanrahan

"A lot of people are great teachers and don't know it," she said. "So many people teach by their great examples." Other points of light:

According to Rev. Leo Gray Jr., churches should lead the way in providing a preventive drug program in areas of high drug-related crime to stop young people who may be on the edge of the drug world in Memphis.

Mr. Gray co-chaired the Afro-American Crack Cocaine Summit Conference recently at Olivet Baptist Church.

"We want treatment approaches and methods where an ethnic and Afrocentric approach to drug addiction shows

the difference between a kid in Germantown, who may be experimenting with drugs, and the peripheral drug exposure of Afro-American kids who see it as a chance for survival, a means of making money," he said.

The pastor for 13 years at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Millington, he is also the executive director of the Memphis Regional Sickle Cell Council and works actively in AIDS education and prevention with other churches.

Every year, 10 students at Hamilton High receive about \$250 in scholarship money to help with transportation or books at college through the W. A. Suggs Scholarship Fund.

Rev. William A. Suggs of North Memphis, a retired Hamilton High social studies teacher and guidance counselor, set up the fund to help students who can't afford the extras at college.

Along with the scholarship fund, he's proudest of his coaching for the annual Elks Oratorical Contest and boasts three national winners from Hamilton, Overton and Central High. Each received between \$1,500 and \$2,000 in scholarship money. From 1962 through 1984, he coached 35 other city, regional and state winners.

The pastor of Friendship Baptist Church for 29 years, he said his young people will remember his advice on learning from their mistakes: "He who sits on a red-hot stove shall rise again."

Although her job as a teacher at both LeMoyné-Owen College and Memphis State University takes a lot of her time, Meena Rajagopalan finds time for others.

"That's what life is about," says Ms. Rajagopalan, 49. "You don't just live comfortably, but you must use your talents."

She uses her cooking talent to make soup twice a week for the Memphis Day Shelter. On Tuesday and Saturday she makes enough to serve 70 people. When the Mid-South Seniors' newspaper comes out, the Memphis State area resident drops them off at shopping centers, nursing homes and hospitals. Before teaching took up so much of her time Ms. Rajagopalan helped out at the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association every day of the week.

Ten children ages 3 to 20 have not deterred Jacquelyn Howard from allocating some of her free time for others.

Ms. Howard, 39, of South Memphis, works at MIFA's clothes closet five hours, four days a week. There she sorts and packages clothing and assists clients.

"It's really rewarding to help others, especially when the burn victims come in. They've lost everything; yet they can go somewhere where people will help. It's better than any money," she says.

She also spends time as secretary of the PTSA at Vance Junior High School, recording minutes of meetings and contributing ideas to improve the school.

Larry Williams is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand Mid-Southerners who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, send the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

ZIGGY



Tues. 10-10-89 At

Volunteer work fills retirement to overflowing

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 **Alfred Nichols, 69, of Whitehaven finds himself "busier today than when I was working."**

The retired accountant is a volunteer escort at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center nursing home once a week and plays bingo with the patients on the wards. His volunteer work at the VA Hospital is through two organizations in which he is active: the Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

As chairman of the trustees of Longstreet United Methodist Church, he oversees church buildings and equipment. He also serves on the church's finance committee and administrative board and makes crafts for the annual fall bazaar.

 **More than 20 years ago, Dorothea McWilliams, 69, organized a citizens club to push for needed maintenance and repairs near her Sydney Street home.**

"We were losing residents in our neighborhood because of no sidewalks and unpaved streets," she says.

By joining forces with Memphis City Beautiful, she succeeded in improving her neighborhood and became inspired to organize other block clubs throughout the Douglas, Bungalow and Crump Street area.

Mrs. McWilliams' work led her to serve eight years on the City Beautiful Commission, and she continues to be an advisor for the Douglas-Bungalow-Crump Neighborhood Association and Coalition Alliance. In 1987, she was a Senior Citizen of the Year finalist.

 **When James Hay volunteered to answer phones during the 1980 Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, he didn't expect it to lead to a deep involvement in the cause.**

"I saw a need there and decided to help," says the 26-year-old electrical engineer.

He joined Friends Against Dystrophy and became a camp counselor at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's summer camp in Brandon Springs, Ky. Every summer he spends two weeks helping children from Memphis and Nashville have a normal camping experience despite their handicaps. His commitment to the children was no more apparent than in 1982 when he delayed his honeymoon until camp was over.

Hay is vice president of the board of directors of the Memphis chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He recently coordinated the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, which involved almost 400 volunteers in the Memphis area.

 **Thanks to Margaret Turner, 57, many elderly residents of Saltillo, Tenn., receive a hot meal each day.**

She organized the local Meals-On-Wheels program several years ago, because "we have a lot of elderly people in Saltillo who would be bad off without this service." She is responsible for volunteer recruitment and delivers meals herself on a weekly basis.

The part-time City Hall employee is also a Saltillo volunteer fireman. She goes to the scene of all fires, where she not only helps to fight them but also gives medical attention as a state-certified first responder.

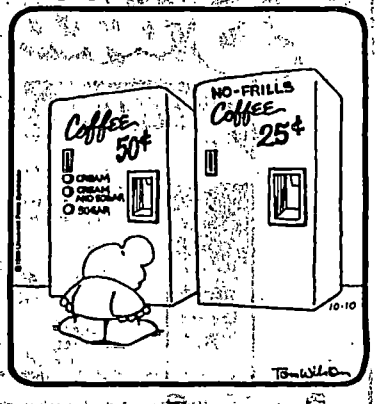
 **Lucille Caruthers's volunteer activities recently earned her a card of thanks from President George Bush.**

The 76-year-old resident of Greenwood, Miss., volunteers at two local museums. She greets tourists and conducts tours at Cottonlandia, a museum devoted to the history of cotton in the Mississippi Delta. At Florewood River Plantation State Park, a replica of an 1850s Delta plantation, she works in the "big house" and gives tours. She is president of Friends of Florewood, which helps support the museum.

As president of the Lefleur Garden Club, she oversees the landscaping of the Golden Age Nursing Home. She volunteers at the local hospital and is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, the First United Methodist Church and the Great Books Discussion Group at the Greenwood Library.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

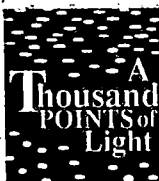
ZIGGY



A13

Giving a big start to small businesses

By John Belfuss



Wilson Clayton, 51, is a successful owner of a small business who devotes much of his spare time to encouraging others to follow in his footsteps. He wants to prove that a small businessman

can have a big impact.

In 1982, Clayton founded Albrite Chemical and Supply Company at 682 South Main. The company manufactures and distributes industrial disinfectants, steam-cleaning products, soaps and other similar products. After Clayton got his business on a firm footing, he became heavily involved in local organizations that work with small businesses.

Clayton works many hours helping to organize the annual Small Business Day seminar at the Memphis Cook Convention Center, sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at Memphis State University. At the seminar, small-business operators answer questions about all aspects of starting and running a business.

"It helps create jobs, and that helps the economy," Clayton said. "That can only help everyone."

He also is a member of the Small Business Council of the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce. "We try to create a network so small businesses can find help and assistance. We're not concerned about the competition, that doesn't seem to come into it with business of this size."

Also, as part of Goals for Memphis, Clayton served on a panel to help reorganize the Memphis Regional Purchasing Council. This organization matches small businesses with major corporations and government agencies, helping the smaller partners find outlets for their goods and services.

For his efforts, Clayton was given the Small Business Advocate of the Year award by the Small Business Administration in 1986.

Other points of light:

Before Mabel Topper put her mother in a nursing home, "I never realized the need nursing homes had," she said. The Whitehaven resident retired in 1987 and since then has been willing to help in any way. At Whitehaven Care Center Mrs. Topper, 68, does typing, filing, answers the phone and assists on field trips. President of the Family Council for the home, she works on fund-raisers, such as the annual bazaar and helps plan expeditions to the Mid-South Fair and picnics. "So many residents have nobody who cares about them. When I pat them on the shoulder I'm rewarded with a beautiful smile. It does my heart good."

Maxine Bratcher has sewn all her life and when she heard from a friend about making costumes for Theatre Memphis, she decided to do it. That was five years ago. Her hard work and enthusiasm were noted this year when the 66-year-old was awarded the theater's "Cube Award" for outstanding production volunteer. Mrs. Bratcher explains that she might work as many as five hours a day four days a week on a big production, often taking work back to her East Memphis home. The retired nurse has also worked with the Johnson Auxiliary showing health films and works each Thursday at Whitehaven Presbyterian Church for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association, passing out food. "I just want to give back to the community for the privilege of living here."

"Dealing with children is dealing with the future," believes Eillen Canon of Midtown. An elementary school librarian, Mrs. Canon was a storyteller at a library in Arkansas when she retired. Then when she moved to Memphis she was a storyteller for the fourth, fifth and sixth grades at Snowden, visiting each homeroom once a month. At Epworth United Methodist Church she has organized a library and is there every day to help. On Thursdays she reads to children or has them read to her. Mrs. Canon, 72, feels stories are a part of our heritage and hopes that her reading will make a difference.

Although she's 90, Theima Crouch does not sit around idle. Her week is full of volunteer work. A member of the King's Daughters Stedman Circle for more than 40 years, she wanted to do more than just go to meetings and attend luncheons. With other members she visits the Home for Incurables two days a month to sew six hours for patients. She also works at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center rolling bandages, folding towels and "anything they request." Mrs. Crouch rolls bandages at the Parkview Manor, too, with a group from First Presbyterian Church. A past president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and a member of the DAR, she's also involved in the Central Gardens Neighborhood Association, having lived in Midtown 55 years.

John Belfuss is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

(A15) No need is too large or small for volunteers

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 Irma Merrill, 64, loves her neighborhood of 29 years and devotes countless hours to it as president of the Evergreen Historic District Association.

Mrs. Merrill directs projects of vital interest to the neighborhood, such as the restoration of the abandoned I-40 corridor. For months, she and the association have been involved in planning and lobbying efforts to redevelop the land for single family homes, which will be harmonious with the rest of the neighborhood.

She worked with Park Commission and Memphis Zoo officials on a plan to make Overton Park a better, safer place for Evergreen residents and park visitors alike.

Work is currently underway to designate Evergreen a historic conservation zoning district, so that the aesthetic integrity of the neighborhood can be protected.

Mrs. Merrill also publishes a newsletter for the 695 families composing the Evergreen Historic District Association's membership.

"I'm only one part of a wonderful neighborhood effort," she says. "There are many people who work to make Evergreen a great neighborhood. I'm just the command post."

 A retired cafeteria manager with the Memphis City Schools, Alta Lemon uses her cooking know-how to help others. With other members of Beulah Baptist Church she purchases and cooks enough food for 100 people at the Day Shelter once a month. Following funerals Mrs. Lemon, 65, provides food for the bereaved, a kindness she has done for 30 years. The Orange Mound resident drives four or five elderly people to the doctor or other appointments when needed. "I get a real joy out of doing for others. It's what I ought to be doing. I try to be useful," she says.

 The seventh of nine children, Thomas E. Breen had "good parents who taught me to watch out for and help other people." Today the 57-year-old insurance agent does this in many ways. He has worked for the St. Peter's picnic for 20 years, including a stint as chairman. Every Christmas the East Memphian helps with the Christmas wrap party at St. Peter's Manor, beginning in the fall to solicit the 3,000 items to be put together in gift packs for residents.

A member of the Knights of Columbus East Memphis Council 4312, Breen has held every office and is now church activities chairman. With his fellow knights he plans the Tootsie Roll drive fund-raiser. He's on the board of Birthright and has been in charge of ads for the group's charity ball for six years. A lay minister at Holy Rosary parish, he

assists at mass at the Shelby County Jail and gives out communion. In addition, he organizes the "Nuns Night" for religious sisters of the diocese, seeing that they are treated to dinner and a gift bag.

 When someone's in the hospital with bladder cancer, Lou Liebster gladly goes to visit the patient. A bladder cancer victim himself, Liebster shares his experience and allays any fears about restricted activities. He has done this for several years, even participating on panels and speaking to groups.

The retired Southeast Memphis resident also volunteers once a week at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center library, taking books to spinal cord patients. Liebster likes to bowl and swim but plans to keep time for his volunteer works.

 Melodie Fite realized she had some free time and wanted to use it to help others. She saw a request for volunteers from the Easter Seal Society at a community center and joined the Reaching Rainbows program. One day a week Mrs. Fite, 34, works with 9-month-old to 3-year-old children who are handicapped, learning disabled or have Down syndrome.

"I love these kids. They're amazing how hard they try and how happy they are," the Parkway Village resident says. The program mixes average and special children, which Mrs. Fite likes. "It helps to mainstream them. I had gone to a mixed school myself and never thought of handicapped people as different."

 Fred Wiseman may be retired but he is far from inactive. The 69-year-old resident of Arlington is a 20-year member of the Al Chymia Shrine Temple in Memphis. He drives a van to transport burned and crippled children to Shrine hospitals in St. Louis, Cincinnati and Galveston. More than 275 children have been transported to these specialty hospitals, at the Shriners's expense.

Wiseman also visits nursing homes and hospitals, bringing cards to cheer the patients. He runs errands for his elderly neighbors and is active in the Arlington United Methodist Church.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light

VIEWPOINT

Volunteers help neighbors, seniors and Scouts

By Jill Johnson Piper

A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light

After five years of complaining about an unsightly sign in the neighborhood, residents of the Messick-Buntyn neighborhood asked Harry Bryan what ought to be done about it.

"So I did something unheard of: I went down there and asked the guy to paint over it, and he did," said Bryan, president of the Messick-Buntyn Neighborhood Association, founded in 1979.

His work in psychiatric medicine, he says, has taught him that tackling problems head-on is often more effective than indirect string-pulling.

"Our philosophy is to work toward solutions one-on-one rather than call a government agency every time there's a problem. We're a grass-roots organization and we try to take care of the neighborhood. We do what we can to keep down crime, and try to help our elderly residents," he said.

The Messick-Buntyn Association was honored by the Center for Neighborhoods last year with the recognition of their newsletter as the Best Neighborhood Communication for 1988, an honor they shared with the Annesdale-Snowden Historic District Organiza-

tion. At Christmas, the association donates toys to the children at Messick School, and they sing carols at a nearby elderly home.

Lately, Bryan has been researching the history of the Buntyn area in the hopes of establishing the neighborhood as a historic district with the Memphis Landmarks Commission.

Bryan, 41, is a technician in the adolescent unit at Memphis Mental Health Institute. From time to time he spends his lunch hour leading a discussion group for teenagers from dysfunctional families. He and his wife, Diane, also canvas the neighborhood for the American Heart Association and he serves on the Advisory Council to the Center for Neighborhoods.

Other points of light:

Last spring, Flo Robinson, 45, began visiting residents of Kirby Oaks Guest Home as part of an outreach program at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. She quickly became a favorite at the East Memphis retirement home.



Harry Bryan

and began spending more time there. She starts her days there by "just knocking on doors to say hello to all the residents." She pitches in wherever needed, planning birthday and holiday parties, playing bingo or taking a group shopping or out to lunch.

When lightning struck the home last June, residents were transferred to St. Francis Nursing Home while repairs were made on the burned residence. Ms. Robinson spent eight hours each day at St. Francis, helping her elderly friends until they could return to Kirby Oaks.

"I know how important the help of friends is," she says, "and I find happiness in helping others."

Jeanne Swift, 62, is a firm believer that the elderly are happier and healthier when they are actively involved in life. Her interest in and advocacy of senior citizens extends past her professional work as director of resident services at Trezevant Manor to her volunteer activities.

She joined the Memphis Alzheimers Association in 1981 to better understand the effects of the disease. Her involvement in the organization grew, and she is currently serving a third year on the board of directors of the National Alzheimers Association. She is a member of the Council on Aging and the Trezevant Manor Exchange Club, which was organized to allow the residents an opportunity to participate in a

civic club. She also leads an exercise class for seniors at Evergreen Presbyterian Church as part of MIFA's Lunch and Learn program.

"I'm strongly opposed to the idea that old age is an excuse to stop using your mind and body," she says.

In addition to her work for senior citizens, Ms. Swift plays the piano for three services each Sunday at Colonial Park Methodist Church, where she also serves on the administrative board.

This is Buddy Irwin's 51st consecutive year as scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 97 in Whitehaven. The 77-year-old retired general contractor was a Boy Scout who began his scoutmaster career in 1938 at the request of a church deacon at a small Baptist church in South Memphis.

"The boys were getting into mischief, and the church thought that Scouting might help the problem," he says.

The church later became Broadway Baptist Church of Whitehaven, but Troop 97 remained the same. Irwin has influenced more than 1,500 boys to "learn by doing, to get a good education, to make decisions, to become leaders and good men." The troop has produced more than 200 Eagle scouts.

"Boys have changed very little throughout the years," he says. "My only complaint today is that boys have so little free time to be a boy. Let a boy live his boyhood and he'll turn out a better man."

Even before she had her own child, Gloria Hoskins of East Memphis loved children and had a desire to help them. The 36-year-old security guard now fulfills that desire as a volunteer at the Reaching Rainbows Preschool, where her 3-year-old son is enrolled. The school is located at Parkway Village Christian Church and provides services for infants and young children with physical handicaps and mental disabilities. It is supported by the Easter Seal Society of Tennessee.

Ms. Hoskins helps with the children every Monday morning, serving lunch, changing diapers and working with them on gross and fine motor skill development.

"It gives me great pleasure to help these children," she says. "It's wonderful to watch them improve, including my son, who can now walk as a result of this program."

Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

All

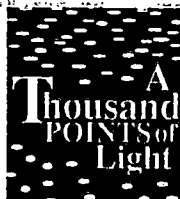
Helping others learn to save children's lives

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 Not once, but twice, did Bonnie Fall's knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation save the lives of dear ones.

"With my first niece, we had been at the mall, and she had a hard, butter-scotch candy lodged in her throat. She was standing in the middle of the front seat of the car, and was turning blue. That's when I threw her upside down and whacked her between the shoulder blades," said Mrs. Fall, 29.



Some years later, a second niece was choking on a piece of hard candy, and turning blue. "She was not totally obstructed, but she wasn't able to cough. I flipped her upside down, and out it came," she said.

Since then, Mrs. Fall, a pediatric nurse, has become an instructor in child and infant CPR for the American Red Cross. "I just know how helpless I would have felt if I hadn't known what to do," she said. "I keep my feet in it and try to help when I can."

She has also taught the technique to workers at the Bartlett United Methodist Church Preschool and Mothers Day Out there.

Formerly of Washington, Mrs. Fall and her husband have three children and live in Bartlett.

 "I just do it," explains Barbara Bolton, 52, of Frayser. What she does, outside of her work as manager-supervisor of Fox Meadows Center, a special education center, is to get involved in programs benefiting special education and the handicapped. "I got involved through 28 years of work with the Memphis City Schools. I felt the need of students to complete careers and thought if I got involved and found out what was out there I could help." Treasurer at SRVS (Shelby Residential and Vocational Services), a nonprofit service organization for retarded adults, Ms. Bolton talks to legislators to get bills passed that will help the handicapped find employment. Through the Council for Exceptional Children, she lobbies for laws to help the gifted and the severely retarded. Ms. Bolton is a past president of Memphis City Schools Administrators Association and a trustee and Sunday school teacher at Hill Chapel MB Church.

 Because Larry Smith remembers a boyhood spent playing and riding a bike in Shelby Farms, he has fought to see that other children can have the same pleasure. "When I heard it was threatened by Kirby Parkway, it fired me up and was a sort of baptism," the 32-year-old Memphis State area resident says. He has since become active in environmental issues, such as preservation of wetlands and clean water, and was a founder of Save Shelby Farms Forest. With the help of the Sierra Club, Smith won a court case claiming Memphis was not in compliance with the Clean Water Act regarding streams and wetlands. "It will change the way things are developed, subdivisions are laid out and light industry planned," the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department employee says. Smith is also vice chairman of the Wolf River Conservancy and leads a monthly hike and seminar to educate the public on environmental issues.

 Since 1953 Robert Pierce of Millington has given his time every summer to coach baseball. At 75 the former ballplayer still loves the game and the fun he gets being with 13- to 15-year-olds. Every weekday during the summer the 13 boys on his senior team meet at Aycock Field in Millington to practice and play ball. Pierce arranges transportation for the boys and gets a sponsor to provide uniforms. Many children return year after year to see and reminisce with him.

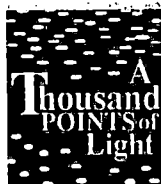
 For 10 years Minerva Gasoff, 78, has been a familiar face at Plough Towers. First because she works 16 hours a week as office receptionist there, but also because she is there frequently to lend a hand and an ear to residents. "I'm a sounding board," the Midtown resident says. "Not everyone there has someone to talk to." Mrs. Gasoff also helps by running small errands for friends or bringing special items. With a group at Plough Towers she knits items for hospitals and nursing homes. "I make about two knit caps a week for the chemotherapy kids at St. Jude," she says, along with booties, sweaters and afghans for other groups. "I just feel I should be doing something," explains Mrs. Gasoff, "although I am not able to do as much as I once did."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Mending hearts get assistance from one that has been there

B14
10-15-89 (Sun)

By Jim Terrell



KENNETH G. Robbins, 64, of Midtown, volunteers from the heart.

But in 1975 when he founded the local chapter of Mended Hearts, a national support organization for heart attack and bypass surgery patients and their families, it didn't occur to him that he would be on the mend himself three more times in the next decade.

Robbins had heart bypass operations in 1971, the first year the surgery was performed here, and again in 1979, 1980 and 1985, and his wife Catherine had bypass surgery in 1981.

"I know what it's like from both sides, and the worse side is being the person in that waiting room," says the native Memphian. "It really is. When you're in that operating room, you're out."

And while he wasn't the first in Memphis to have heart bypass surgery, Robbins, formerly Evergreen Presbyterian Church's business administrator, believes he may at least be the Memphian most frequently bypassed.

"It was quite different then than it is nowadays," he says, comparing five weeks' hospitalization after the first operation, when he was 46, with the nine-to-10-day stays typical after his later surgeries.

Robbins suffered heart attacks starting at age 40 and had had five heart catheterizations by the time bypass surgery was required.

"You really don't have any choice. It wasn't anything for me to take 30 to 35 nitroglycerine pills a day," he says, for chest pains.

Retired on medical disability with an ischemic heart condition, he has had portions of the veins in his legs and a mammary artery removed for the surgeries. Scar tissue from the operations likely would rule out another bypass.

"It's very common now," he says of the surgical procedure. "But the need is still the same for... patients and their families."

Mended Hearts, which meets monthly at St. Francis Hospital with guest speakers, provides pre- and post-operation support to help in coping with heart surgery and recovery, but does not give any medical advice.

Members who visit patients in the



Kenneth G. Robbins

hospital also are trained, certified and re-evaluated at St. Francis and serve on call at the request of staff and physicians.

"It's support for people, seeing someone who has had the surgery and, I think, it gives them a big lift," says Robbins, whose volunteer service for the organization may range from 1½ hours with a patient prior to surgery to six to eight hours with the family.

And he says there's "a great camaraderie among members in Mended Hearts," the motto for which is, "It's great to be alive and helping others."

Other points of light:

Marion Stringer, 60, of Jonesboro, Ark., is "interested in people who are hurting or in need," and he puts this interest to work in many ways.

Through the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, the retired Baptist minister "adopted" an elderly woman, to whom he brings a food package every two weeks. He also checks on her regularly and runs errands for her.

He is a weekly volunteer for Helpline, taking calls from people in need of food, utilities or other material resources. He forwards their requests to the appropriate agency, organization or individual. Through Helpline, he also works for the Reassurance Program, calling elderly persons to determine if they are well or in need of anything.

He volunteers with the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) program and visits homes in which abuse or neglect has occurred to help make the home a safer place for children.

"I try to stay busy," he says, "because it's as good for me as it is for the others I help."

Having battled alcoholism herself, Jackie Gean Scott, 50, of Savannah, Tenn., knows firsthand the difficulty of getting and staying sober. After receiving treatment in 1977 at Memphis's Women's Serenity House, she remained there as a cook for several months.

"It helped me tremendously to stay in that protected environment," she says. "Thirty days is not enough to prepare an alcoholic to re-enter society."

Her post-treatment experience inspired her to open a halfway house for women alcoholics in Savannah. It took her eight years to raise the money and obtain the necessary support, but on Oct. 1, 1985, the Jack Gean Scott Shelter for Women opened its doors.

The facility, one of the first of its kind in West Tennessee, is named for Ms. Scott's father, who died 13 days after she entered Serenity House in 1977. The house is his former home, now licensed to accommodate 12 women. It receives support from individuals, the United Way and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

"It's been a long struggle," says Ms. Scott, "but now these women have a place to stay for 45 days after treatment. It's a place where they learn to live

without alcohol and drugs. I see miracles happen here."

Thirty years ago, E'Lane Bobo, 62, of Clarksdale, Miss., saw a need in her community and decided to meet it.

"I firmly felt the Lord wanted me to do something about hunger," she says, "because it seemed that everything I read or saw called my attention to the problem."

She began by recruiting the support of local churches and individuals, urging volunteers to attend an organizational meeting. She leased the abandoned railroad depot for \$1 a year and renovated it with volunteer labor. Today the depot is a flourishing soup kitchen, which serves a hot noon meal five days a week to between 89 and 189 people. It sends out 60 hot meals to shut-ins three times a week.

"We stepped out in faith," says Mrs. Bobo, "but God takes care of us. We now have the financial support of seven churches, several civic clubs and a world of individuals. Twelve churches send us volunteers, and much of our food is donated. We are able to feed many people who would otherwise go hungry."

Mrs. Bobo was also instrumental in the establishment of the Flowers Manor Retirement Home in Clarksdale and is currently chairing a fund-raising drive to finance a new wing for the facility.

Both Margaret and Rochelle Browning have always "enjoyed older folks." Now retired and living in Jackson, Tenn., the couple devote much of their time to aiding the elderly and Alzheimer patients.

Browning, 64, spends at least two mornings a week at Forest Cove Nursing Home talking to patients, helping them and shaving and cutting the hair of male patients. For a 102-year-old blind man who hadn't been out of his room for four years, Browning threw a party. His help with Alzheimer patients is greatly appreciated by family members who need relief from 24-hour care.

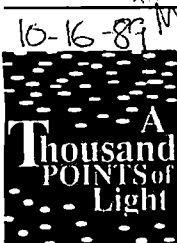
Mrs. Browning, 61, often sits and looks after elderly people, and both help their 93-year-old neighbor by checking on her daily, shopping for her and taking her to the hospital. The Brownings agree that they "thoroughly enjoy helping others."

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Sunday

'Special' children benefit from volunteer's time, love A9

By Lloyd Holbeck



Doris 'Cousin Tuny' Freeman of Jackson, Tenn., has been involved with the West Tennessee Cerebral Palsy Center in Jackson for 25 years, and is planning now for her 24th telethon in February to raise money for the center.

The reason: "The little I do comes back to me."

The children at the center, who have muscular and speech problems, are God's special children, said Ms. Freeman, and they give her their love. She calls them "differently abled" instead of disabled, she said.

The independent center, not affiliated with United Cerebral Palsy, is financed partly by the state and by fundraising. It has 37 children under treatment every day, and another 100 receive therapy.

Ms. Freeman was doing a local children's television program as 'Cousin Tuny' when she was approached to help start the center. She's been chairman of its board five years and is a lifetime board member. Last February the telethon had \$111,000 pledged and collected 98 percent of that. One donor three years ago gave \$200,000 for a therapeutic pool, one of a few in the country.

The children cannot be cured but can be helped, Ms. Freeman said. Doctors said a boy, 10, injured in a traffic accident, would never speak or walk again, she said. Wrong.

"I saw him take his first step," she said.

Other points of light:

Thanks to Frank Horton, hundreds of Memphians are running faster, better and more exuberantly. For 10 years, Horton, 56, has taken his own time to coach youths and adults for the Memphis Runners Track Club. "I'm at it every day in one fashion or another," the retired East Memphian says. He holds clinics every Tuesday night and attends as many races as he can. "One of the biggest kicks I get is when someone tells me they accomplished a goal; that keeps me going." For his efforts Horton was honored by the Memphis Heart Association two years ago.

He also finds time to work with the

Mended Hearts organization, visiting and talking to patients and families who have gone through heart surgery.

Charles Capon recently returned from South Carolina and his most recent work, helping victims of Hurricane Hugo. It was not a new experience for the 73-year-old; he worked 25 years with the Red Cross in disaster relief, 35 years with them in first aid. But Hugo was one of the worst. "In the number of people affected it was way beyond anything I've ever seen."

Capon's duties include making reports of damage assessments, but when at home he teaches instructor-trainers on first aid and CPR. In addition, the retired Department of Defense employee estimates he has given more than 125 pints of blood. "After that I lost count."

The Memphis State area resident also holds the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts, with whom he worked nearly 20 years. "I read once that the rent you pay for the space you occupy here on Earth is service to others, and I believe that," he says.

Because she's a workaholic, **Annie Lazar**, 74, says she wasn't content to sit back when she retired from the retail liquor business. "I said it was time to do the volunteer things I had always wanted to do," she said.

When a friend told her about Plough Towers, Mrs. Lazar volunteered to work at the front desk. Now the East Memphian is there 10 or more hours a week. She's an active member of Anshei Sphard Beth El Emeth Sisterhood as well, helping in the kitchen and selling refreshments at fund-raisers. A friend of B'nai B'rith Home, Mrs. Lazar visits there often.

"I like talking to people and giving them a smile. It means a lot to get a smile back from them." She also helps with transportation and offers "anything I can do, I will do."

Lloyd Holbeck is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Telephone help line helps spread happiness

10-17-89
Tues.

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

Marge Mabry has turned her sadness into happiness for many people. A widow and homebound because of multiple sclerosis, arthritis and osteoporosis, Mrs. Mabry has begun a telephone help line from her home.

"I had been very active in my church, Christ The King Lutheran, and when my doctor said I had to give it up, I cried for three Sundays," says the 67-year-old East Memphian. "Then I decided to call other shut-ins. Now I feel better and they feel better."

She checks on some regularly, gives church information and tells her pastor who needs care. She also sees that meals are provided for people just out of the hospital and sends cards to families of the recently deceased.

"It's become a full-time job. I'm also available to talk 24 hours a day for new widows or sick people. I have more friends now than ever, and I'm repaid a million times over," she says.

Because of the work of Dr. Greg Moore and other Rotarians, the children at Martin Elementary School in Martin, Tenn., have a nice playground.

"What they had before was unusable and dangerous and it was a shame to have children play on it," says the 33-year-old dentist.

Dr. Moore understood that the school did not have funds for recreation, so he and other Rotarians contributed the necessary \$15,000 and saw to it that the work was done.

"Now when I go by there at lunch, I see 150 to 200 children enjoying it," says the past president of the Rotary.

Dr. Moore also is active in the First United Methodist Church, and served on Homecoming '86, the statewide celebration. Thanks to his work there his hometown of Sharon was given money by the state group to buy an old building for use as a public library.

Jerry E. King, the mayor of Fifty-Six, donates his mayoral salary to keep the senior citizens center in his Arkansas town in operation.

After funding cuts from the North Arkansas Development Council threatened the program's survival, King pitched in to help financially last year, during his second year as mayor.

"That's where my weakness is — the young and the old. That's when my heart goes out," he said.

He is now trying to form a charter to start the Sunshine Day Care Center in Fifty-Six, backed by a town that raised money by holding canoe races. With the help of other volunteers and organizations, he spearheaded the formation of the Rodeo Arena, an attraction that began without any funds. He also formed the first volunteer fire department, financially supported through fish fries and turkey shoots. King also donates time on the boards of the White River Development Corporation and the Stone County Industrial Committee.

When the Neighborhood Center burned in 1983, Noah W. Bond began harmonizing with Dr. Mark Matheny of Madison Heights United Methodist Church to raise money for a down payment, and both formed a successful duet. Today, The Bridge, an interracial group of six singers from different churches, holds an annual concert to raise money for charities.

A retired history educator in the Shelby County schools for 30 years, Bond, 56, is a history lecturer, a board member of Habitat for Humanity, founder of the Black Writer's Workshop on the LeMoyne-Owen College campus and is a leader and past president in the Association of the Life and Study of Afro-American History. He is active in two organizations that promote character-building and an understanding of ethnic backgrounds in youth — Anytown USA, and the Evergreen Optimist Club.

"There is such a need, especially from Afro-Americans, for people to present a positive picture for self-determination and identification so they can make their own lives better," he said.

Ken Huang, an associate professor of art at Memphis State University, came from Taiwan to the United States, and feels lucky to be here.

Huang volunteers his time to Amnesty International, an organization that asks for the release of political prisoners throughout the world. He helps write letters to governments, raises funds for the group and donates his artwork during fund drives.

"It seems to me that in so many countries, the governments seem to be using the name of democracy to actually oppress people," he said. "I'm a lucky one to live in such a free country. I feel I need to help others."

To promote racial harmony in the Memphis community, Huang also serves on the board of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Barbara Patterson of Collierville knows how to be a good neighbor.

When her neighbors' 17-year-old son, Ken Mears, became a paraplegic two years ago, Mrs. Patterson insisted that his parents, Ruby and Wendell Mears, train her to care for him in the afternoons or any time they need to get away for a weekend. Sometimes, he just calls her and they share pizza together.

A serious accident on a four-wheeler meant Ken needed 24-hour-a-day care, and Mrs. Patterson and her husband, Joe, pitched in to help. At 46, Mrs. Patterson is preparing for a nursing career at Baptist Nursing School. Not only does she feel good about helping the Mearses, she also thinks Ken is an inspiration. "Ken can drive his own van. If this kid can do all of this, so can I. Every time he does something new, it's exciting to see. He can move his arms, bend his elbows, feed himself, take his shirts off and on. He now has a wonderful attitude."

To suggest people for this feature, send the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

ZIGGY



A15

Reaching out to people

By Jim Terrell



Community service isn't foreign to Janet Cummings Cupples of Fox Meadows.

As a volunteer, Mrs. Cupples, 46, has headed the Neighborhood Center's ethnic outreach program and the Memphis International Heritage Commission, which is responsible for the ethnic culture exhibit program at City Hall.

"We have over 50 ethnic groups in this city registered at the library, and these exhibits are totally free," she says of the program she started for the mayor's office "with no staff, no budget, no office or no anything."

Through the commission's efforts, "more than 1,500 people volunteered their time to bring better relations to the city," says Mrs. Cupples, whose position brought her in contact with numerous ethnic leaders and countries.

"I think it's most important for children to understand their background and heritage."

Mrs. Cupples has served as chairman of the Towering Oaks Baptist School fine arts committee, as public relations coordinator for the Student Council for Exceptional Children at Memphis State University, and as a member of Sheffield Vo-Tech Center business education advisory board.

Mrs. Cupples, a Parkwood Hospital business office employee, has a degree in special education and describes herself as a frustrated teacher "who probably needs to be teaching."

Four years ago she founded the Janet C. Cupples Citizenship Awards at Cummings Elementary School "to encourage inner-city students to stay off drugs and stay in school."

Students qualify for the award by maintaining good grades and participating in extracurricular activities.

The school was chosen for its location as a magnet institution for five other inner-city schools, she says; the fact that it shares the Cummings family name is coincidental.

"I've been really busy a very long time," she comments about community service she says would take a half-page to list. "To whom much is given, much is required. I've always tried to live by that motto."

Other points of light:

Although born blind, Joanne Weatherall, 35, helps other blind people see the path toward independence. A special education teacher of visually impaired children in the Memphis school system for 13 years, she also helps newly blind adults function inde-



Janet Cupples

pendently in their homes and community. She serves on the board of the Alliance for the Blind. "Just because you're blind, doesn't mean you can't function in the community," she says. "I like to give back to the community what I hope to receive from it — the chance to be an independent person." She volunteers her summertime hours at Methodist Hospital in the Lion's Club Eye Clinic and helps raise funds to buy glasses and pay for eye surgeries during the club's White Cane Drive.

"I'm blessed to be able to do something, so whenever a need arises, I'm there," says Florence Chrysler, 68. After retirement from the Health Department, she joined the board of Free the Children. Now she gets youths to help senior citizens with jobs like grass cutting and house cleaning. The Klondyke resident also takes the elderly to clinics and helps them get in touch with the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA) for meals. Once a month she picks up nutrition boxes at the Guthrie clinic and takes them to people. "It makes elderly people happy that they can depend on me and don't have to pay," she says.

Dorothy Leeper, 69, is known in her hometown of Ridgely, Tenn., as someone who enjoys people, especially young people. Her farm home is always open to others for picnics, horseback riding, even dinner. When she lived in Memphis she worked at DeNeuville Heights with children who had emotional needs. When she and her husband moved to Ridgely, he would frequently bring children to their home for weekends to work with them. Mrs. Leeper also joins others in the Lady Prayer Circle at First Baptist Church to visit nursing homes. Although she suffers from polio, Mrs. Leeper feels helping others "is something as a Christian I want to do. Even though I'm crippled and old, every day is a precious gift of life."

For 12 years Marilyn Morton has been bringing a little cheer to patients at St. Francis Hospital. As a patient representative she calls on them to check on the service of the hospital, to chat and to see if she can help in some way. The East Memphian has always done church work, too. She teaches Sunday school, sings in the choir and serves on the board of Collierville Christian Church. Service chairman for the Christian Women's Fellowship, Mrs. Morton and others at her church visit nursing homes, collect kits for needy children, and contribute to and help staff the Collierville food pantry. Her volunteer work "gives me more than I put into it," says Mrs. Morton, 57.

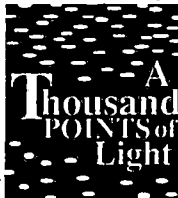
Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Musical talent enriches lives of elderly 10-19-89 Thurs (AP)

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 It's a noteworthy occasion when Ruth Rattelsdorfer comes to call. The 74-year-old Bartlett resident brings her musical talents once or twice a month to residents of Sycamore View Nursing Home, Ave Maria Nursing Home, Trezevant Manor, St. Peter Villa and Wesley-Highland Manor. "I've been doing it for about 14 years," Mrs. Rattelsdorfer says. She plays all types of music on her electric keyboard, but says residents like the peppy tunes the



best. "They'll dance or sing, if they know the words. We have fun together." In addition, Mrs. Rattelsdorfer plays at her church, St. Ann Catholic Church Bartlett and visits shut-ins.

 Almost every day of the week finds Ruth Johnson helping others at Wesley-Highland Manor nursing home. At 81, she takes patients to church, activities and exercise and therapy classes. She delivers their mail and helps feed residents. In her ninth year at the home, Mrs. Johnson "didn't think I could do it at first. Then I got so lonesome I thought I could." The Sherwood Forest resident is also active in her church, Everett Memorial United Methodist, helping in the reading program and singing in the choir.

 Nardine Aquadro feels so strongly about the issue of literacy that

she devotes full time to the project. A VISTA worker in the Memphis Literacy Council north office in the Free the Children area, Ms. Aquadro has been a youth counselor at both Shelby State Community College and Memphis State University.

"I've always been interested in adult learners," the North Memphis resident says. In March she left her counseling job to tackle it full time. Ms. Aquadro recruits helpers and also helps churches set up programs on improving literacy.

 Because her family was always interested in community and civic responsibilities, Deurelle Kaltreider "didn't know how to sit back" when she retired from teaching. One way she has found to contribute is through the Quota Club. Mrs. Kaltreider of Bartlett works on the service committee and is working hard on a special project. The

Raleigh-Bartlett club is trying to raise \$30,000 to buy a 7-year-old deaf boy a cochlear implant to give him some hearing. Mrs. Kaltreider helps with the bake sales, business solicitations and fund-raisers.

Also an active member of Bartlett United Methodist Church, she uses her teaching skills in Sunday school and the Work Area on Education. Friends call her a key worker in the church's capital funds campaign.

"A community is only as good as its citizens," she believes.

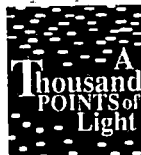
To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

(A13)

Single women have a shelter when pregnant

By Lloyd Holbeck



BILL and Ruby Burdett have house guests much of the time. The Germantown couple provide shelter, food, clothing and other needs for pregnant unmarried women until they have their babies. The couple opened their home in 1984, and since then 72 of their guests have delivered.

Mrs. Burdett explained that she and her husband, missionaries for Central Church, are opposed to abortion. But they didn't want to picket, and their project is their way to provide an alternative to abortion. They prayed four years before deciding what to do, she added.

Their home has a state charter as a nonprofit agency and is financed through donations from individuals, churches and other groups.

"We just pray and the Lord sends it," Mrs. Burdett said.

Various agencies refer young women to the Burdetts. If the women want to keep their babies, the Burdetts help them.

Burdett, 55, a retired electrician for Illinois Central Railroad, also preaches at different locations, such as the Calvary mission.

Mrs. Burdett, 58, is a retired grocery store employee.

Other points of light:

Because he believes "we are called upon to serve others," Jim Pate has involved himself in good works for many groups.

Active in his church, Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal, he has been a vestry member and chairman of the Outreach Committee. Through these activities the 40-year-old financial strategist began work with Habitat for Humanity and is currently chairman of corporate giving. Pate is finding buildings and houses for needy people to be "one of the most rewarding and fruitful ministries."

The Midtown resident feels similarly about Witness for Peace. He has been a frequent delegate to Central America, Nicaragua and Guatemala, helping to build a dispensary and working for literacy.

In Memphis he is a team captain for St. John's United Methodist Church soup kitchen and on the board of Playhouse on the Square.

A member of Al Chymia Shrine Temple for 35 years, 81-year-old Paul Hicks continues to volunteer help.

He supports and works hard for the Shrine school in Memphis, helping with gifts for Christmas parties, planning Easter egg hunts and trips to the circus for handicapped kids. Until recently he took burn victims to the Shrine burn unit in St. Louis, logging 20 trips.

Four years ago with his fellow retirees in the Exxon Annuitants Club, Hicks took on a route for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association. He now delivers "Meals on Wheels" several times a month.

Hicks, who lives in East Memphis, finds it "very satisfying to know you're doing something useful for people in need."

Retired Hanley Elementary School principal Beulah Williams still likes helping kids and adults to live happily in the community.

During the summer Mrs. Williams, 80, helps with the summer program at her church, St. John Baptist. There, for several weeks in July, youngsters have Bible lessons, story hours, and do crafts.

Throughout the year Mrs. Williams is involved in the Orange Mound Day Care Center. She was president and is now a member of the board for the nursery, which tries to help preschoolers prepare for life and school. The South Memphis resident is a past president and member of the local Church Women United and has visited women prisoners among other good works.

"I love working with people and I see so much to be done," she says.

Since Tanya Ramsey got involved in First Presbyterian Church's soup kitchen, more homeless people have been able to take advantage of the free Sunday meal and get counseling, too.

"I was working on my master's at UT's school of social work when I heard the church was looking for someone," says Mrs. Ramsey, 29. "I went down and decided that's where I wanted to be."

Mrs. Ramsey worked hard, and by getting donations and a grant the kitchen has been able to serve better food. As a result, the number of homeless getting meals went from about 80 to 150. Then Mrs. Ramsey, who works at the Church Health Center, thought she could put her skills as a social worker to use and started a counseling session and support group to address the problem of homelessness and work out problems.

Mrs. Ramsey, who lives in Midtown, feels it helps to give people, "a good, nice meal and a nice place for fellowship."

Lloyd Holbeck is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, TN 38101.

Retiree spends time in service of youth

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 With the Optimist Club, his church and on his own Byrne Whitehead spends a lot of the day in service to others.

"Whatever there is to do for the club, I do," says the past president.

Retired and living in Kirby Pines, the 72-year-old enjoys projects aimed at aiding youth. Through friends in the club he learned about a cancer program and Christmas work. He offered his service to the Cancer Society, volunteering to help patients. Whitehead drives them to the hospital when needed. For the past four years he has collected toys at Christmas to take to wards of Juvenile Court, kids abandoned or abused. At First Cumberland Presbyterian, Whitehead is an elder, teaches Sunday school and sings in the choir.

"God's been good to me, and I could never give back what I've been given," he says.

"I sometimes think my motive is selfish in that helping gives me satisfaction and peace of mind."

 "The Lord seems to put people in my path," says Phyllis Moore, 47, of Fox Meadows. She has helped many friends to cope with devastating illnesses.

"My dad had cancer, an aunt had a stroke. . . perhaps it gives me compassion," she says.

Friends agree, citing the assistance Ms. Moore provided for a friend with lung cancer. She helped him relocate to Memphis, got him to and from chemotherapy and helped tackle the bills. Since he had no family here, she stayed at the hospital with him.

Similarly, when a friend's son was badly burned and was at The Regional Medical Center at Memphis for 16 months, Ms. Moore rotated shifts with family and provided support. Recently she did the same for two friends who had mastectomies.

"I had always wanted to be a nurse but became a flight attendant instead. Perhaps this is my gift," she says.

 Nancy Kuhn has worked with the Memphis Bar Auxiliary for

three years on an unusual project.

To help young people learn more about the judicial system, Mrs. Kuhn leads them on tours of the County Courthouse, the Criminal Justice Center and City Hall. Students from fourth grade to senior high enjoy the tour, and "even the rowdiest become good and are impressed," says Mrs. Kuhn, 41, of Raleigh.

"They learn the consequences of breaking the law, and seeing the judges and lawyers helps them find role models. I learn something each time, and the teachers do, too," she says.

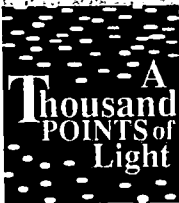
During the school year she devotes two or three mornings a week to the tours, often filling in for others. The tours have generated lots of compliments, Mrs. Kuhn says.

 Three times a month or more Mary Anne Overbey, East Memphis resident, becomes "Merry Mary" clown. Then she does magic, sings, dances, teases and "we have a few laughs," says Mrs. Overbey of her clown ministry.

Bringing cheer, she regularly visits three nursing homes and a public school. Because she can do sign language, she also goes to the school for the deaf at White Station and the Shrine school. Mrs. Overbey, 59, relishes the hugs and good will a little clowning around brings.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

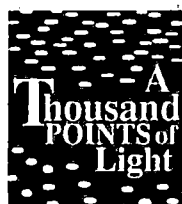


ZIGGY



Volunteer has 30-year commitment to helping others through Hadassah

By Jill Johnson Piper



still a leader in the Memphis chapter of Hadassah, the country's largest volunteer organization for women.

"I look at volunteerism as a lifelong commitment," said Mrs. Kaplan, 58. "It's always been my philosophy to help make life a little better for other people."

Mrs. Kaplan served as president of the Hadassah Memphis chapter from 1970 to 1971, and as president of the Hadassah Southern region from 1978 to 1981. After that presidency, she served two years on the national Hadassah's service committee in the area of major gift development.

She founded the Hadassah Memphis chapter's Major and Bigger Giving Event in 1974, the chapter's largest fund-raiser for philanthropic causes. Last year the event generated more than \$77,000 locally.

Mrs. Kaplan spoke movingly about Hadassah's many outreach programs. "It's multifaceted. On the American scene, we sponsor a youth organization called Young Judea (a leadership and education program for American Jewish youth).

"In Israel, the main focus is the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem, the largest medical center between Tokyo and Rome. We also maintain a vocational institute to train workers for jobs, and a community college in Jerusalem."

Hadassah is also the principal agency in the United States for the support of Youth Aliyah, a children's rescue movement. "We work for underprivileged children and problem children who do not matriculate in the (Israeli)

school system, or they're newcomers to Israel from other lands. During the Ethiopian famine, many who were rescued were brought to Israel, so we brought them into Youth Aliyah," Mrs. Kaplan said.

For the last nine years she has served on the board of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She has also worked on behalf of the Memphis Jewish Federation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Last year she was appointed to the Memphis area chair of the national Hadassah's Endowment Fund. It's an open-ended commitment, and Mrs. Kaplan says she's happy to serve "as long as they need me."

Mrs. Kaplan lives in East Memphis and has three children: Allan Kaplan of San Francisco, Laurie Kaplan Steen of Phoenix, and David Kaplan of Memphis.



Claudia Kaplan

Other points of light:

Cooking, delivering food and running errands for others is all part of a normal day's work for Gladys Shannon, 65, of Midtown. She visits her blind father-in-law in a nursing home at least twice a week and finds the time to read to another blind friend and help her with meals. Mrs. Shannon traces her concern for others to her job with Memphis Housing Authority. "I saw the poverty-stricken people and became more concerned. I became a counselor to help them change their lifestyles." Now retired, she funnels her energies to others in need. Often Mrs. Shannon will play the piano to cheer friends and she has given lessons to youngsters without charge. "I even gave one talented girl my piano because she didn't have one to practice on." For 35 years Mrs. Shannon has been an active member of Castalla Baptist Church, playing the organ and working on the bulletin.

When bouts of depression put Ruth Young in the hospital, her doctor advised her to get out and help others. She has followed his advice. The 72-year-old East Memphian was an American Red Cross Gray Lady for 11 years, then a first-grade teacher's aide for 17 years at Sherwood Elementary and South Park schools. Three years ago Mrs. Young started in a program to visit Juvenile Court monthly to witness to kids. She's also a Compeer volunteer working with emotionally disturbed people recently released from the hospital to help them adjust to life. They meet once a week for several hours. Mrs. Young is an avid gardener and shares her flowers with others, taking

them to hospitals, shut-ins or neighbors for cheer. In addition, Mrs. Young works actively in her church, First Baptist.

Mary Pritchett knows what it's like to be around a person with Alzheimer disease. She nursed her husband, who had it for years before he died in 1986. Since then she has worked tirelessly with the Northwest Tennessee Development District, an umbrella organization of social service agencies, forming support groups, planning seminars and giving addresses on the topic. "I felt it was a calling," Mrs. Pritchett, 62, of Martin, Tenn., says. "I've made my phone available for people to call me all the time. Some family members have to call late at night because that's the only free time they have and I'll talk with them for as long as it takes." Mrs. Pritchett visits patients' families and patients weekly.

She also is a member of First United Methodist Church and, with the covenant group, works on the bread ministry. The group makes sure every Sunday visitor is called on and receives a loaf of homemade bread.

"I feel there's a reason for me to do this," believes Dorothy Fincher, 50, of her work with the Lupus Foundation. She devotes all of her time to spreading information on the disease, helping support groups, even using her phone as a crisis line for people who need advice and help. President and one of the charter members of the Memphis group, Mrs. Fincher understands how the disease affects women and their families. Her daughter died of it four years ago. "You feel so alone if you don't know anything about it," says the Raleigh-Bartlett resident. "I want to educate the public and the doctors." Mrs. Fincher is chairman of the convention committee for the national organization. She is a member of Bartlett United Methodist Church. She started a blood donation program there and helps get gifts for foster children at Christmastime.

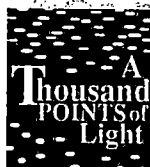
Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Mon.
10-23-89

37A7

Working poor find health care at church clinic

By Jill Johnson Piper



AS founder and executive director of the Church Health Center, Dr. Scott Morris, 35, has changed the complexion of medicine for the uninsured working poor and homeless in Mem-

phis. A board certified family physician, Dr. Morris is also an ordained United Methodist minister and associate pastor at St. John's United Methodist Church.

"Even in high school I was interested in the church and what we could do for sick people. We prayed for them and the pastor was supposed to visit them in the hospital, but it seemed to me there ought to be a more tangible way for the church to help people, especially poor people. For years the church had built hospitals and had macrame classes and tried to convince us it was a viable ministry. I wanted to renew the biblical commitment to healing," Dr. Morris said.

There are 100,000 "working poor" in Memphis, people who are employed, live below the poverty line, and have no health insurance. The Church Health Center provides them low-cost, quality health care for an average of \$10 a visit. Dr. Morris and the other staff physician at the center, Dr. Jane Shaw, see between 55 and 70 patients every day. In two years, the Church Health Center has treated more than 5,000 people in more than 20,000 patient visits.

Some days, the Church Health Center has almost as many volunteers as it has patients. Volunteer physicians and nurses each number in the 80s, and more than 40 dentists give their time to the center. Another 400 volunteers are lay advisers, physical therapists, nutritionists, social workers and counselors.

"The idea has always been to create not just one center but to do something other churches could apply to their own setting," said Dr. Morris, who usually arrives at the center by 6:30 a.m. and leaves most nights between 6 and 8 p.m.

"This is a real doctor's office," he said. "We often see people who are sicker than in other offices because they'll put off seeing a doctor for so long. My reward is getting to know the people I see on a daily basis. This is my life."

Other points of light:

A. C. Davis, 78, of East Memphis, volunteers to provide physical and spiritual nourishment for others.

The retired insurance man, who serves his community through Highland Church of Christ, teaches weekly Bible classes at the Allen Brooke Nursing Home, and has been a volunteer lay

minister at small churches in the area since the 1950s. And he also assists in preparing and serving meals Mondays and Thursdays at the Memphis State Christian Student Center.

"I do anything that needs to be done," he says. "When people ask if I'm getting paid for my work, I say, 'Yes, I'm making my deposit for heaven.'"

Davis, who has four children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, came to Memphis in 1941 from Cleveland, Miss.

When things go wrong in Moscow, Tenn., the community has come to depend on Carl Sides for assistance.

Since he retired two years ago from the construction business, Sides, 64, has helped repair city sewers, the water line and "if a maintenance man can't fix it, I'll fix it myself," he says.

Sides, who serves on the Board of Alderman, has been known to work late into the night during heavy rains to clean street drains to protect residents from flooding. He also keeps an eye on construction work.

"I needed something to do and enjoy this," he says.

Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

ZIGGY



Volunteer work ^{All} reaped benefits ^{10-26-89 Thurs.}

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

 "I've had a good life, not rich in money but rich in learning and getting to meet people," comments Del-cenia Robinson, 68. She's also received a wealth of honors from lifelong volunteer work. Recently she was named one of 10 outstanding women in Arkansas, but the Forrest City resident's community service record has reached to Washington as well. In 1969 she was named to the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health.

In 1983 Mrs. Robinson received the Presidential Volunteer Action Award from President Reagan. These awards recognized her labors as the first community VISTA volunteer in St. Francis County and social service helping people to deal with governmental programs. Now she works 40 hours a week without pay for the St. Francis food pantry, buying and serving the food that goes to 90 families.

Mrs. Robinson also helps people with Medicaid, Social Security and Medicare forms, working with them in her home. "It's a good gut feeling when you know you've helped," she says.

 Many naturalized citizens in Memphis can attest to Beatrice Alperin's volunteer service. Since the late 1940s, she has distributed information on American history and government to aliens preparing for their U.S. citizenship tests.

"The reward is that you've done something worthwhile, and it is appreciated, I know that," says the East Memphis widow, who has seen immigration shift from Europeans to Asians since

the service started in the Neighborhood House.

Mrs. Alperin works Mondays by appointment only through LINC at the Poplar White Station Library, using the history books that are provided by the Adam Dale chapter of DAR. Mrs. Alperin, who has a son and two granddaughters, estimates she has helped "hundreds and hundreds" of aliens prepare for the test. And since 1965, when she was called to help a woman prepare for the naturalization exam at the B'Nai B'Rith Home, she has made weekly visits to cheer residents there.

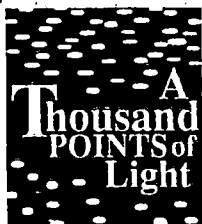
 When Keri Small, a ninth-grader at Bellevue Junior High School, was 10, she went to work with her mother at the St. Peter Villa Nursing Home. She was too young to help out, but now, at the ripe old age of 14, she is a veteran volunteer.

With more than 250 hours of volunteer work at St. Peter Villa to her credit in 1988, she was chosen the Volunteer Center of Memphis Youth Volunteer of the Year. This year, she was picked by the Memphis Area Chapter of the Red Cross as Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year.

"I want to be a pediatrician," says Miss Small, daughter of Tommy Stein Carpenter and Robert Small. "I didn't know there were so many places you could volunteer. I think I'm old enough that maybe I can do some work at Le Bonheur now."

At the nursing home, she worked in the recreation and activities department. She visited with the senior citizens, played bingo and cards, and took them outside to watch the children at the day-care center swim and play.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Family support system is crucial

By Mary Lou Brown



WILLIE Mae Willett, 48, teaches with a purpose. Her goal is to get as many low-income children as possible into post-secondary education.

"I want to help students find the financial resources and academic support to get there," said Ms. Willett, vice principal of Georgia Avenue Elementary School.

"I guess having grown up poor and with the lack of resources available, I know what it takes to succeed. I come from a large family of 12 sisters and brothers. We supported each other. That was the centerfold of our family. We've all obtained a college degree. We had motivation and the support of our church and family."

As chairman of Memphis Urban League's family life education committee, Ms. Willett spends eight to 10 hours a week trying to help others learn about the needs of a family support system.

"The bottom line is helping the family help the student succeed in school. The Urban League's 'family life initiative' deals with parent involvement. We address this through a tutorial program. We work with many single-parent families," she said.

For her work, she was named Memphis Urban League's Volunteer of the



Willie Mae Willett

Year. The Memphis Alliance of Black School Educators named her 1989 Educator of the Year. She is a 1980 graduate of Leadership Memphis and headed its education day in 1982. She was vice chairman of the local Commission on Excellence in Education and is a member of the Better Schools Committee.

Through the state Department of Education, Ms. Willett received a creative-teaching grant, funded by South Central Bell, which she plans to use to buy sheet music and recorders for the 100-voice boys choir she has started at her school.

"All these boys are from housing projects," she said. "They need incentives to be positive about life... to have something to reach for."

Recently she was named the national president of the alumni association for Lane College in Jackson, Tenn., which has more than 1,000 members in the Memphis community. She is involved in a Bush Foundation Challenge Grant to raise \$175,000 for the college.

Ms. Willett successfully lobbied the city a few years ago for funds to renovate and reopen the Abe Scharff YMCA, where she served on the board of directors. She was directly involved in creating an after-school program for children.

As a board member for the American Cancer Society, she helped educate the black community on the warning signs and early treatment of cancer.

Other points of light:

Every Wednesday Charlotte McMillin travels from West Memphis to the Memphis Public Library Genealogy Department. There she devotes her day to helping others start the search for information on their family. "I sit with them and show them how to go back to the records," the 67-year-old says. "Genealogy was a hobby my mother had and I have a lot of fun helping others." She also helps by being a volunteer literacy teacher two hours three days a week, even picking up the student and taking her

home. Ms. McMillin says she always loved to read and wanted others to share the joy of learning.

Beverly Schmidt wanted "to get my mind off myself," and when she saw an article on Lichterman Nature Center, decided to offer them her help. That was eight years ago. She still can be found there Saturdays, but now Mrs. Schmidt, 66, also does other work. Tuesdays she organizes MIFA meals at Northlake Community Center, and is treasurer of the Raleigh Neighborhood Watch group. A gallon donor for Life Blood, Mrs. Schmidt also works on the board of the Episcopal Home for the Autistic. "Volunteer work does more for the volunteer than the organization," Mrs. Schmidt believes. "Everybody has something that makes them feel poor little me. But when you get involved, you don't have time for that."

Joe Parson had an idea. Wouldn't it help teachers and students if someone "adopted" a school? On his own he took on the first grade of Robinson Elementary in his hometown of Blytheville, Ark. Now once a week he visits the classroom to bring treats and help out. "I know it's a hit-and-miss proposition. I'll make mistakes this year that I can correct next year," says Parson, who works at Eaker Air Force Base. So far he has really enjoyed the 20 students and "they've all got a story to tell." Parson, 62, also helps the elderly by giving them vegetables from his garden. "It's just a good feeling."

Mary Lou Brown is a reporter for *The Commercial Appeal*. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, *The Commercial Appeal*, Box 364, Memphis, TN 38101.

10-27-89

Fi

Opportunity seen in sight service

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

 Chris Holbrook estimates she spends 20 hours-plus a week doing volunteer work. That's outside her job as secretary for McCleary Incorporated, the 55-year-old Whitehaven resident says.

Since 1982, when she was approached about a need at Methodist Central, Mrs. Holbrook has given of her time to the Downtown Lions Club as coordinator and founder of the Mid-South Lions Sight Service. In the program, volunteers log hours at the hospital giving information and escorting visitors. In return, the hospital credits them for their work with free eye care for those who can't afford it.

To date the club has raised \$70,000 in volunteer hours. Mayor Dick Hackett presented Mrs. Holbrook with a certifi-

cate of appreciation and a key to the city for her work, and the Lions Club made her a Knight of the Blind.

"Seeing the good the Lions Club does, I wanted to be part of it," she explained. Besides this work, Mrs. Holbrook is a secretary on the board of the Raymond Skinner Handicapped Center. And Saturday mornings she takes coffee, sausage and biscuits to residents of Hill Haven, the nursing home where her father lives.

 For most of his life, Gabe Bamberger has helped others. He learned first aid in the National Guard, worked with the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars and has been a Red Cross volunteer for 33 years. So when he was invited for lunch at the Bodine School, Bamberger, 77, wasn't surprised that he ended up volunteering to help learning disabled students.

For the past year he's helped tutor students in math, English and computers two days a week. The Summerview resident also mans the switchboard three days a week at the Red Cross building. "I've done this for three years. I love the opportunity to talk to

people," he says. Bamberger also helps the Red Cross by going to the scene of fires to talk to victims.

 A strong concern for her community, the Riverview-Kansas area, has motivated Pearl Hoover, 56, to act. She's been registering citizens there to vote since 1980 and in 1984 organized a community association.

"It came from our Neighborhood Watch group," says Mrs. Hoover, an employee at Tennessee Employment Security. "The purpose is to educate people on issues. We meet once a month." She's also on the board of Memphis Area Legal Services and is coordinator for the Client Counsel.

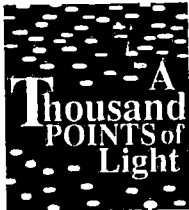
When needed, Mrs. Hoover helps elderly citizens with utility bill funding, tax advice, health clinic referrals and at holidays with information on receiving food baskets.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

**A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light**

Speech Foundation's pioneer 812 sees assistance spread worldwide 10-29-89 Sun

By Jim Terrell



STUTTERERS

around the world can be thankful Malcom H. Fraser, 86, put stock in helping others.

A severe stutterer from childhood, Fraser overcame the difficulty as an adult

and at age 44 used money from his stock in a business he helped his brother pioneer — NAPA Genuine Auto Parts — to found a national organization to help stutterers.

Today, his Memphis-based Speech Foundation of America, which gathers and disseminates information on the speech disorder, has \$6 million in assets and a record of service to countless stutterers. His daughter Jane is the director.

"I was a stutterer myself when I was younger and I realized the handicap they operated under," says Fraser, who lives with his wife Charlotte in Trezevant Manor.

"People should be unselfish to help people who have difficulties. The more you help others, the better you feel about it," he says.

The foundation estimates that 3 million of its books have been distributed to speech/language pathologists and the public over the years, and the publications have been translated into French, Spanish and Japanese.



Malcom H. Fraser

Fraser has served as editor for numerous Speech Foundation publications and is the author of a classic in the field, *Self Therapy for the Stutterer*, which is in its sixth revised edition.

He started the foundation at the suggestion of Dr. Charles Van Riper, considered a giant in the field of therapy for stuttering, with a weeklong conference of leaders in the field.

From that meeting evolved annual international conferences dealing with different aspects of the speech impediment and publications of work from the sessions.

His accomplishments have earned him a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Hamilton College and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's distinguished service award.

A New York native, Fraser moved from the auto parts company's headquarters in Wheeling, W. Va., in 1937 to head the warehouse operation in Memphis. Under his direction, the local business, which at the time was called Standard Parts, was honored by the city for its program of hiring handicapped employees.

Fraser is a major contributor to the Memphis Speech and Hearing Clinic and a member of its board. He also is a member of the Rhodes College President's Council and has been a supporter of the Kiwanis Man-for-Boy Camp.

Other points of light:

For two hours or more every weekday, Dudley Thomson, 61, puts himself to use helping others at Manor Lake Elementary School.

Thomson retired a few years back but began helping out when his wife, a librarian at the school, said she could use an extra pair of hands. He obliged and now helps paint backdrops for school plays, puts books on tape, laminates materials for teachers and plays Santa at Christmas.

"I'm glad to alleviate some of the work for others," says Thomson, a Whitehaven resident. "I like being

around the kids. It has enlightened me."

In addition, Thomson has donated faithfully to Lifeblood and has given more than eight gallons.

The hard work of Virginia and Troy Cordell is appreciated by many organizations.

For 40 years, off and on, they've volunteered at voter precincts, a practice that started them on the road to volunteerism. They've done chores for Memphis in May since it began, and recently Mrs. Cordell helped out at the Arts in the Park Festival. The Whitehaven couple has become involved in Methodist Hospital's Wellth Fairs.

"We're busy with it April through November," says Mrs. Cordell, 65, "and we often travel to towns 150 miles away to help residents learn about good health."

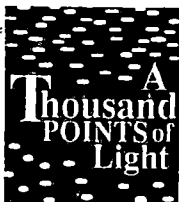
They're also involved in Mended Hearts, a group of people who have had open-heart surgery, such as Troy, 68. They make hospital visits to encourage pre-op and post-op patients. He has been president of the local chapter and she is secretary of the national group. Mrs. Cordell also belongs to Pilot, a women's service organization that helps in nursing homes, donates to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and works with the Evin K. Harwood Day Care Center at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

German native chose life of helping others

By Mary Lou Brown



WHEN it comes to volunteer service, Karin Carman, 53, a native of Germany, is an all-American by choice.

Mrs. Carman came to the United States in 1958, after marrying former Memphis Air Force M. Sgt. James R. Carman. She became a U.S. citizen in 1962.

Shortly after moving to Memphis in 1965, Mrs. Carman received an award from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge for outstanding achievement in bringing about a better understanding of the American way of life during 1964.

She had written an essay. The theme was that she had lived under Hitler's Germany where no one had the right to choose, while the greatest gift of freedom is the right to choose. She compared democracy and dictatorship.

Putting her Freedom Foundation's theme



Karin Carman

into action, Mrs. Carman works as a volunteer at the Wooddale High School voting precinct. She is one of the few foreign-born people to be named officer-in-charge.

When Mrs. Carman's daughter entered a neighborhood school, she found out there was no Girl Scout troop. She simply started one. She had father-daughter dinners, home scavenger hunts, and pajama parties.

Mrs. Carman continues to keep in touch with her native Germany. In 1975, her Memphis employer asked her to take charge of a drive to bring back a former Memphis prisoner-of-war, Edwin Pelz of Dortmund, Germany. She did so and the Mid-South came to know Edwin and his wife, Elisabeth Pelz, who died earlier this year.

Mrs. Carman collects for Easter Seals door to door. She has been a Red Cross volunteer and was a coordinator for family services at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

Mrs. Carman finds little things to do to help people. On a recent Sunday afternoon, she knocked on 22 doors in her neighborhood soliciting food for the family of a neighbor who had died.

Other points of light:

Mae Tolliver of Frayser knows how to organize volunteer groups.

She gathered 92 people in her front yard to start one of the first Neighborhood Watch programs in her communi-

ty. After the volunteers set up watch patrols, the neighborhood quieted down.

She organized a close-knit group of 27 volunteers which delivered government commodity food to 161 shut-ins for several years. When anyone needs help, a call to Mae Tolliver guarantees she'll make sure she will find one of her retired friends to lend a hand, she said.

Working alongside DWI offenders from the penal farm, Mrs. Tolliver and her husband, James, cleaned up streets, dump sites and overgrown brush every Saturday for two years. At 69, she is a retired nurse who works in the Shelby County Sheriff's Department in crime prevention.

"The more I do for people, the happier I am. I feel when you get older, if you stay active, keep doing things, you feel better. It's good for you," she said.



Kate Bowlin, 78, stays young and healthy by volunteering to help other people in her age group.

At the Senior Citizens Center in South Fulton, Tenn., she helps the nutritional director serve meals and joins in the coordination of activities every day. The seniors play bingo, rooks and spades and go to dances. Mrs. Bowlin visits her friends in nearby rest homes.

Through the Parkway Church of Christ, she also visits shut-ins. In February, she will attend a banquet with other volunteers over the past eight years who have won the Jefferson Award for Community Service, which she received in 1987.

"I think this (volunteer work) is a Christian act," she said. "I just love people. And I stay young. Nobody thinks I'm 78."



Fred Ward of Bartlett spends his vacation helping build churches.

For 13 summers, Ward has traveled from Bartlett Baptist Church to Michigan, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma, Indiana, Missouri and Mississippi to help build sanctuaries and educational buildings for congregations in need. After the Southern Baptist Mission Board selects the sites, Ward takes his carpentry skills with him on the weeklong vacation.

"In some places, people had only a store building or a bus to worship in," he said. "I feel that being a Christian man, I should do as many things as I can for others. I'm pretty good at carpentry work, so I do it to help other people, but mostly, I do it for the Lord."

Mary Lou Brown is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Other writers have contributed to these profiles. The newspaper is featuring a thousand Mid-Southerners who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Love of outdoors leads to efforts to preserve nature

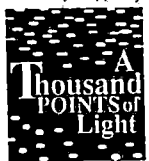
THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

Jerri Bull's love of the outdoors goes way back. As a child she had enjoyed the outdoors, and as a mother of four daughters and a Girl Scout leader for 15 years she frequently went hiking and camping. Mrs. Bull, 55, is a past president of the Memphis chapter of Tennessee Trails

and will be incoming state president. The Parkway Village resident is contact person for the group, which has adopted the Chickasaw Bluff trail in Meeman-Shelby Forest among other projects. Active in Lichterman Nature Center since its beginning, Mrs. Bull also is a member of the Sierra Club and Save Shelby Farms Forest. "I'd like for my grandchildren and others to see and enjoy the beauties of nature I have. If someone doesn't care, they may not be there," she says. A grandmother who cares for three grandchildren, Mrs. Bull finds time to work as a crossing guard an hour and a half weekdays as she has done for 17 years at Cromwell School. Every other week she helps teach kindergartners and first-graders about safety at Safety Town at Southland Mall.

"We stay busy," says Tom Minga of himself and his wife. A look at the Iuka, Miss., resident's list of activities shows why. Minga, 68, is very active in his church, Iuka Baptist, where he is a deacon, department director in Adult Sunday School, organizer of fish fries and other fund-raisers, and a Bible study teacher for adult men at The Master's Mount, a church summer resort mission. The retired civil servant also started a program for seniors, the All for Christ Club, and is president and tour director. Because he feels "an interest in community activities is important," Minga is a member and past fire chief of the Tishomingo County First District Fire Department, and a member of the Tishomingo Hospital advisory board and the Iuka Chamber of Commerce, among other activities.

"I take on things that fall into a crack and need TLC," says Patricia Thompson of Eads, Tenn. "Art has, and I guess I'm more of an advocate than an artist." To remedy the situation, Ms. Thompson and nine other artists founded the Memphis-Germantown Art League 13 years ago. She has served as its secretary, vice president and president, and she founded the Coalition for Visual Arts. Ms. Thompson, 48, has also tried to foster love of the arts in the Memphis City Schools, where she has lent her expertise and helped schools acquire artists for programs for five or six years. Another cause close to her heart is helping children with learning disabilities. The two interests combine in the Very Special Arts Festival, where artists work hands-on with special, exceptional and other students. "It's challenging and rewarding in the joy you find in the kids, but frustrating because there's still a long way to go," she says.

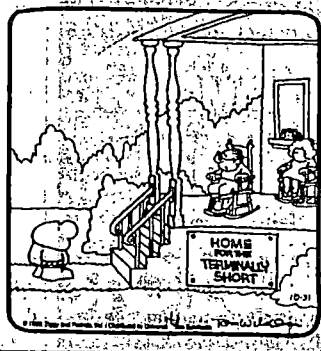


When Irma Louise Ross was asked to join the Vel Shun Federated Club, a group that tries to help elderly and needy and instill pride and direction in youths, "I said 'yes' right away." Ms. Ross, 40, of Holcomb, Miss., has been an active member of the group for six years and now serves as treasurer. An English teacher at Grenada Junior High, Ms. Ross has a special interest in youths. She gives remedial help to students, takes them to plays and gives motivational speeches to groups and at her church. At Sweet Home AME Church Ms. Ross also works on the Christmas pageant, special holiday events and sings in the choir.

A mother of four, Romanita Baker knows the value of education and enjoys her volunteer job as coordinator for South Central Bell's Adopt-a-School program with Bellevue Junior High School. She helps plan snack-and-rap luncheon sessions, where South Central Bell employees meet with students during their lunch hour. She helps the principal's advisory committee, with presentation of awards for excellence and most-improved students, and helps plan curriculum contests. Her coordinating skills will be put to the test this fall as she plans a December Memphis wedding for her daughter, who is a member of the Air Force stationed in Florida.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

ZIGGY



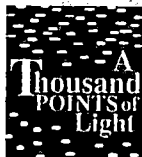
Wed 11-1-89

By Jim Shearin



Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wolbrecht have chaired the Liberty Bowl Black Tie Ball for more than 20 years.

Couple's contributions cover the city's needs



Dixie and William F. Wolbrecht have had a ball with community service.

The Wolbrechts have chaired the Black Tie Ball for the Liberty Bowl for more than 20 years and, between

dances, they've put in countless hours of volunteer leadership for numerous civic, social and charitable causes.

"I married a man who also enjoys being part of Memphis. This is something we enjoy doing together," says Mrs. Wolbrecht, an Earle, Ark., native.

"It's nice having that camaraderie with your husband, even on a volunteer basis. We're proud to be Memphians."

Wolbrecht has been chairman of the Memphis Park Commission for three years and a board member for 13 years.

He is a past president of the Liberty Bowl Festival Association and has been a member of the team selection committee for 23 years.

He is the only lifetime member of the Highland 100 Club at Memphis State University, where he also served on the Memphis State Foundation board of trustees.

"I enjoy helping people, and I feel like we're contributing to the benefit of the children and the elderly and everyone who enjoys our park system," says the retired farmer and investor.

"I love Memphis and I love working for Memphis. We're four generations here."

Mrs. Wolbrecht is vice president of the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, the only woman on the seven-member group, and serves as chairman of the food and beverage committee at the airport.

"I thoroughly enjoy knowing and being a part of what goes on in Memphis," she says.

Mrs. Wolbrecht also serves on the board of the Mary Galloway Home and has been a volunteer for the Memphis

City Beautiful Commission, Les Passees Children's Rehabilitation Center, Memphis Botanical Gardens, United Cerebral Palsy, and Memphis Oral School for the Deaf.

Residents of East Memphis, they have a son, two daughters and a grandchild.

Other points of light in the Mid-South:

Maureen 'Moe' Bagwell believes that "sharing what you have makes life more fun." When her children began attending Mount Pisgah school, she decided she would help out. This year, as in past years, she has helped raise money for the school. They've raised \$30,000 this year, topping previous totals of \$24,000 and \$15,000. At her church, St. Francis of Assisi in Cordova, she's co-chairman of the Call to Grow and building committee. Mrs. Bagwell, 40, also participates in the church's prison ministry, visiting the Federal Correctional Institution monthly. At Christmas she helps the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association make up Christmas food baskets. Currently, she works for United Way, with Richards Medical as her sponsor. Mrs. Bagwell enjoys helping at Lichterman Nature Center, too, where she's a foster parent. She takes orphaned squirrels, bats, rabbits or groundhogs home and cares for them until they're old enough to be released.

Her own experience as a liver transplant patient "changed my life," says Dianne Davis Latimer, 49. "My husband and I quit our jobs. God was so good to us we feel he wanted us to do his work." Now she works with the Organ Transplant Fund, counseling patients, helping to organize fund-raisers and making phone calls. Another favorite cause is the Memphis Symphony. Mrs. Latimer loves music and is on the board. The River Oaks Resident also helps deliver Meals on Wheels for MIFA once a week. Through the Tine W. Davis Foundation, named after her late father, Mrs. Latimer helps

organizations such as Madonna Day School and the Baddour Center with donations. "When you believe in something you have to get behind it."

Lori Guyton shares her talents in consulting and publicity to help several organizations. The 27-year-old East Memphian, who works at Coletta Brewer And Co., lists Memphis Heritage, MIFA and Memphis Partners among those she has helped. In addition, she assists WKNO-TV with the Action Auction and last year served as a volunteer for Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. "It's a person's duty to be involved in the community," Ms. Guyton says. "I believe strongly in these organizations' causes. They're very worthwhile." Ms. Guyton also has served as a victim's advocate for the Exchange Club's Child Abuse Prevention Center and as a community representative for Head Start's policy council.

"The more you give the more you get," says Susan Churchill, 37, of volunteer work. "You meet interesting people, too," says the Hickory Hill resident. A broker at Century 21, Ms. Churchill was honored by her co-workers with the Presidential Award from the Memphis Board of Realtors in 1988 for dedication beyond the call of duty. Active in Habitat for Humanity, she has helped raise funds working a concession during Liberty Bowl games. When she heard that MIFA had run out of funds to landscape the Independent Apartments, where handicapped and their families live, Ms. Churchill helped round up the money. She also works in the "Just Say No" program at Ross Road Elementary, talking to third-graders once a month to focus on self-esteem, peer pressure and drug and alcohol dangers. "It's a real challenge," she says. For the scholarship fund for the American Business Women's Association Bicentennial Chapter, Ms. Churchill has collected 10 bags of cans.

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

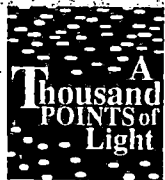
ZIGGY



P.A13
VIEWPOINT

Love of dolls makes Christmas for poor children

By Jerry Markon



Kathalene Beasley loved dolls as a child. As an adult, she makes sure impoverished little girls can share that love.

The 62-year-old Newbern, Tenn. woman is known throughout Dyer County for fixing up old dolls and distributing them to poor children.

"I grew up a poor child. I always had a love for dolls, but I never had as many as I wanted," Mrs. Beasley says. "Since growing up, I've decided that the best way to put my talents to use was to help other little girls get dolls."

For Mrs. Beasley, fixing dolls is a year-round task.

She starts each year just after Christmas, collecting old dolls from neighbors and from the Dyer County Union Mission.

"You'd be surprised what kind of shape they're in," Mrs. Beasley says. "They're really dirty, some have ink or pencil marks on their faces, and some have broken arms and legs."

But after leaving Mrs. Beasley's home — washed, with new limbs and with their hair shampooed and set with curlers — the dolls are as good as new.

Mrs. Beasley even sews new clothes for the dolls, using patterns she cuts herself.

She works on her dolls throughout the year, spending an average of three to four hours on each. Last year, she fixed 178 dolls.

"Anyone around who has a doll, they know where to find me," she says.

Workers at the Dyer County Union Mission, which distributes Mrs. Beasley's dolls to poor children each Christmas, are grateful for her efforts.

"She's amazing," says Pat Edmundson, the mission's executive secretary. "She does it because she cares about the children. She's just a very giving person."

"For most little girls, it's not Christmas if they don't get a doll," Mrs. Edmundson added.

Other points of light:

Carmen, a little girl from South America, didn't want Amy Enos to stop playing with her at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. So Miss Enos didn't.

The cancer research hospital has a play area for its young patients, and nine months ago Miss Enos, 20, volunteered to help entertain the youngsters in the area each Monday. She was working at two jobs and had decided to quit the volunteer work, but said that when Carmen asked her to stay, "There was no way I could have left them."

She's going to Lambuth College in Jackson, Tenn., so her Monday visits will stop with the resumption of classes, but she said she will be back at the hospital on holidays and whenever she can.

She might even end up at the hospital full time, she said. Her volunteer work caused her to change her school major to special education.

Mertie W. Buckman has touched many lives in her 84 years. She has been a member of the Young Women's Christian Association since the early 1940s. The Raleigh YWCA center was dedicated to Mrs. Buckman in 1983, because of her efforts when she was president of the YWCA board 1971-72 to inaugurate the center there. She also does landscaping and yard work at the center. Her devotion to the YWCA, she explains, is because, "It works with women and children and affects the whole family. It meets their needs in very special areas." She also helped start the Volunteer Library in Raleigh in 1954. Mrs. Buckman is a former president of the Association of University Women and is a member and former president of Church Women United.

Freida Rone, 70, enjoys serving a slice of her time to others. When her husband was in Baptist Hospital, she came up with the idea of serving meals to families of patients in the waiting room. She took the idea back to her United Methodist Women's group at Georgian Hills United Methodist Church. It has been six years now, but every other month the Frayser resident and her group are still taking sandwiches, cakes, pies, dips, fruit salads and other food to the waiting families. The group also raises money to help the MIFA Christmas Store, where Mrs. Rone volunteers during the Christmas season. She says she volunteers because she "likes to help people, and you never know when you may need help."

Alberta Snell takes her volunteerism seriously. "I feel like that's my Christian and civic duty. I get a great satisfaction from helping someone," Mrs. Snell runs errands for the elderly in her neighborhood and church. She also works with the Juvenile Court program, where she is a district chief. Mrs. Snell is a retired nurse assistant and preschool teacher of 18 years each who lives in South Memphis. A widow with three children and 10 grandchildren, she attends Christ Missionary Baptist Church, where she is departmental superintendent of the youth department.

Jerry Markon is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

VIEWPOINT

Sharing and caring for others

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

 Three years ago, when Norma Penn, 53, of West Memphis, suffered delayed effects of the polio she had as a child, she received counseling from a man who'd had the same experience. Now she's doing the counseling. She goes in her wheelchair to the polio clinic at St. Joseph Hospital each Tuesday to talk with those going through the same experience. She also gives support to stroke victims and amputees. "I've seen people go from no legs to artificial legs to their first steps," she said. Up to 10 people a week receive her counsel.

"Helping others helps me," she said.

 Melvin T. Watts, 72, looks out for her South Memphis neighbors, many of whom are older than she. Since Mrs. Watts retired from the Memphis City Schools system in 1982 she avidly watches the houses in her neighborhood. Crime concerns prompt her attention. "My next-door neighbor's house was broken into and they stole her air conditioner," Mrs. Watts recalled. She also cleans the street and sidewalk in her neighborhood because "I like clean streets."

 Wylie B. Brown, 67, of Wynne, Ark., a retired rice drier operator, through the years gave occasional aid to those who needed help, such as a ride to a doctor.

Now he's involved in daily volunteer work as president of the Good Shepherd Center in Wynne. The center, sponsored by the Wynne Ministerial Alliance, provides food, clothing, furniture and other help to the needy. In July it aided 82 families involving 325

people. The center, in operation two years, is financed through private gifts, not government handouts, Brown said, and has no paid employees — just volunteers.

 Leslie Holm of East Memphis found a link to community service. For a year, the Junior League member worked with the children at the Family Link Center, a shelter for runaways. Once a week Mrs. Holm, 29, went to Family Link and organized recreational activities for the youths while the staff held meetings. "It gave me a chance to do something for these kids. It gave me the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life," said Mrs. Holm, who has children ages 6 years, 4 years and 5 months. She also helped to refurbish the house in which Family Link operates. Mrs. Holm, who is employed part-time with the Sylvan Learning Center, feels rewarded through her work with the Family Link "just to have made a positive impact on them, even though it may have been a very small impact." Lately she does volunteer work at a clothing store for the Junior League, where she sorts the garments received, folds them, and prepares them to be sold.

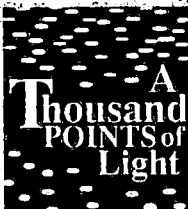
 Sam Hill of Germantown is preparing the way for his children, and other families are benefiting from his efforts. Hill, 37, is serving his second term as president of the Germantown Youth Athletic Association.

"I got on the board so I could try to make an impact on the organization. I want to make it the best, so by the time my sons are old enough to get involved I can just enjoy watching them or coaching them and not have to worry about the administration side," he said.

Hill's volunteer work may benefit his sons, ages 8 and 5, but it also helps some 2,500 other youngsters served by the athletic association.

Hill, who runs a software consulting company, says, "I appreciate the things my father did for me when I was young, and when my sons grow up I think they will appreciate what I am trying to do for them."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Volunteer blazes trail for mentally disabled

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 For community service, Jody Bullard became lady of the man- or four years ago.

Mrs. Bullard founded Martha's Manor, a day program that trains and educates mentally handicapped women, age 22 and up.

"When my daughter (who is mentally disabled) reached 22, I looked for such a program in the city," says Mrs. Bullard, 55, who has been a volunteer in support groups for the mentally retarded for 27 years. "So, I did this not because I wanted to but because I needed to."

The center, which is at the YWCA on Highland, was launched with the help of the Y and the Junior League.

Named in memory of friends Martha Matthews and Martha Ellis, it was the first state-licensed facility of its type.

"In every way we try to let them lead the kind of lives all young women lead, but realizing that they must have a loving and caring atmosphere," says Mrs. Bullard, who was president of Duration Club, Inc., which opened the first state-licensed preschool for the retarded, and MARC (Memphis and Shelby County Association for Retarded Citizens). "We teach them to serve and to be served."

The program, with a staff of three, has grown from eight to 24 participants and is ready to expand. Midtown residents, she and her husband Eugene, have a daughter Layne, 27, and attend Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

 When Betty Brown moved to Tate County, Miss., three years ago, she volunteered to work in the Hope Ministries to get acquainted. Now it's in her blood.

"I think it's a wonderful thing for the people of the county to help its residents," she said.

Mrs. Brown, 49, works in the office of the nondenominational organization formed in 1982. It has helped more than 1,200 families since it was started, providing food, clothing and other help.

Three volunteers operate the office and six run the thrift store, but there are a lot of people involved in collecting donations for the store and the annual fund-raising, Mrs. Brown said. "No one person makes it run."

 Judy Royal, 46, volunteers to serve the elderly.

President of Friends of the B'nai B'rith Home at 131 North Tucker, she helps see that residents have shopping trips, picnics, birthday parties and other entertainment.

Mrs. Royal has been involved with the home, which has 140 residents, about six years and has been president of the aid group for four years. She said Friends has nearly 800 members, about 150 of them active, some weekly and some for special events.

She's also on the board of the Food Bank, delivers Meals On Wheels to the elderly twice a month and is active in the Temple Israel Sisterhood.

Mrs. Royal said she is in volunteer work partly as an example for her children and for the opportunity to meet other people.

But she says her main reason is: "I really feel like it's the responsibility of those who can to be of service to the community."

 Andrea Seigel, 45, sees that community service's bidding gets done.

A Germantown resident, she put the auction in the George Klein Christmas Charity Show and Auction when she moved from Las Vegas to Memphis in 1978.

"George didn't know if it would work in Memphis. No one else was doing it at that time," she says of the first-year auction, which raised \$1,500 for Klein's annual Mile-O-Dimes Christmas basket fund benefit.

Previously a volunteer for the American Cancer Society in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, the Chicago native soon expanded Klein's auction by obtaining additional and more valuable auction items from businesses.

Last year's auction raised \$15,000 for the fund, and her top items in recent years include \$10,000 for a new car, and \$6,500 for a football autographed by University of Alabama coaching legend Paul 'Bear' Bryant.

"Memphis business people have really opened up," says Mrs. Seigel, who has retired from her own business, "and the nice part is that half of the people donating items have been with us since the first year."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

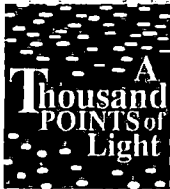
Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light

Earle volunteer keeps town's history alive 413 Memphis

Aug 25, 1989

By Jim Terrell



Gladys S. Wright, 65, has the right prescription for community service.

A registered nurse and the wife of Dr. W. J. Wright of Earle, Ark., she got her start as a Crittenden County Medical Auxiliary volunteer in 1952, and

says, "From there it was just a step at a time."

The Crittenden County Museum in the old Mo-Pac depot in Earle, wrought-iron signs at the entrances to town, and a history of Earle and its early families, *Earle Epic*, are among her community involvement accomplishments.

"A friend in Earle who had come from South Dakota to be the agent at that depot and was there 37 years. . . . She was able to see the building restored," she says of the project, which she considers her most interesting community service achievement.

Mrs. Wright, a mother of three and grandmother of four, estimates she spent 10-20 hours a week on the depot project, working with Sen. David Pryor's office to obtain a National Register of Historic Places designation for the building and to establish the museum.

The museum, which opened in 1986, is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Admission is free.

Most recently she has been named to the state Museum Review Board, which determines funding for museums.

"The idea that maybe some of the history of this area will be passed down to the children . . . in particular disadvantaged children and the handicapped, that's the most compensation I've had," says Mrs. Wright, a former Memphian, who still works two to three days a week at her husband's clinics in Earle and West Memphis.

"I meant to be on the high seas by now and see some of the world, but I didn't make it," she says, but quickly adds that "I never have done anything I did not enjoy."

Other points of light:

Youth volunteer Randa Rosenblum grew up to be superwoman volunteer. A Federal Express senior marketing analyst, Miss Rosenblum, 32, has been a volunteer since age 14 when she was a student at White Station and a B'nai B'rith Youth Organization member. "It's my social life, I guess," she says of active involvement with numerous community services. "I'm a sappy

Pollyanna, I know, but I just found that the people I meet are truly wonderful people. They are giving people who give to each other as well as the cause."

Volunteer service has seen her in leadership roles "to do whatever they ask me to do" with Memphis in May International Festival, United Way, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Mud Island, Memphis Zoo, Center for Southern Folklore, Beale Street, Special Olympics, and Fed Ex programs for handicapped children. And she'll make time, too, for the Big Sisters program, where she's on the waiting list.



Kay Davis, 32, had never heard of hemophilia 16 years ago when her first son was born a hemophiliac. But she was a veteran Memphis Hemophilia Foundation volunteer by the time his brother, 11, died last year of the blood defect. "I had no idea about it," Mrs. Davis, a Raleigh housewife, says of the tendency to uncontrollable bleeding characterized by delayed clotting of the blood and internal hemorrhaging. "I was just a young bride." A Somerville native, she had seven brothers and there was no family history of the disorder. After her last son's birth, Mrs. Davis, who had been "sort of involved from the time of the first birth," volunteered 30-40 hours weekly, sharing experiences and helping with special projects and fund-raisers. The foundation assists families of the area's estimated 325-350 hemophiliacs with information, grants, insurance for catastrophic medical expenses and youth programs. Says Mrs. Davis, who is secretary of the board of directors, "We let them know we're there to help."



Sharon A. Porter is one volunteer who will give up even her socks to help somebody in need. She did exactly that after a tornado hit West Memphis in 1987. "Their feet were cold," she explained. Chairman of the Red Cross fire response program for about six years, Mrs. Porter goes to fires whenever there's a family that needs help and lines up food, clothing, motel rooms and other aid. She's also there to provide hot coffee in the winter and cold drinks in the summer for firemen "because we want to show our appreciation." She goes, too, to major wrecks and police barricades, again to provide refreshments for the emergency workers. She's on call any hour, any day and gets several every day. Mrs. Porter has done volunteer work for the Red Cross for 20 years. For four years she has been involved with the Memphis Opera Chorus and Memphis Symphony Chorus. "I have a husband, Robert, who is very supportive of my work," she said. "He deserves credit, too."

Jim Terrell is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Mrs. Wright

Court, church work 8/28/89 consistent in purpose A1

By Jill Johnson Piper



AFTER surviving a serious motorcycle accident last year, George Blancett, 54, figures his work on this mortal coil is not yet done. A lawyer and referee at Memphis Shelby County Juvenile

Court, Blancett is deeply involved in the outreach work of Lindenwood Christian Church.

"I don't see my work at juvenile court as separate from my work at church. There's need everywhere, and so many of the programs Judge (Kenneth) Turner has established down here (at juvenile court) are consistent with the work you experience in churches," Blancett said.

Blancett was the architect of Lindenwood's Room at the Inn, a program that offers lodging to chronically homeless men one night a week during the coldest months.

"On the nights that the temperature got below 32 degrees, we agreed to accept the overflow crowd from the Salvation Army, usually 10 or 15 men."

Blancett hopes to expand the program to take in homeless women, and eventually to establish a church network to handle the other nights of the week.

"We hope to have every night covered where all the homeless can be sheltered during those emergency nights, so it's something we can do as churches and not require the city or the county to do it," he said.

The men who sought Room at the Inn surprised Blancett.

"Our experience last year was that these are not just itinerant street people. Some have jobs but no place to live. They're people who you could pass on the street and not realize their destitute situation," he said.

As a past chairman of Lindenwood's community service department, Blancett helped furnish one of MIFA's emergency homes for families, a program designed to help families in crisis get back on their feet.

Blancett serves on the board of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an organization that grants wishes for children who have catastrophic illnesses. The Northside Community Christian Center on Decatur Street also has a special claim on him; he and his wife, Marcelle, were married there 35 years ago. It now serves as a recreation center for neighborhood youths.

The Blancetts live in East Memphis, and have three children and three grandchildren.

Other points of light in the Mid-South:

Otis L. West, 62, of Newbern, Tenn., has gotten high on community service before. A retired insurance salesman, he was squadron commander for the Civil Air Patrol in Newbern for 30 years. His most memorable experience with the U.S. Air Force auxiliary volunteer group, which does search and rescue work, was finding the bodies of country musicians Patsy Cline and Cowboy Copas at the site of their airplane crash near Camden in 1963.

"I just love to help people," says West, who is married and has two daughters.



Blancett

"When I help people, it helps me."

These days his volunteer service is down to earth. He helps others through his church, First Assembly of God; is Newbern's Civil Defense director, a position he has held for 25 years; is a volunteer at Dyersburg Methodist Hospital, and has been a Red Cross first aid instructor for 17 years.

By day, Gerald Snider is the friendly supply man at Bill's Furniture in New Albany, Miss. By night, he can be anywhere a ball is bouncing.

Snider estimated that he traveled 12,000 miles this year to basketball games—mostly at high schools around the Mid-South. He is a frequent visitor to Memphis-area gymnasiums.

But he is more than just an idle watcher. Snider talks often with college coaches, recruiters, reporters—anybody he can to make sure a deserving young man has a chance to earn an education through basketball.

"I just try to help people. That's what it amounts to," said Snider, 34. "Around here, everybody knows me at these high schools. They might not know my name, but they know my face."

Snider said he has been a big basketball fan for 20 years, and it makes him feel good that even some of the top college coaches respect his opinion.

"They don't pay me, but they've been real good to me," he said. "It would be nice if it came to that point. But right now, it's my hobby and I love it so much."

Community service is in Betty Tabatabai's nature.

An associate professor of biology at Shelby State Community College, she has been a leader in local and state environmental issues. Mrs. Tabatabai, 41, of Highland Heights, helped found the Save Shelby Farms Forest Citizens Committee in 1986, is a Department of Conservation Commission member and is in her second term on the state Environmental Council Board.

Interested in the outdoors, "since I was a little girl following my grandfather around on his farm in Carroll County . . .," she says, "I guess he taught me to appreciate nature and . . . one of the reasons I volunteer to do . . . this is I want this to be a decent community for my son and his children."

A native Memphian, she volunteers now on the Free the Children environmental committee, the Shelby County Environmental Commission school project, and in promoting state stream obstruction removal guidelines.

Jill Johnson Piper is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

VIEWPOINT

Giving pays high dividends

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 Marsha Cameron, 37, lives in Coldwater, Miss., but her heart is in the city. "I recommend that any person in our area who is interested in the future of Memphis apply for the Leadership Memphis classes," says Mrs. Cameron, who is chairman of the organization's Race Relations Task Force. "It's opened my eyes to a lot of Memphis problems and opportunities." A native Memphian who finds it "hard to raise horses in the city," she has been involved in the task force's race relations seminars for the public and calls race relations problems "one of the most important obstacles to our growth." Mrs. Cameron, an advertising agency public relations executive says, "I think it's important that everyone give some time to their community."

**A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light**

 Dr. Betty Dupont, 36, believes "lives can be turned around so easily just by little things." Although no one who works with her in her job at Baptist Hospital as supervisor of special

materials and projects would consider her efforts small, Dr. Dupont has made a difference in the lives of many. She coordinates projects for the hospital's Adopt-a-School, Manassas High, such as an ACT (American College Test) preparation workshop, a shadowing/mentoring program which allows students to follow nurses and medical technicians on their jobs, and a program designed to keep pregnant teens in school and help them deliver healthy babies. The East Memphis resident has seen impressive results. "We've seen a gain of five points on ACT scores and instead of the average of four out of five pregnant girls dropping out of school we've had one out of 15 and good birth weights for babies."

 At 69, retired bookkeeper Mable Gookin of East Memphis devotes part of each weekday to helping other seniors. As volunteer chairman of the dining room committee at the Lewis Senior Citizens Center, she sees that 160 to 200 people a day get meals. "I've done it for nine years, and the first time I went I walked out saying these people are too old for me. But I went back because I enjoy being with people." Mrs. Gookin oversees a committee of 20 who serve tea, make coffee and help the disabled.

 Besides working full time as vice president of Central Tool Ma-

chine Works, Cordova resident Carol Flórow, 51, finds time to work an extra 20 hours a week at United Methodist Neighborhood Centers Inc. It's help she's given for more than 15 years. Her work involves organizing help for various day care centers, clothes closets, food pantries and social services. It has its rewards. "You see how much can be done for people in need — feeding, clothing, helping with utility bills — and (helping) those who can't do for themselves."

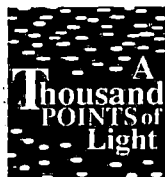
 Bolívar resident Alma Moss worked at the Western Mental Health Institute for 25 years. But retirement and her 70 years haven't stopped her help. Besides assisting the volunteer director there, Mrs. Moss is a member at Bolívar Church of Christ and along with other church volunteers visits hospitals and nursing homes. She works, too, with the Hardeman County Retired Senior Volunteer Program as a part-time coordinator.

Despite all the hours she puts in, "I'll continue," Mrs. Moss says. "I have no plans to quit."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

VIEWPOINT

Community benefits when volunteers go to work



Frances Buchalter's work at the B'nai B'rith Home has stretched from setting up the nursing home's lab in 1949 to serving as the board's first female president.

Along the way, she has learned much about the needs of older people.

Mrs. Buchalter, 62, a native Memphian, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Memphis with a degree as a registered medical technician. As a member of the B'nai B'rith Home staff in 1949, she set up the home's laboratory. She worked there until her first child was born in 1952.

She raised five children from two marriages and became re-involved with the nursing home when first her father and then her mother were admitted there for care. "It's difficult to have the responsibility for putting parents in a nursing home... but I found (the people at B'nai B'rith Home) were most helpful to me."

In 1977 Mrs. Buchalter was called about helping organize an auxiliary to support the home.

"I did that and was the first president of the Friends of B'nai B'rith Home. I've watched that organization

grow and grow and learned more and more about the great things and new things that can be done for the elderly, to make them more comfortable and give them their dignity and really help them maintain as much of their capabilities as possible."

She was then asked to serve on the home's policy board and became a vice president and then the first woman president.

The nursing home has about 140 residents and runs on funds from various charities and federations as well as fees from patients, Medicare and Medicaid.

Her term as president ended in June — but her work continues in other committees and in the board's effort at getting funds to build a new building.

"I really enjoy being around the residents and trying to bring a little smile to them."



Mrs. Buchalter

From 1968-70 Mrs. Buchalter was president of the National Council of Jewish Women, Memphis section. She also worked in NCJW's screening program for the genetic disease Tay Sachs. She also has been on the board of Temple Israel and was on the board of the Runaway House, which is now called Family Link.

"I wanted to give something back to the community that has been good to me," she says.

Other points of light:

"I make the time," is a motto for Martha Pitt, 40-year-old mother of five. Her volunteer work for St. Michael's School library helps free the teachers of chores such as book repairs, keeping books shelved and decorating the library to make it attractive to children, the Bartlett resident says. Even though Mrs. Pitt had to bring her own baby with her for two years, she says the 18 to 20 hours a week have been enjoyable. "Being with the kids and seeing the enjoyment they get — it's great!"

"If I saw an opportunity or need, I'd help however I could," says the retired grocery store owner Jack Stepherson. The East Memphian developed a reputation for helping boys find jobs. "I'm proud of our 'graduates,'"

the 74-year-old says. They include a Methodist minister and a doctor, among others. Although no longer involved in the store, Stepherson has continued his work with the Optimists Club, working to help youths in the community succeed.

Three years and \$5 million later Bonnie Willmott, 50, sees the results of her work as chairman of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's Prelude to Greatness campaign. "In a nutshell my philosophy is what I learned as a Girl Scout: 'Leave the woods better than you found it,' in this case substitute the world for the woods." To carry out her belief, the East Memphian has devoted countless hours to seeing that the drive reached its goal by fund-raising ideas, seeking sponsors and coordinating endless details. In addition, she's on the corporate development board for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA) and on the Orpheum Board, and is a member of the Le Bonheur Club, working at the hospital and in fund-raising. Time is found for work with her church, Church of the Holy Communion, where she is senior warden of her church vestry program.

Medical interests are just one of the things that propelled Anna-

bel Woodall into volunteer work. The East Memphis housewife married to a doctor saw that "doctors don't always have time to talk with legislators about important medical issues," and as past president of the Memphis and Shelby County Medical Society Auxiliary, she and the organization address this problem. As president of the Health Science Museum Foundation, she makes sure the medical exhibit at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum is cared for and expanded. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Mrs. Woodall was chairman of the Tennessee Arts Commission and is working on the Presidential Trust Commission to house the papers of the three presidents from Tennessee at Hoskins Library in Knoxville. "We're the only state that has done something like this," she says proudly. When she's not working on these projects, Mrs. Woodall works at MIFA's Christmas store and is secretary for the Memphis Concert Ballet.

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Making do with a little to give a lot

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 Finding ways to make something out of very little often takes Joni Little's spirit. But with a little imagination, the East Memphian usually finds ways to teach crafts with few funds in the Foster Grandparents, Arts and Crafts program at Arlington Developmental Center. Mrs. Little, 29, teaches



seniors, ranging in age from 65 to 82, helping them develop manual dexterity and promoting a positive self-image.

"I had never been around many older people, but they are so compassionate that I have felt at ease and gained a whole new outlook," she says.

Mrs. Little also takes time out from her part-time work as a cleaner to help with activities at Porter Leath Children's Center.

 Education has always been an interest of Midtown resident Brooke Duncan, 24. So when the public affairs coordinator at Cablevision began working with the Time to Read Functional Illiteracy Program he found it an intriguing challenge. Targeting people who read at the 4th grade level, Duncan teaches them how to read critically and enjoyably. With a little work they learn how to fill out job applications, get promotions and better understand important issues. "At first I had to help students with every other word," Duncan says. "After two and a half months they could read whole paragraphs. Once we had broken through such problems... it was easy from then on."

 When Susan Moore, 33, moved from Colorado to East Memphis last year, the former nurse wanted to do something beneficial besides rearing her own youngsters. She approached St. Michael's School and was asked to help out in the library. Her duties include reading to children, teaching library skills and repairing books. "I really like the library and try to push my children to use it. It's an important way to get ahead in life," Mrs. Moore believes. She has been delighted with the work and finds "I'm treated like someone special."

 Because she has a child with physical and learning disabilities, Pat Pickett, 41, understands how difficult life can be for them. For the past 20 years she has worked diligently to make sure such children get appropriate education and equal access to programs in the community and, as they get older, employment opportunities.

On the Mayor's Advisory Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, the Raleigh-Bartlett resident also attends medical, housing and transportation needs, networking with government and non-government agencies. Each year she travels to Washington to represent Mayor Dick Hackett at the Children's Defense Fund conference.

Her work "has made a lot of difference for me and the people I serve," she says.

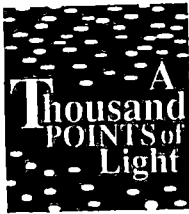
 Now retired from his work as a microbiologist, Loyal Suter, 79, continues his hospital work. Four mornings a week he travels from his Midtown home to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to work in the library. He has been exceptionally diligent, co-workers say, arriving even in snow. Suter says he enjoys his usefulness at the library and helps to shelve journals, collect reprints for binding and monitor interlibrary loans.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Encouraging the best in youth

9/1/89

By Peggy Reisser Winburne



When Memphian Clarence Christian was growing up in North Mississippi he got plenty of encouragement from the grown-ups around him. Support came in the form of a high school principal, a church deacon, neighborhood teachers and his grandmother.

Now, the 43-year-old associate professor at Shelby State Community College spends his off hours making sure youngsters in this city and other cities get a healthy dose of encouragement from him.

Christian, a father of three, teaches the social sciences at Shelby State. When he's not working, he's volunteering his time with at least a dozen civic, church and community organizations, all with the aim of helping the development of young people.

Of particular concern now is "the plight of the young African-American male child," he said.

"I think that common sense tells you you should put most of your energy where people have the most problems. The statistics indicate that's where the major needs are," Christian said.

Christian is on the education foundation board of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. In that capacity, he's responsible for a leadership development citizenship education program for young people in the Southern region.

He's also on the board of directors of the Southside Boys Club, the LeMoyne-Owen College Alumni Association, Planned Parenthood and the Plough Foundation Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force.

He is executive director of the Youth Leadership Memphis Development Institute, and serves as coordinator of the Booker T. Washington Role Models Extra-Ordinaire Program.

Christian works with the Leadership Memphis Alumni Association and Inroads of Memphis.

"I'm doing something (of a volunteer nature) every day and every night, too," he said. Sometimes volunteering means something as informal as playing basketball with a group of boys in a gym, he said.

"When it comes to young people, you learn so much from them, and then you can stay young yourself."

Christian is a deacon at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, a volunteer youth leader, and vice president of the Men's Fellowship and still finds time to give the children's sermonette most Sundays.

He's especially interested in working to improve the situation for young black males in the nation's education system.

"I hope they (youngsters) understand that their growth and development depends on people, and later on in their lives other people's growth and development will depend on them," Christian said.

Other points of light

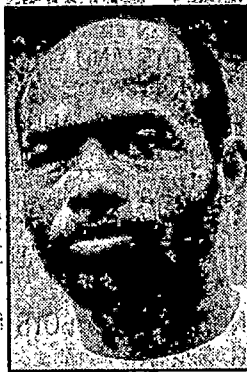
 Bobby and Marie Bell, 50 and 40, have always liked square dancing. But they never found the enjoyment in it that they have until they worked as callers and teachers of the handicapped. The Berclair couple take time out from their jobs — hers at Schering-Plough and his as an insurance agent — to help out at the Raymond Skinner Memorial Handicap Center. Mrs. Bell usually makes a cake or cookies to take along when the couple performs elsewhere and they take up a

collection to donate to the center. "There's not a better bunch anywhere," Bell says of his handicapped friends. "They enjoy it more than anyone and are more dedicated."

 Barbara Jones understands that girls often need someone to talk to, so the 51-year-old is never surprised when a teen calls. The Carver teacher from South Memphis counsels students on topics ranging from grades to after-school work and dating. Her work with XINOS and HERO clubs helps the students "develop both socially and educationally," she says. Mrs. Jones has also worked with unwed mothers, helping them learn the skills needed to care for babies as well as helping them develop self-esteem.

 Kate Davenport's green thumb work can be heard as well as seen. For eight years, Mrs. Davenport has read voluntarily for the West Tennessee Talking Library in a program she produces called "The Green Thumb," which yields to listeners, mostly blind, gardening tips from selected publications. "I enjoy it and to read something that I find interesting, hoping someone else does, is kinda fun." The program is about an hour long and runs once and sometimes twice weekly. East Memphis residents, she and her husband, Charles, attend Christ United Methodist Church. They have two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren. Mrs. Davenport also volunteers with the League of Women Voters and United Methodist Women.

Peggy Reisser Winburne is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Christian

VIEWPOINT

Volunteers take care of special needs

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 **Gordon Brigman, 42**, uses his skills as a special education teacher at Hamilton High School in his volunteer work for Special Olympics. As area director of the Memphis, Shelby County and Fayette County Special Olympics, he has seen the number of participants grow from 200 in 1980 to 2,000 today. He oversees 200 other volunteers involved in the program and travels nationally to give management seminars on volunteer staffing. "I enjoy bringing together different groups in our community for this cause," he says. "When nonhandicapped persons are exposed to these athletes, they realize what a neat group of people Special Olympians are."

 **Wylodean Smith, 58**, is indispensable to her fellow residents of a

Memphis Housing Authority high-rise for the elderly and handicapped. Although physically handicapped herself, she still cooks, cleans, shops and cares for her neighbors who are unable to help themselves. Every day she bakes cookies for the entire building to accompany the MHA-served lunch. "I know most everyone in the building," she says, "and those who don't know my name call me '400,' my apartment number. Most of these people are sick and helpless and they know I'm here for them until the day they die or go to a nursing home. The Bible says: Love thy neighbor as thyself, and that's what I try to do."

 **Bill Webb, 65**, and his wife, **Tommye, 62**, of Selmer, Tenn., say there are not enough hours in the day to do all they would like for others. The retired schoolteachers drive the elderly to church, meetings, doctors and Memphis hospitals. They deliver Meals-on-Wheels, always allowing time for a visit at each stop, and help others with home painting and repairs. Each month they visit nursing-home residents, and every day Mrs. Webb cooks for someone. "If the Lord is good enough to let me wake up every day and feel good,

then someone will get something I cooked," she says.

The Webbs help unemployed persons, some of them former students, find work in the community. They also volunteer at the local library and work on projects at the McNairy County Historical Society.

 When Oprah Winfrey and Ellen Goodman came to town, **Mary Jo Miller's** community service commitment was involved. Mrs. Miller, assistant dean of affairs at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, has been a volunteer since 1973 with the Girls Club, which sponsors visits by such well-known women speakers as Ms. Winfrey and Ms. Goodman. "It doesn't matter where a girl comes from as long as she knows where she is going," is the organization's motto, she notes, adding that many of the 2,000 girls, ages 6-16, who are served by three Memphis centers, "don't always have a sense there are options for their lives and choices they can make." The Girls Club tries to engender a sense of hope and possibility for their lives, she says. Mrs. Miller has served as president of the Girls Club board of directors and Provida Inc., a Girls Club support group,

and also has been a Center for Southern Folklore volunteer. A Midtown resident, she lives with her husband, Tom, who is an MSU business school department head.

 Multiple sclerosis and confinement to a wheelchair aren't reasons enough to keep **Jon Parnell, 42**, from helping others. Asked to help in the Read-a-thon to benefit MS, the Cordova resident promptly reached for the phone and handled TV, radio and newspaper publicity. He also called school principals to drum up support for Read-a-thon, which enlists students to read books, get sponsors and donate the money to MS. His efforts resulted in 15 additional schools joining the program. "Calling gets tedious," Parnell admits, "but now retired, I enjoy the involvement in something productive and I'd like to see a cure found for MS."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light

Housing families has its reward

9/4/89

A Thousand POINTS of Light

When Alberta Gaines, 74, first heard about Habitat for Humanity, she wondered how she could get involved.

Four years later she says, "I got so deep in it I don't want out."

As chairman of Habitat Mid-South's Selection Committee, she has interviewed dozens of families and has helped 25 get homes of their own.

"It's rewarding. When you have to tell someone 'no,' it's heartbreaking."

Early on, when the project had no paid staff, Miss Gaines kept the books, took in monthly payments, answered Habitat's telephone and presented slide-show lectures to groups about Habitat's work. As selection chairman, she interviews many of the 100-200 families who apply each year. Her committee's recommendations go to the Habitat board for further review and final selection. Four homes are being readied now, she said.

"Once (families) are selected, we do not leave them there. We get a sponsor to give them guidance to help them understand what it means to be homeowners instead of just renting."

Miss Gaines was a professional home economist who taught in Tipton, White and Hardin public schools, then worked as an extension home economist for the University of Tennessee in Shelby County until retirement in 1983.

Soon thereafter, she followed her curiosity to Habitat, which builds houses through donations for low-income families. In addition to homes in Shelby County, about nine have been built in Fayette County. "We got involved there because some friends were driving around and saw Rossville people living in barns and stores and places that really weren't fit. Many had no floors and no kind of sanitary facilities at all."

Miss Gaines also serves as superintendent of youth activities in the Family Living Center during the Mid-South Fair.

Youth Service made her a life member recently in honor of her 16 years on

the board. She's also a member of the St. Augustine Guild that helps fund Youth Service. As hunger coordinator for the Episcopal Church's Diocese of West Tennessee, she arranges educational programs.

She's on the board of the Memphis Day Shelter and the Better Business Bureau, and sews clothes for school children as an active member of Church Women United.

Her charity is not limited to organizations. She also tends to two aging friends — one a retired Shelby County teacher who has no nearby family and one a blind man for whom she cooks meals.

She used to work with the Red Cross, but had to cut back two years ago. "There are not enough hours in the day to squeeze in all these things I try to squeeze in."

Other points of light

 Hilda Gail Dotson already has a sister and two brothers, but when she read about the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program on the bulletin board at LG&W, the 30-year-old systems analyst decided to get involved. "I just called up. Something in me wanted to give back to the community," Mrs. Dotson says. Five years later she's still with her little sister and they still meet regularly for activities. In 1986 and 1987 her efforts and involvement were recognized and she was named Big Sister of the Year. The South Memphis resident has enjoyed seeing a change for the better in her little sister and believes "we'll always be friends."

 At 69, Margie Bryeans is an unlikely Girl Scout, "but in one more year I'll have 25 as a troop leader. I loved it as a girl and I still love it," Mrs. Bryeans of Raleigh says. It all started when her daughter needed a troop and the troop needed a leader. Mrs. Bryeans stepped in and since then has taught scouting, led trips to the Ozarks and worked with handicapped scouts. Her co-workers praise her leadership and training, and say she presents an excellent role model. "It's work and fun," she says, "and I enjoy seeing the girls do things they couldn't before."

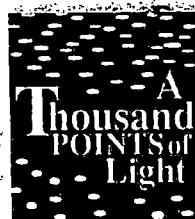
The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.



Miss Gaines

Illness sparked action

By Peggy Reisser Winburne



A radio public service spot and the diagnosis of a son's illness conspired to bring out the volunteer in Memphian Rita Adelman about nine years ago.

Since 1980, Mrs. Adelman, 60, has spent part of each Wednesday as a volunteer driver for the Memphis/Shelby County Unit of the American Cancer Society. In that capacity, she transports patients to the hospital for radiation therapy.

Some days its two patients. Some days a dozen.

A trip may be one hospital or five.

She began her stint as a designated driver after her son, Alan, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease in 1980. She'd been casting around for some avenue to fulfill a desire to volunteer.

"I just happened to hear on the radio that they (the cancer society) needed drivers," Mrs. Adelman said. "I felt this was something I wanted to do."

Mrs. Adelman happily says her son is in remission from the disease, after surgery and treatment.

But she keeps on driving.

"It's just part of me now," the grandmother said.

"I've been doing this now about nine years. Wednesday is my day," she said. "Outside of a gallbladder operation and vacation time, I haven't missed too much."

Patsy Hart, director of service rehabilitation for the local cancer society organization, said Mrs. Adelman "becomes a best friend" to patients she drives. "She's been wonderful. The patients love her."

Mrs. Adelman gets the list of patients a day early, and carefully maps out the best route so no one has to wait too long to be delivered for treatment or picked up and brought home.

She's quick to say there are other volunteer drivers who work plenty hard, so, thanks anyway, but don't give her too much attention.

The cancer group has 12 volunteer drivers and can always use more, Ms. Hart said.

"I've got so much sympathy for these people," Mrs. Adelman said of those she chauffeurs. "I get real personal with them. I enjoy them so much it's more fun for me than it is any kind of laurels that I get for driving."

Other points of light:



The compeer program of the Mental Health Society is "real

neat," says David G. Williams, 24, a University of Tennessee graduate student. For the past year Williams has worked with a 26-year-old man with a head injury. They go for walks, to the movies and other things together to help the man learn to socialize. "The goal is for him to learn how to make a friend, to be a friend," Williams, working on a master's degree in science and social work, is also a counselor at the Crisis Center, talking by telephone with those who are planning suicide or have other problems. He plans to work in the mental health field, which was one reason he volunteered. Another is, "It's just good to do volunteer work."



When Melvin Lapidès' father lost his Mississippi farm in 1922, friends helped the family move to Osceola, Ark., and buy a store. That impressed Lapidès, then 5, so he has been helping others himself for years. Lapidès, 73, has headed the Osceola athletic program four years, eliminating its \$20,000 debt. He was recognized last year for his contributions with a reception attended by Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) and neighbor U.S. Rep. Bill Alexander (D-Ark.). Osceola Mayor Dick Prewitt said of Lapidès: "If somebody had problems with something, he was always willing to make a contribution or help in any way he could."



Visiting the sick, taking dinners to fireman, organizing youth sports and working on fund-raisers are all part of the week's work for Odie O'Donnell, 57. District deputy and past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's fraternal organization, O'Donnell has been active in the group for 11 years. "My family were members in Boston," says the Frayser resident, who is senior draftsman at Process Systems Inc. With fellow knights, O'Donnell serves breakfast at his church, Our Lady of Sorrows, works in the Tootsie Roll drive to benefit the retarded and helps raise several thousands of dollars yearly for Madonna Day School.

"I really enjoy visiting the kids at Madonna Day School. They love you so much for coming."

Peggy Reisser Winburne is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The newspaper is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Few limits on time that volunteers give

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 "People were put on Earth to serve their fellow human beings," Taylor Blair firmly believes. He carries out this philosophy so well that two years ago the Volunteer Association named him Volunteer of the Year. As past chairman of the Coro Lake Property Owners Association and on the board of directors for the Center for Neighborhoods, the Coro resident once figured he put in more than 2,000 hours a year on volunteer work. Blair, who worked on the Washington International staff of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 35 years, traveled frequently, but squeezed time in to work for his community. Today the 71-year-old continues to cut the 12 acres of grass around the subdivision every two weeks as he has done for 20 years. Neighbors say he is always available to help someone.

 Recognizing that an organization needs incentives to keep the ball rolling, Debbie Litch, president of the Memphis Symphony League, came up with an idea that scored. Her "Points for Perks" program hit the right note with members; for each hour worked a volunteer gains points redeemable at year's end for prizes, tickets to musical events and the symphony ball. "It's made it fun," the 36-year-old says. "It's starting its third year and I hope it snowballs." Mrs. Litch, who lives in Germantown, has relished watching "people really enjoy getting involved in it" and points accrue. "I love music and I'm hooked on Memphis."

 "My daily prayer," says Alberta Ewell of Orange Mound, "is to help someone every day." For at least 40 years, the 72-year-old has been doing just that. Whether it was getting hot meals to bedridden elderly or getting

someone in need what they required, Mrs. Ewell has done it. Retired now from working in private homes, and with a heart condition and high blood pressure, Mrs. Ewell says her work has been curtailed from her usual three to four visits a week. But she still reaches out to help others when she's able. "It just makes me feel good."

 Celestine Hill thinks SMART. That's the organization she helped start and get off the ground. The letters stand for St. Mary's Alabama, Manassas Redevelopment Team. In the six years the 59-year-old's been working in her neighborhood, "I've seen improvement in people," she says. The group tries to help with social work and referrals, aid young people and give out baskets at Christmas. In addition, Ms. Hill works as a lay adviser at the Church Health Center. "We watch for health problems and let people know where they can get medical help. I love people and this is what I always wanted to do."

 Participation in many events makes the year speed by for Robert Stephenson Jr., 39. Early in the year Stephenson, a supervisor for Southern Cotton Oil, works to plan the Action Auction for WKNO. In April he spends most of the auction's eight nights at the studio, making sure all runs smoothly. "I like the staff and volunteers and it's fun to see them experience how much fun the work can be," says last year's co-chairman. The month of May finds the Midtown resident down at the river with his barbecue team, the Not Ready for Swine Time Porkers. As vice chairman of the Mid-South Fair Talent Search, his work peaks in September, but during the year he is constantly scouting for talented young people and running preliminary contests. Stephenson says he is glad to be a part of something that boosts the future of area youths.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

9-2-89

By Michael McMullen



Ann Dino (left) and Helen Adamo were instrumental in establishing the Memphis Police Department Crisis Intervention Team.

Special situations now get special police treatment

By Deborah White

MEMPHIS Police Department officers have learned a new way of dealing with mentally ill individuals, through the persistent efforts of Helen Adamo and Ann Dino.

As members of a support group for families called the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Ms. Adamo and Ms. Dino discovered that police departments in other cities gave officers special training on how to handle potentially explosive situations with mentally disturbed people.

Ms. Adamo started a lengthy correspondence with police departments in Los Angeles, Detroit and Chicago. Then both women presented training proposals to Mayor Dick Hackett and the Memphis Police Department.

Ms. Dino said the need for the training program hit home with her because of an episode involving her son, a mental patient, who had a self-inflicted head injury.

"I had to call the police to come pick him up, and an ambulance did come, but they said they could not transport him because he was a mental patient," Ms. Dino recalled.

"He had knocked his head real bad. They had to put him in a police car. I feared what would happen if he had needed a life support system."

That also stirred up Ms. Adamo, who was helping Ms. Dino at the time.

Ms. Dino doesn't shy away from discussing the incident. "I have learned if we are ever going to get services for these people we are going to have to swallow our pride. This is a disease of the brain. It is not from bad parenting."

The Memphis Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team was signed into existence in the spring of 1988, the morning after a 27-year-old who was described by relatives as mentally ill was shot to death by police officers. Police said Joseph Robinson had refused to drop a knife and threatened officers with it.

Now the Memphis Police Department maintains a specially trained group of more than 50 police officers to deal with these situations.

And Memphis is getting national attention from other cities that are trying to find peaceful ways to end confrontations involving mentally disturbed people.

"With more understanding and more education about what mental illness is and how to handle a person who is mentally ill, they are now able to, in a more humane and calm manner, transport a person to a treatment facility," Ms. Dino said.

Other points of light:

When Bill Conley, 40, talks to families helped by the March of Dimes, he knows that his years of planning and fund-raising for the organization haven't been in vain. Chairman of the March of Dimes board, the East Memphian cites the group's accomplishments: an audio-visual system installed recently at The Med, a monitor put in at a rural hospital to curb Sudden

Infant Death Syndrome, and educating teens on pregnancy prevention.

"Five years ago when I became a volunteer I decided that being successful in my professional life I wanted to give back to the community," said Conley, who is a director of systems control at Federal Express. "It wasn't until after the fact that I realized a member of my own family died of congenital heart disease at 19 months."

The March of Dimes, which focuses on fighting such birth defects, can make you realize how lucky you are, Conley believes.

Mary Elizabeth Thompson had worked on the national staff for the Girl Scouts in Manhattan and "I'd met so many great volunteers that when I returned to Memphis I decided it was time to pay my dues." She first became involved with the food pantry at her church, Evergreen Presbyterian, which led to work with Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA). Now, at 72, the Midtown resident is chairman of the nominating committee for the MIFA board, as well as on the board of the Evergreen Historic District Associ-

ation and she also is involved with the Free the Children program.

Of her work with MIFA, Mrs. Thompson says, "I'm very enthused. I think it's a great organization." She delivers meals to 19 people once a week for MIFA and explains why she enjoys it.

"Sometimes you're the only person they see all day. It's a boost to think you're helping someone."

As executive director of the Fayette County Senior Citizens Program, Viola McFerren's day does not end at 5 p.m. "Really I work round the clock helping people," says Mrs. McFerren, 57, of Somerville. A leader in the civil rights movement in the '60s in Fayette County, she still works as an advocate for poor people. By linking people with those who can be of assistance, Mrs. McFerren helps people find housing and get food stamps, emergency support, disability or supplementary support, among countless other services. "What is so amazing is that from time to time people come and ask me if I know who they are. Recently a young woman I had helped to get her masters came to say thank you. It was all I needed that early morning to get a start."

Lucille Myles of Greenville, Miss., jokes that she retired to work. Since the 59-year-old left her job as a Greenville educator she has taken up volunteer work with enthusiasm. Working with the Salvation Army twice a week, she helps students, reinforcing what they learn at school and keeping track of their needs. Mrs. Myles also gives time to the day care center at her church, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist and the Greenville Industrial Day Care Center. Then she puts in time as a volunteer with the Domestic Violence Shelter, working with battered children. "I try to show concern, find out their special needs and make recommendations." She admits cases can be sad, but "some who never smile later, will smile when I walk in. It lifts you from being sad and makes you want to do things to make life happier."

Deborah White is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal.

A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT

For All-Metro basketball player Katika Henry, 17, life is more than a game. Miss Henry, a junior at Booker T. Washington High School, spent her summer vacation taking care of her 9-year-old sister,



Shawana Taylor, a victim of cerebral palsy. "First of all I feed and bathe her," said Miss Henry, who lives with her grandmother, Lavern Williams, and three sisters. "I play with her and show her some attention. She can't walk, but she scoots and crawls. She can hear you, but she can't talk. I cook her food. I think she likes chili." Although Miss Henry frequents the LeMoine Gardens basketball court outside

her home as often as she can, most after-school hours are spent being the primary caretaker for Shawana. "She could be all city in every sport," says Ken Bennett, program director for 'Streets' ministry, where Miss Henry is active. "She's a tremendous athlete. She gives up other sports so she can pitch in with her sister and help at home." This summer she performed community service work for Neighborhood Housing Opportunities, an organization that provides low-income housing. She worked in the heat of summer at one of the sites, picking up leftover lumber, roofing and trash to help make the house livable.

Voluntarism could reach a higher plane through Sheree Lacy, 17. "I'm interested in airplanes," she says of her plans to study aeronautical engineering at a college to be determined.



"and I'd like to see if I could build them," Miss Lacy is down-to-earth, however, when it comes to volunteer service at Shelby State Community College's day care center. "It's fun helping the kids," she says of work at the center, where she's volunteered since she was in the seventh grade. A senior at Memphis Catholic High School, Miss Lacy volunteers through a Community Concerns class program. She has worked

through the program at PTA, band booster and sports fundraising events and at St. Peter's Manor, where she assists the volunteer director after school. The daughter of Doris Lacy, an accountant at Shelby State, and Sam Lacy, she lives in South Memphis and attends St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Rebuilding houses, painting and laying down floors doesn't seem like a typical job for an 18-year-old girl. But Kim McLaughlin of Germantown spent a week this summer in the hills of East Tennessee doing just that. "I volunteered for a program called Mountain T.O.P.," Miss McLaughlin said. "That stands for Tennessee Outreach Program. We went there to help underprivileged families. I like seeing the smiles on people's faces after we're done. When we were finished, they cried."



Miss McLaughlin, daughter of Bill and Martha McLaughlin, spends other free time playing bingo at a nursing home, putting on Christmas parties at St. Peter's Home for Children, cleaning the grounds and washing windows at the Dismas House, and teaching Vacation Bible School. She is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

As president of Future Teachers of America this year, Carl McRae, 17, aided teachers during and after school. She also spent two days a week after school tutoring an eighth-grader. Miss McRae, a



freshman at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., also traveled to Kentucky last summer as part of a 15-person mission team to build a house for a miner who was laid off. The family of four had lived in a shack built around the remains of an old junked car. "We built them a three-bedroom house with indoor plumbing," Miss McRae said. As a member of Interact, a service club, she visited abused teenagers at the Porter-Leath

Children's Center. About five times a year, Miss McRae, daughter of Janice and Herschel McRae of Germantown, carols at a senior citizens home. She says she's not sure why she does so much. "I guess because I'm a Christian and God wants me to do it and I enjoy doing it," she said. "It's not a burden. It makes me feel satisfied."

For Eddie Moore, 21, playing football gives him the chance to play a leadership role in the community. Moore, a senior free safety for Memphis State University, has spent his free time the last two



years talking to young people about drugs and achievement. "I'm no superstar by any means," says Moore, who came to Memphis from Panama City, Fla. "I just try to give kids a positive influence and role model and give them insight on things they may need to know about. Basically this summer I've talked to a lot of kids, trying to build their self-esteem. I tell them that there's no retirement plan when you do drugs."

Moore, who worries about his two younger brothers back home, says he loves kids, but that won't keep them off the streets. He says they need community support and adults must make that first step. "I struggled, but I had loving parents," says Moore.

One day a week after school, 17-year-old Grace Megel of Germantown works as a volunteer at the Salvation Army Day Care. She works with the children by tutoring them, helping with birthday parties, and taking the children on field trips. "I think it's fun to work with the children and to help them," says Miss Megel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Masterson. A senior at The Hutchison School, she got involved in the volunteer program at the Salvation Army about a year ago. She had been a volunteer at nursing homes since she was 16. The day care children are special, she says. "All they want is love and attention. They help me to remember the real things in life."



When it comes to volunteer work, Kirsha L. Smith, 17, is not picky about her assignments. At school, she works as an office assistant during lunch period and study hall, counting absentees, making copies, running errands, and filing medical and registration cards. She spends Saturdays working with a group of small children at her church, teaching them songs, arts and crafts and reading. On weekdays, Miss Smith helps her godmother, who has been repeatedly hospitalized. "I go over after school to make sure the kids get home safely, give them a snack, and make sure they get their homework until their dad comes home," she said. "I do all this because I feel that some people are just not able and they don't have people who will help them."



Miss Smith, daughter of Bobby and Shirley Smith of Memphis, also spent a summer working at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center filing chronological papers, medical records and job applications. She hopes to go to Florida A&M University and major in business and education.

Cory Tinker, 21, enjoys meeting young people. As a group leader for Young Life, Tinker, a senior at Rhodes College, tries to set a positive role model for high school students. "We call it Club, but it's not really a club," said Tinker. "Anyone and everyone can come. We meet at one of the high school kid's house. We sing songs and explain one of the passages from the gospel. What keeps me going is the relationships I have with the kids. . . . being a part of their lives and being their friend is an exciting thing."



Tinker, son of Warren and Jo Tinker, spends about 20 hours per week working with Young Life. He has been to three Young Life camps, where he washed dishes, served food, mowed lawns, gardened and did other types of manual labor.

Chitra Rampersad, 17, of East Memphis, has a nose for news — and volunteer service. Her volunteer days began at Father Bertrand Elementary School (now St. Augustine) and continue at Memphis Catholic High school, where she is editor of the school newspaper, Blues News, senior class vice president, and a clarinetist in the band. "I'm the kind of person that can't sit down and not do anything. I want to get involved," says the daughter of Marianna Rampersad. This summer that spirit of involvement led her to teach economics through Junior Achievement's business basic program for students in grade 4-11.



"I felt I could help explain economics to somebody a little younger than me before they got to high school," she says. Miss Rampersad, who heads the servers for mass at St. Augustine and is a senior retreat leader, wants to study biology at Washington University in St. Louis in preparation for a career in medicine.

Elizabeth Nenon, 23, says her goal is to be a good leader. She volunteers about 9½ hours a week toward that goal as a Young Life Club group leader. Young Life is a Christian outreach organization for high school students. "Our theme is to win the right to be heard," says Miss Nenon, a junior at Memphis State University. "No one's going to listen to you unless they trust you first. I want to be there for my kids, if they need someone to talk to. I try to go by a girls' soccer or volleyball game a week. It's different having someone there rooting for you that's not a parent. If they find the gospel while I'm there, that's great. We don't want to force anything down their throat. I just try to make myself available." Miss Nenon, daughter of Thomas and Patricia Nenon, says she would like to be some kind of counselor, possibly with high school kids, when she graduates.



At age 17, Chirag Shah, has the key to giving. Shah, son of Chandrakant S. and Sumitra C. Shah, is head of the Kiwanis Committee and sergeant-at-arms of the Germantown Key Club, a youth auxiliary of Kiwanis Club. He has been in the Key Club for two years, where he spends about 50 hours of service per month. "We're like one big family," he said. "We do everything together."



He says he does this because "I like helping people who can't help themselves out." On his own time, Shah has been raising money for United Cerebral Palsy and Boys Town. Last August he raised \$600 for Cerebral Palsy. Shah has been raising money for United Cerebral Palsy's Elvis Presley Run. A senior at Germantown High School, Shah also volunteered at the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

By Wayne Tilson



Naomi Van Tol cares for a baby fox squirrel.

For almost two years, Naomi Van Tol, 13, has spent two days a week working as a volunteer in the wildlife rehabilitation center at Lichterman Nature Center. Although she has had many responsibilities including maintaining the mouse population for wildlife food, she now spends most of her time feeding baby squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks. Miss Van Tol, daughter of Lois and Hubert Van Tol, is a home school student who has dedicated part of her school time to learning about native wildlife in this area. "I was fairly young when my mother started taking me on outings at Lichterman," said Miss Van Tol. "I've always been interested in wild animals and nature. When I got old enough, we decided to see if they had any openings for volunteers. So that's why I'm there."

Allison Parvey, 18, was involved in an ongoing tutorial program at two Boys Clubs in Memphis the last two years. The first year, she recruited and trained another student to help and each of them recruited four more students willing to volunteer. Besides tutoring, Miss Parvey, daughter of Karen and Dr. Louis Parvey, served as a group leader for the Goodwill Club. She served as the liaison between tutors, Memphis Tutorial Association, and the club director. Last year she was the chairman for the Memphis Teen Volunteers of the Volunteer Center. She was awarded a leadership scholarship to Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., where she is a freshman majoring in elementary education. Recently, she started a Boys Club tutorial program in Spartanburg.



No wonder Carlos Talley, 16, favors footwork for community service. His career ambition is to own and operate a shoe store. "I like seeing good things happen as a result of my helping out," says the son of Curtiss, director of evangelization at Holy Names Catholic Church, and Corene Talley of South Memphis. "I helped out at basketball games. They need volunteers for clean-up work and that's the hard task because nobody likes to do it." Talley, who got his volunteer start at Father Bertrand Elementary School, where he was youth coordinator, is a junior at Memphis Catholic High School. His volunteer service has ranged from programs for the elderly to youth activities. He plans to attend Rust College in Holly Springs and major in business law and sales.



Shondela Saulsberry, 18, worked last year as an elementary classroom consultant, teaching fifth- and sixth-grade students basic economic principles. Although she did the volunteer teaching during school hours, she was required to do all regular classroom assignments. Her supervisors say her speaking, leadership and organizational skills make her an excellent ambassador of Junior Achievement. "I took Project Business in junior high school and Applied Economics in high school," said Miss Saulsberry, a freshman at Shelby State Community College. "I think the students felt more comfortable with me being in there. They can relate to someone my age better." Miss Saulsberry is the daughter of Ruby and Al Bright.



For most teenagers the end of school marks a time for fun in the sun. But for Nicole (Nikki) Vaughan, 17, of Bolivar, Tenn., summer is a time to work as a volunteer. The past five years, she has spent 40 hours a week during the summer providing staff support and assistance to the Western Mental Health Institute. Her duties include organizing offices, typing, filing and making copies. Miss Vaughan, a senior at Bolivar Central High School, spends her Christmas vacation sorting, wrapping and distributing hundreds of gifts for patients at the facility. Miss Vaughan, daughter of James and Leslie Vaughan, received the Best All Around award from the Western Mental Health Institute the last three years because she exemplified "youth voluntarism at its best." The volunteer work, she says, "prepares you for the real world."



Having been designated by the city's mayor as an official ambassador for Yazoo City, Miss. Lindsay Lane Rose, 13, works to make her town better. She has been personally responsible for raising over \$1,000 for charities including the Special Olympics and the March of Dimes. "I like to do volunteer service to help people who are less fortunate than I am," said Miss Rose, the daughter of Joy and Benny Rose. "This summer I have been cooking and putting up food for Manna House. My mom was talking about all the stuff we were going to have left over in the garden that was going to go to waste. I said 'why don't we put it up for Manna House?' At Manna House, which is a local 'soup' kitchen, Miss Rose helped gather and prepare over 500 pounds of food this summer.



For Patrick Twel, 18, the YMCA-Davis Branch has been a special haven. Five years ago, Twel, a freshman at Memphis State University, began volunteering his time to help the staff. Today he is a member of the board of directors of that branch. "I'm involved in the YMCA Leaders Club," he said. "I do ground work, painting and cutting the grass... just anything that needs to be done." Twel, son of Robert and Judy Twel, is president of the Catholic Youth Organization at St. Paul Church. He organizes rummage sales and bake sales and collects money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This year he will be co-director of SEARCH, a religious retreat program for teenagers. In past years, he was on the crew setting up, cleaning up after meals and being a discussion leader. He was picked this year as a delegate to "Anytown Memphis," a camp sponsored by the National Association of Christians and Jews to help young people remove racial barriers.



Antonio Smith, 18, reaches for the stars and beyond. As a ninth-grader, Smith was chosen by former president Ronald Reagan as a youth ambassador to the Soviet Union through the U.S. Young Astronaut Program. Earlier this year, Smith, a senior at Whitehaven High School, was elected governor of American Legion Boys State. As a member of the Sheriff's Front-Line Against Drugs, Smith, son of Effie Smith and the late Will T. Smith, offers his time to help inform young people that "only losers do drugs." He says, "I don't get my motivation from recognition; I get it from knowing I helped someone. Hearing someone tell me they appreciate something I've done gives me the incentive."



For the past two years, Angela Wortham, 12, led the Red Cross Club at Vollentine Optional School. She volunteered to stay after school and meet with other Red Cross leaders to promote Red Cross activities there. Under her leadership, the students prepared more than 500 tray favors for patients at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. Miss Wortham, daughter of Johnny and Sherry Wortham, was also instrumental in conducting a Red Cross play, which reflected the importance of community service and helping others. "Angela instills the concept of helping, caring and sharing to other youth," says Mattie Little, a teacher and Red Cross sponsor at Vollentine.





Troop 274 Girl Scouts (from left) Leslie Mobley, Stephanie Edwards and Ghni Garvey string beads at Farmington Elementary School in Germantown.

Stephanie Edwards, 15, of Collierville, has a contagious zest for life. Although she has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, she served as a special aide at the Tenn-Ark-Miss Girl Scout Day Camp this summer. In addition to facing rugged, muddy trails, she had to help her unit leader direct the activities of 12 other campers, two of whom were also in wheelchairs: Miss Edwards, a special edu-

cation student at Farmington Elementary School, "was cheerful and brave," said Lisa Gabriel, day camp director. "She was always ready with words of encouragement and humor for these and all the girls in her unit when times got tough." Miss Edwards is the daughter of Frances and Steve Edwards.

Blair Henley, 17, hungers for homes. Recently she participated in a march for the homeless in Washington. "Mainly it was a protest against the government," said Miss Henley, a senior at White Station High School. "Since



1980, funding for the homeless has been cut by 75 percent. We hope the march will make the government more aware of what a big problem this is." Miss Henley, daughter of Russell Henley and Suzanne Henley, became interested in the problem of affordable housing while attending a United Way Young Leaders Conference. At school, she is helping to form a United Way Club to inform young people about volunteer opportunities. She is the president of the United Way Youth Fund Distribution Committee. "We were given \$20,000 to allocate for programs centered around youth," she said. "We have a youth yellow pages that gives numbers to call... rape crisis, teenage pregnancy and drug abuse." During the summer, Miss Henley went with a church group to Socorro, Texas, a border town, to help build a new church.

A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT

A special presentation focusing on young people who volunteer — part of a continuing series of articles profiling 1,000 people in the Mid-South who provide volunteer service to others.

Peter Edmiston, 9, spent two days a week this summer at the Porter-Leath Children's Center in North Memphis teaching other kids to read. His classes usually included about 10 boys age 6-8. Peter, the son of Peggy and Wilbur Edmiston, planned the sessions on his own. "The first day you have to learn what they like and don't like and how they respond to ideas," he said. "I found that pop-up books got their attention." Peter, a fifth-grader at Briarcrest School, captured the imagination of the boys with books from his own collection on the history of flight, the weather, the universe and the story of the Statue of Liberty. "This was great for me. I learned stuff and hopefully they did, too. I'm going to do this next year and I hope other kids will get the message and start being volunteers."



Michelle Alexander, 17, leads others into volunteer work and away from drugs. A freshman at Howard University in Washington, she participated in a leadership training program at East High School last year. "That really started me into everything," said Miss Alexander, daughter of Dr. James and Vera Alexander of Memphis. "I got involved in United Way and things just snowballed from there. My first year I participated in the student campaign, selling love pins for a dime apiece. We made \$300." Last year, she was a campaign coordinator for the city of Memphis, conducting seminars at the



Board of Education to show other students what United Way does. "The most exciting thing I did was the World's Largest Balloon Sculpture in the lobby of The Peabody hotel. It was a fund-raiser for the 'Make a Wish' Foundation." Miss Alexander also helped form the Memphis Youth Network. "There were about 25 student leaders who decided we would do something for city school students. We put on a variety show with an anti-drug theme. I was a co-host. Teenagers get such bad pub. This was our way of showing that we could be role models for ourselves."

It's a treat when Suzanne Bennett, 18, volunteers to help others. This year she was the president of Interact, a youth service group of the Rotary Club. She helped organize a Halloween party for under-



privileged and abused children who live at the Porter-Leath Children's Center. "I know I've been given many things and I'm very lucky," said Miss Bennett, daughter of David and Bea Bennett. "It makes me feel good to know that I can be the one to help someone else out with the things they need." Miss Bennett, a freshman at Loyola University in New Orleans, hopes to become a doctor. "My dream is to start a clinic in East Tennessee in the mountains because medical care is so poor there," she said. Miss Bennett works with the Diocese of Memphis in a program called SEARCH, which is a retreat program for "teenagers done by teenagers." She leads discussion groups.

Sonya Bonds, 17, of South Memphis, has volunteered for kids' sake. A senior at Memphis Catholic High School, where she plays clarinet in the band, she distributed promotional materials for WREG-



TV's For Kids' Sake community service program last year after completing the Memphis Partners job-training program. "I like to deal with people one-on-one and learn about them," she says of her volunteer service, which includes work through the school's Community Concerns program. She volunteers at Genesis House, a transitional residence for the homeless, helping prepare lunch for the residents, among other tasks.

The daughter of Mrs. Shirley Barnes and the late Sidney Barnes, she plans to attend Spelman College in Atlanta, major in psychology and pursue a career as a counselor.

Community service is just the ticket for Betsy Carey, 12. She sold over \$700 worth of tickets for Les Passees Family Night at Libertyland. Les Passees is a rehabilitation center for children who



have cerebral palsy. "I like little kids," she says. "I like to sell things. All the money we make goes straight to the center." Miss Carey, a seventh-grader at The Hutchison School, has already decided to attend Mississippi College in Mississippi. "I would like to be a nurse and work with babies, or a veterinarian," she says. She got a taste of working with infants by volunteering in the Second Presbyterian Church's nursery.

Next on her agenda is story hour at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. Miss Carey is the daughter of Nancy and Alan Carey.

As a volunteer, Donnie Chambliss, 17, is par for his own course. The son of Bud and Margie Matthews of Cordova, he is most proud of a charity golf tournament he organized. The proceeds purchased more than \$1,000 worth of Bibles, which were sent to Third World countries.



"Whether it's providing necessities or just being there to listen, I feel like I should be there for those who need help," says Chambliss, a freshman at Ole Miss. "I've heard so much about teen suicide and people going through hard times. I never thought what I would do if I didn't have the parents I have."

Chambliss says because of that he tried to form a prayer hotline for people with problems at his school.



● ● ●



• • •



● ● ●



27 28 29:



learn to ride horses. The son of Ann and Baxter Turnage, he says the work "has taught me patience. I've learned how to deal with people better." This year, Turnage, a senior at Memphis University School, is starting a new project to take an adult group of cerebral palsy patients to the movies once a week. Turnage also worked this summer at Camp Livitup, where he formed a special friendship with an 11-year-old autistic boy. "I got pretty close. I worked with him. We swam, sang and I just tried to entertain him."



Her horse, B.J., gets some affection from Sally Strub.

This summer, Sally Strub, 22, hoped to do something worthwhile before she graduated from college. "I've been teaching riding since I was 14," she said. "It looked like they weren't going to have many horse shows this year. I teach a lot of kids who don't have the money to be in a horse show. The big A shows are so competitive and expensive. I decided to have one. I wanted to get back to the 'let's have fun with a horse show' idea. It tied in well with United Cerebral Palsy's Special Cargo program, where they teach handicapped children

to ride. I made a little over \$2,000 and gave it to them." Miss Strub, a senior at Memphis State University, is vice president of programming for the MSU Women's Panhellenic Council. Although a fund-raiser called the Greek Kidnapping Capers was rained out, she still received donations of \$1,300, which was given to United Cerebral Palsy. In addition, Miss Strub, daughter of Dick and Kitty Strub, organized teams to cheer for the Special Olympic teams.

Terence Davis, 18, is all business as a volunteer. As an ambassador of Junior Achievement of Greater Memphis Inc., he worked 25 hours a month last year as an elementary classroom consultant. He was trained to present basic economic principles to fifth- and sixth-graders in a classroom environment. Although Davis received time away from his normal school classes, he had to complete all assigned schoolwork and was held accountable for any work missed while visiting elementary schools. He presented Business Basics material — information on organization, management, production (mass-unit), and marketing. As a consultant he directed class discussions and involved the students in class activities. Davis, who graduated from Hamilton High School in May, is the son of Gloria Harris and Amos Davis.



For Heather Keith, 18, free time is wasted time. She would rather spend her spare hours working with "Friends Against Dystrophy," where she has volunteered the last three summers as a one-on-one summer camp counselor, working with children with neuromuscular diseases. She spends weekends throughout the year working with the Memphis Association of Retarded Citizens (MARC). She has applied to be a "sitter" for MARC. She would go into the home and stay with a retarded child so the family can take some time off. Miss Keith, a freshman at Memphis State University, is majoring in special education.



"I want to work with people with different types of disabilities," she said. "I enjoy this because I see these kids around their parents and they're all shy and quiet, but at camp they are so different. They really open up and be themselves. It's great." Miss Keith, daughter of Beverly and Donald Keith, has made special friends with a 10-year-old girl with spina bifida. She takes her shopping, swimming and to the doctor.

As a member of Students Against Drunk Driving, Heather Lee Keith, 17, of Atoka, Tenn., counsels friends on the destructiveness of drugs and alcohol. Although Miss Keith was forced to finish her junior year at home because of a chronic fatigue syndrome, she is now back at Munford High School for her senior year, where she works with a class of handicapped children. Asked what she enjoys most about getting back to school, she said, "I'm back with my kids and they're glad to see me." Although Miss Keith's illness slowed her down, she still finds the time to care for her great-grandmother, who depends on her to run errands and take her to the doctor. She is also president of her Sunday school class and youth group at Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Miss Keith is the daughter of Ron and Cheryl Bohatch.



Florida B. Jackson, 18, does things the united way. From policymaking to hands-on activities, Miss Jackson, a freshman at LeMoyné-Owen College, is involved in the inner workings of United Way of Greater Memphis. She is president of the United Way Youth Advisory Board and traveled to Washington to help plan the Young Leaders Conference in Indianapolis last August. A member of the board of directors, Miss Jackson, daughter of Bettye and James Jackson, planned campaign kick-offs. As president of the Red Cross Youth Council, she coordinated a Halloween fundraiser and helped with a car seat safety check at a local car dealership. As a Kids Karmival volunteer, she spent a day painting kids' faces at the zoo to make money for Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. Last year, she was a volunteer for the "Make a Wish" Dream Factory.



David H. Holmes, 19, enjoys helping people who are financially and physically unable to help themselves. A sophomore at Memphis State University, Holmes received a full-tuition leadership scholarship based on his high school activities. "In high school, I did things for the student body," he said. "That scholarship opened a lot of doors. It made me aware that to be a part of the community, I needed to do more. I found out about helping Le Bonheur. During Le Bonheur Children's Miracle Network Telethon, I worked to raise money for children who had hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of bills they could not pay. During the Germantown Charity Horse Show, I spent two nights selling programs. Le Bonheur is a major recipient of those funds." He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry H. Holmes of Whitehaven.



Where volunteer work is concerned, Loretta Hopper, 13, of Southaven, doesn't horse around. This summer she spent six hours a day, six days a week working with the handicapped. Every Saturday she helped handicapped people ages 5-35 ride horses at Carousel Farms. "I have horses myself so I was familiar with them. It takes two people to help each person ride." From the people there, she said, "I learned about Camp Livitup at the Jewish Community Center." Miss Hopper, daughter of James and Ruth Hopper, spent six hours a day during the week helping handicapped children swim and play games. "We did the Hokey Pokey and played Duck Duck Goose," said the seventh-grader at Southern Baptist Educational Center.



7/15/89

Age is not a barrier to those who volunteer

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. Today's points of light:

 Career aspiration for Melody Berry, 15, is open to interpretation. "I want to be a foreign language interpreter for the government," says the Millington Central High School junior, who interprets her volunteer service experience as "something positive." Since age 13, she's been a Red Cross volunteer summers at St. Peter Villa Nursing Home and the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Her duties at the VA center emergency room range from taking temperatures to running errands to the lab. Co-workers call the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Berry "a positive influence for nursing service," and she responds, "It's enjoyable. . . . You can put a smile on somebody's face. That feels good to be able to do that."

 Heathie Acuff, 40, volunteers for a song — and a dance. A catalyst in The Junior League of Memphis' involvement in the Opera in the Schools program, she says, "I would like to see the arts come together in a singular focus." Her volunteer service varies from three to 40 hours a week, depending on the project. A board member of both the Junior League and Opera Memphis, she and her husband, Fred, have been involved in the Memphis Concert Ballet. As a board member of the Memphis Development Foundation she helped found Friends of the Orpheum. "I do it as a native Memphian," Mrs. Acuff says of her volunteer service, "to enhance, in whatever way I can, the growth in the city."

**A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light**

 Dr. Richard Dixon, 54, a Memphis oral surgeon, and his wife, Ellen, 53, have become active trying to educate the public about Alzheimer disease — a problem they learned to deal with first-hand.

Dr. Dixon is president of the Memphis Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The Dixons became involved in the association more than seven years ago when his father had the disease and eventually died.

The Dixons felt the need to help families become better prepared to deal with the disease. That kind of activity and more is taken on by the Alzheimer's Association, which has assem-

bled a video and printed education library, funded a research chair at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, organized a program with the Memphis Police Department to handle patients who become disoriented and wander away from home, and is training nursing home employees to deal more effectively with Alzheimer's patients. Dr. Dixon said he wants his group, which has relied mainly on memorial contributions, to become more active in fund-raising.

 Gregory Bacopulos, 64, of East Memphis, is the longest-serving of the Mid-South Paralyzed Veterans Association (PVA) volunteers. Confined to a wheelchair as a result of gunshot wounds received in Germany in World War II, he became active in the association around 1949 and has served in all PVA elected and appointive positions. "I understand the problems of other veterans and paralyzed persons," says the retired jewelry maker and designer. A civilian aid program established while he was PVA president, provides funds for wheelchairs, braces, etc. for needy handicapped civilians. Treasurer for the PVA, Lions Club and Greek Orthodox Church Annunciation, he still visits hospitalized veterans two to three times a week. "But I don't call that volunteering," he says. "It gives me pleasure."

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Eagerness to help others comes as basic nature

By James Chisum

A Thousand Points of Light

JACK Hough, 52, is an assistant public defender who spends his working days representing accused murderers, robbers and rapists in the criminal courts.

In his off hours, he's teaching a 25-year-old to read. In between, he's taking requests from St. Patrick's Church at 277 South Fourth to check on parishioners or people from the neighborhood.

"Many of them end up in court down here because they're mental cases that fall in between the cracks," he said.

Last fall and again early this year, Hough doffed his criminal defense status briefly and became a civil lawyer, representing the Vollentine-Evergreen Community Association in a City Hall zoning case.

"We were successful in preventing them putting a recording studio in a residential area," he says.

Hough is unmarried, but is close to his mother, two sisters and two brothers who live here.

And, says an investigator in the public defender's office, he's "everybody up here's big brother." He recently put in a ceiling fan for her.

"This stuff comes up and you do it," Hough says with a shrug when asked about helping out. "I hadn't thought much about it."

Hough, whose grandmothers and grandfathers were born in Memphis, lives in the Vollintine-Watkins area, within a mile of the home where he grew up.

"I never got out of North Memphis," he said. "Only they call it Midtown now."

Other points of light in the Mid-South:

City Court Judge Nancy Sorak said she likes personal contact

with children, possibly a holdover from her days as a teacher in Florida, and periodically donates some of her spare time at area day-care centers to help bring a little joy to the youngsters.

Some of her efforts include organizing a St. Valentine's Day Party for children at the Riverview-Kansas Day Care Center. With a little help from friends, she decorated 144 Easter eggs and threw a party for children at the Orange Mound Day Care Center. She recruited a clown who donated his services for both parties.

Judge Sorak, 47, also serves as a mentor for young girls, providing a positive role model and a friend for children facing economic and social disadvantages.

When Barbara Chandler worked for Delta Wholesale Liquors, she decided to combine business and charity by selling Bartles and Jaymes wine coolers, which the company represents, and donating the proceeds — almost \$6,000 — to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. For the past three years, Ms. Chandler has had a booth at the Memphis in May International Festival's World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest and the Sunset Symphony. About 50 Memphians volunteer their time to help out.

Even though Ms. Chandler, 42, left Delta Wholesale Liquors to become bar manager for Ronnie Grisanti's, she plans to continue the practice, and has an agreement with her former employers to continue using their products.

One Friday a month, Bev Eaton goes shopping at the MIFA Food Bank. She takes the food she buys to St. John's United Methodist Church at 1207 Peabody. On the following Saturday, she and several other volunteers from the Church of the River cook dinner for about 80 homeless people. Spaghetti, which is quick and easy to fix, is a popular item, said Ms. Eaton, 37, a communications representative for Federal Express and former newspaper reporter.

Ms. Eaton is head of the Church of the River's community action committee. The Unitarian church is one of four that rotate operating the soup kitchen at St. John's every Saturday.

James Chisum is a staff reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home () _____ work () _____

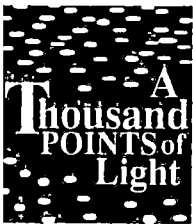
Here's what this person does to help others: _____

7/17/89

A7

The children are focus of volunteers

By Steve Gaither



Vicki Bolton's love of children and her volunteer spirit have made better Christmases for thousands of children.

Mrs. Bolton, a former caseworker for the Department of

Human Services, founded and chaired the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association's Christmas Store in 1975.

The store served 50 families in its first year by providing free toys for needy families screened by DHS officials. The store served 16,000 children last year.

"I've seen some of the people that have been featured and I really don't feel like I do that much," Mrs. Bolton said. "I really love kids. As a DHS caseworker, you see a lot of unhappy kids."

Mrs. Bolton also serves on the board of MIFA's emergency assistance committee, which provides help to families facing eviction, a lack of food, or other situations caused by emergency or unforeseen circumstances.

She is on the board of the Memphis Arts Council's Arts in the Schools Program — an effort to expose students in county, city and private schools to various art forms — and chairs the program at Riverdale Elementary School in Germantown. She also serves as a volunteer in the school sick room, which provides basic first aid or care for sick students. Mrs. Bolton is also a "computer mother" at the school, helping the faculty in teaching computer skills.

She said the school work is rewarding for several reasons, one of which is working at the school her 11-year-old daughter attends.

In 1988, Mrs. Bolton received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Volunteer Center of Memphis. She and her husband, Walter, help support the West Tennessee Pony Club, which teaches children horsemanship.

Other points of light in the Mid-South:



Mrs. Bolton

 Nancy Apple Sides, a 31-year-old graphic designer and musician, has used her contacts in the music world to raise \$6,000 for AIDS research at children's hospitals in New York and Dallas. She has also helped raise funds for the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Miss.

While attending a guitar show in New York last fall with her husband, Link, she solicited about \$4,000 from musicians, guitar manufacturers, traders and retailers.

Mrs. Sides, the executive director of the Memphis chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, coordinated a similar drive at a guitar show this spring in Dallas, which raised another \$2,000.

Mrs. Sides has also been involved in helping raise money for music-related activities, including the Delta Blues Museum.

 The press for literacy was an easy read for Lolly Bailey, 40, of Hernando, Miss.

The wife of DeSoto Times publisher Bill Bailey, she used her background as a reporter to launch a Memphis Literacy Council newsletter for new readers. And the newspaper contributed technical assistance for the publication, which was a project of The Junior League of Memphis for the literacy council.

"It was more than just volunteering," says the Junior League member, "because it is a cause I feel very strongly about." She spent 20 to 30 hours per issue on the quarterly's first four editions.

A volunteer in activities at Hernando Elementary and Middle schools, the mother of children ages 14 and 9 believes "parents are really essential" to school programs.

Steve Gaither is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal.

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work.

Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Volunteer is friend, leader of mentally handicapped

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

 It all started when Katherine Bennett of Greenville, Miss., invited one of the retarded women she worked with at her church home to swim. Soon others wanted to come, then a bunch. Then she and some friends started planning group meals and cooking.

"The boys then looked so sad I invited them, too," Mrs. Bennett, who is 63 today, says. Now she has 19 retarded adults, ages 24 to 54, to weekly meetings at her home.

"They had been enrolled in Scouts, then a mother suggested I be their leader since they didn't have one," she says. For four years she has led Explorer Scout Post 12, helping them to make greeting cards as their project, selecting uniforms and taking them to visit a nursing home.

Rather than work, Mrs. Bennett sees it as "such a joy to do. They are loving, giving and appreciative. I enjoy it too much!"

 "I've grown a lot," says Rosa May Warren of her work as president of Church Women United. The 71-year-old describes her work ministering to prisoners, providing worship for them and encouraging girls to go to school as hard, but "the most exciting thing I've done in a long time."

A retired teacher now living in Germantown, Mrs. Warren first became interested in the group through her church, Cumberland Presbyterian. She and her husband, Eugene, also deliver meals for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association.

"The women prisoners respond so beautifully," Mrs. Warren finds, "that you want to keep trying when you touch one person."

 During his 44 years as a locomotive engineer for Illinois Central Railroad, Otto Melsa saw firsthand the dangers of railroad crossings.

Eighteen years ago, the 66-year-old Fox Meadows resident joined Operation Lifeline, a national volunteer group that promotes public awareness of these hazards.

Through the organization, Melsa takes his message of accident prevention to schools, churches, civic clubs and driver education classes. He warns

children not to play on or near railroad tracks, and reminds adults of the old but wise rule, "Stop, look and listen."

He says, "When I worked for the railroad, I saw how often people disregard safety measures at crossings. I was involved in 19 collisions with cars during my career as an engineer. I'll go whenever and wherever I'm asked to teach others to avoid these senseless accidents."

 Gladys Hunt, 46, of Millington, faithfully cuts food coupons from the newspaper, watches for sales and keeps her pantry well stocked with essential goods.

Her diligence is for an unselfish reason. Whenever she hears of a family with financial difficulties and in need of food, she immediately delivers to them five or six sacks of her stored groceries.

She collects used clothing and does the same with it.

"I don't wait until Thanksgiving or Christmas to give food or clothes," says the Avon cosmetics saleswoman. "Whenever I see a need, I try to fill it right away."

Ms. Hunt also drives neighbors anywhere they need to go, from the doctor to school registration.

 Willie Jean 'Dee-Dee' Blackmon, 35, knows how easily idle children can get into trouble in her South Memphis neighborhood. That's why she recruits as many as she can every summer to play on her softball team.

She organizes and coaches the team herself and provides the team uniforms of white T-shirts. More than 20 boys and girls of all ages play against other teams from neighborhood churches.

"I wanted to do something to help the kids in my neighborhood stay out of trouble and off drugs," she says. "I tell them to play softball. It keeps their spirits up."

During the school year, she visits with her young neighbors on her way home from work.

"The kids respect me and know they can call on me," she says. "I help with homework and encourage the dropouts to return to school."

A billing clerk at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, Mrs. Blackmon is The Med's representative in the Adopt-A-School program.

To suggest people for this feature, please write us with the nominee's name, address, phone number and a brief description of the nominee's volunteer work. Mail to: A Thousand Points of Light, The Commercial Appeal, Box 364, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

A
Thousand
POINTS of
Light

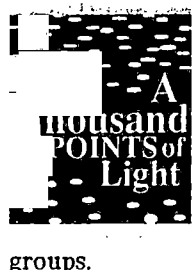
Even after the day is done, some labor in fields of love

From Page A1

Labor

Volunteer service is the theme of special reports running in *The Commercial Appeal* that tell about individual efforts to improve the lives of others in the Mid-South. The series is called "A Thousand Points of Light," after President Bush's campaign reference to the nation's volunteers.

By Steve Gaither
Staff Reporter



Mid-Southerners have a rich tradition of doing for others through their unions, professional associations and other job-related groups.

Labor Day marks the contributions of labor in America. And a sampling of these groups indicates that volunteer service is one of the significant contributions they make to the community.

The stories are about unions, their members, medical professionals, a civil rights-cultural service club, and an eclectic group of workers who volunteer as firefighters.

Those they help are children, the unemployed, hardluck cases, the seriously ill and numerous others. Some groups donate thousands of dollars a year, others spend much less. All help.

Spirit runs deep

C. K. Bennett, business manager for the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 713, says com-

munity service has a deep tradition in organized labor because it's part of a union's job to care about people.

It's his job to manage the local, which represents Memphis Area Transit Authority bus drivers and maintenance workers, but Bennett, 54, volunteers an extra mile of caring. He serves on the Community Services Council of the state AFL-CIO.

Council members donate money each year to provide Christmas food baskets to needy families, he says. The money comes from two sources — a union's general treasury and donations, Bennett says. The council dis-

Please see **LABOR**, Page A16

Rewards of finding others a home

A9



Dr. Bill Coley

Care for the needy

The Memphis Dental Society is trying to give Memphians who can't afford dental work new reason to smile.

About 50 dentists and oral specialists volunteer to staff a clinic at the Church Health Center at 1210 Peabody on a rotating schedule.

The Dental Society furnished \$12,000 to \$15,000 in dental equipment when the clinic opened in July 1988, says Dr. Bill Coley, an endodontist (a dentist who specializes in root canals), chairman of the Memphis Dental Society committee that started the clinic.

Dr. Coley said he heard about the Church Health Center during a Sunday school class at Idlewild Presbyterian Church and took the idea of a dental clinic to his colleagues.

"We had searched for several years for ways to reach these people," he explained.

The center opened in September 1987 to provide low-cost medical care to the city's working poor who don't have health insurance. It is supported by about 100 local churches.

Dr. Coley said basic dental checkups and simpler tasks are done at the clinic between 5 and 9 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more complicated work, the patients are referred to a specialist's office. Dr. Coley said he and many of his fellow volunteers do not charge for specialty work like root canals while some charge on an ability-to-pay.

It is up to health care professionals to solve the situation of many people who do not have health insurance and cannot afford regular medical and dental checks, says Dr. Coley, who was named the dental society's 1987-88 Humanitarian of the Year.

"The problem is too great for the government," he says. "People in the medical profession have the means to attack the problem. I don't think the government can ever do that. The concept is catching on nationally."

Firefighters care

A group of Memphis firefighters who organized 17 years ago to address racial issues within the department has concentrated on doing community service in recent years.

Pioneer Black Fire Fighters Inc. donates \$5,000-\$7,000 a year to charitable organizations from money raised from renting its club at Front and Vance.

Lt. Ron Mitchell, president of the Pioneers, said the group is putting aside club revenue to make a "sizable" contribution to the burn unit at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis at the end of the year.

In July, the Pioneer club donated \$1,000 to the Memphis Mustangs youth group, the 21st Century Youth Club of America, the Mississippi and Walker Homecoming Association and the United Way of Greater Memphis. The Pioneers gave \$500 to Memphian Eugenia Banks, who was injured in a shooting incident. The club also donates money to the Urban League, the NAACP, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Memphis.

Mitchell says Pioneer members have concentrated on civic contributions in the last six years.

"As firefighters we see a lot of

tragic situations... a lot of people in need," Mitchell says. "When somebody gets burned out or something, you can't help but feel for that person."

"We also feel this is a way to say 'thank you' for the support we get from the community."

The club raises money by leasing its headquarters for banquets, dances, meetings, family reunions, or other occasions requiring a large space. The club members also have social activities at their building.

Pioneer members speak at community and church meetings and seminars to promote fire safety. The group also produced a "Who's Watching the Children?" program four years ago, which used MATA bus advertising to warn of fire hazards facing children. Two years ago the Pioneer members distributed free smoke detectors.

A passage of faith

Betty Ballentine, 42, of Memphis helps her union, the United Steel Workers of America, Local 7655, with their community service projects through United Way of Greater Memphis.

But she also believes in passing her faith to young people.

Mrs. Ballentine, a trustee for Local 7655 and a shop steward at the Carrier Corp. plant in Collierville, volunteers as the assistant superintendent of Sunday school for the young people at New Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

"In Sunday school we try to teach the young people biblical lessons and how they (apply) today. We teach them to be honest and help others. And we teach them to go back and teach their friends," she says.

A former Cub Scout den mother, Mrs. Ballentine also serves as the chairman of the community services committee in her union local and has been involved in the local labor council's United Way programs.

Police reach out

An abused, neglected or unloved child tugs hard on a police officer's heart, no matter how long the officer has been on the job, a police union official says.

That's why the Memphis Police Association tries to brighten the lives of Memphis youngsters through youth programs and benefits, says Ralph Dill, secretary-treasurer of the 1,233-member Memphis Police Association.

The union holds an all-star basketball game between the Southeastern Conference and the Metro Conference each April and a truck and tractor pull each fall. Money from ticket sales goes to the association's general fund and the union provides 3,000 to 4,000 free tickets to children through 30 youth agencies such as St. Peter Home For Children, Porter-Leath Children's Center and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Memphis.

tributed about 100 food baskets last year.

"It's basically the same with all unions — concern about people," he says. "We try to help those who are destitute to show them there is something out there for them, at least during the holidays."

The Community Services Council is also involved through the United Way of Greater Memphis in helping people pay utility bills and assisting them through other financial emergencies.

Bennett said the union doesn't have a lot of money to spare, but each year the 350 members donate enough cash to give \$100 to \$200 to a local agency like the Boy Scouts or the Shriners.

The spirit of charity "runs very deep in American labor unions," Bennett says.

"They get to do something fun," Dill says. "Sometimes they get a T-shirt from the event, too. It makes them feel good and it makes us feel good."

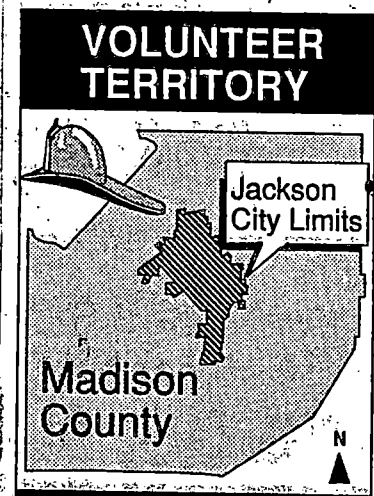
Dill said the youngsters learn police officers are not their enemy and learn there is something better than the tough surroundings many of them face every day through broken homes, hunger, drug abuse in the family and neglect.

"We just go with kids because that's who will grow up to be the person we might have to deal with one day," Dill said. "It might take away future clients from us."

The association's Metro Conference-Southeastern Conference basketball all-star game at the Mid-South Coliseum in April raised about \$36,000. The truck and tractor pull last October raised \$26,000, Dill reports. This year's truck pull at the Memphis International Motorsports Park will be held Oct. 26.

"We just try to do small things for the various charities," says Ray Maples, police association president.

By Doris Lee



Fighting flames

A select group of Madison County, Tenn., residents finds community service requires an alarming commitment.

Part of a vanishing breed, about 180 volunteer firefighters protect a 523-square-mile area of Madison County outside the city of Jackson. They are truck drivers, farmers, mechanics, merchants and others.

Kenneth Duffy, who owns a hardware store, is a captain at Station 10 in the northwest part of the county.

"I look back with satisfaction knowing I've done something for my community," Duffy says. "I'm not involved in a lot of civic groups or anything like that. But it makes me feel good knowing I'm doing my part."

"Volunteers are a different breed. They're doing it just for the satisfaction."

More and more rural and urban fire departments are turning their operations into career departments with all full-time employees because volunteers are harder to find. But the Madison County department keeps growing. The department plans to open its 15th station next spring and a 16th station the following year, said Fire Chief Kelly Holmes.

"We've got a lot of good people to keep things going," Holmes said. "It's not as easy as it used to be. There's not as many young people interested in it as there were a few years back."

Holmes is paid. The rest of the firefighters volunteer their services. That's the way it has been since the department was organized in 1958. Holmes was a volunteer and became chief in 1965. The department has grown to 14 stations with 16 pumpers, 17 tankers and nine brush trucks. Many of the stations were built by the firefighters and the residents in the various communities.

The department operates a rescue truck, which carries cutting and prying tools. The volunteers also respond inside the Jackson city limits on calls requiring the specialized rescue equipment. The rescue truck also carries equipment for dealing with chemical spills and other hazardous materials.

When an alarm comes in, the volunteers are alerted through pagers, citizen's band radios and telephone calls if necessary. The department designates volunteers to drive certain pieces of equipment in their communities. The other volunteers go directly to the fire scene in their own vehicles, often leaving jobs or personal matters behind.

"It's a little difficult for a volunteer," Holmes observes. "When a paid firefighter goes off shift, he's off for a while. But not the volunteer."

Union is generous

About 1,350 members of the Fire Fighters Association, Local 1784, don't hesitate to open their wallets for local charities.

Danny Todd, secretary/treasurer of the local, says the union will donate \$13,000 to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center and \$22,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital this year. The union has given more than \$400,000 to St. Jude since the mid-1970s, he says.

"Firefighters have a high profile in the community and we like to extend that profile," says Todd. "We think firefighters are probably the most generous workers in the city."

The union gave \$10,000 to the burn unit at Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis last year and pledged a \$15,000 donation this year. The union also gave \$100 to the department's Fire Prevention Bureau this year to buy smoke detectors, which are distributed and installed by firefighters from the neighborhood station free of charge.

The union has gone to a payroll deduction plan for members who wish to contribute to one or more of the charities the union supports. For instance, members can donate by payroll deduction to the Muscular Dystrophy Labor Day Telethon planned to present \$4,000 during the weekend. The MD collection will continue until April 90.

United believer

Yvonne Moore, secretary-treasurer of the American Postal Workers Local 96, believes in the mission of the United Way of Greater Memphis.

That faith in the ability and purpose of United Way, which serves as an umbrella fund-raising organization for local charities, motivated Ms. Moore to become a United Way volunteer, she says.

It hasn't always been easy balancing her volunteer time with regular duties as a distribution clerk in the Postal Service Bulk Mail Center, her union duties and her family obligations.

Ms. Moore says she's never kept track of how much time she has spent working for United Way. It's been fun and rewarding trying to find new supporters for United Way, she says. "You don't have time to sit around and be blue. The most enjoyable experience I've had is convincing a nonbeliever to give. It takes a personal presentation to touch their emotions."

This year Ms. Moore will be a part of the United Way speakers board, visiting community and church organizations to explain what United Way does and how it accomplishes its goals and seeking their support. She has served two years as a campaign spokesman, visiting corporate executives and employees to encourage them to support the organization.

Ms. Moore said she became involved in United Way after she attended a United Way training

seminar designed to help union officials assist their members with problems.

"They gave me the sales pitch, and here I am," she says. "When I saw the magnitude of the work they do, I just found time."

Keeping in touch

Long before the late Paul W. 'Bear' Bryant asked the nation "Have you called your mama today?" a local union was making sure hospitalized veterans had that chance.

Each Christmas the Communications Workers of America Local 3806 places and pays for long-distance telephone calls for patients at the Memphis Veterans Medical Center in Memphis.

Mike Bennard, the union local executive vice president and a service technician for South Central Bell, says the union undertakes community service projects because of its members' desire to be involved in the community in some meaningful way. He said the public needs to know that the union is interested in more than its members' well-being.

"We want to make a fair living and put it back into the community for those who are less fortunate," Bennard says. "We want to be anything we can be for the community. It's important for us to serve because we are the community."

The union, which represents 1,450 South Central Bell and American Telephone & Telegraph employees, spent \$150 on 50 calls last Christmas through its "Hi Mom" service. Members go to the hospital on Christmas Eve and Christmas and place the calls to family members for the patients. The union pays for the

calls from its general fund, Bennard explains.

"We've been doing it for as long as I can remember," says Bennard, who has been on the union's executive board for 14 years. "It's something that's gone over real good."

Patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital also benefit from the union's attempts to spread a little cheer. About 20 union members make up a troupe known as the Rivertown Clowns. They periodically visit the children at the hospital and spend a half-day or whole day entertaining them.

Union members also take part in local charity fund-raising walks to help organizations such as the March of Dimes and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Bennard says. The union also provides assistance for its members and their families through counseling programs covering drug and alcohol abuse, stress and other crises.

Charity and issues

Doris Partee of Memphis has a serious concern for people and issues around her. It's helped sustain her for 30 years in her work at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis and its predecessor, City of Memphis Hospital. She is an LPN at The Med.

But the 53-year-old vice president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1733 has another concern that takes up a lot of her spare time — the political well-being of her 6,000-member union and Memphis residents.

Ms. Partee serves on the union's political action committee, which conducts voter registration drives and voter educa-

tion seminars.

The committee members campaign on local and state levels for candidates the union leadership believes will keep the interest of public employees a top priority.

Voter registration and education is a key element of the union's activities, especially when a conflict arises between a government body and some of its employees, Ms. Partee says.

"A lot of times the public doesn't seem to understand the issues and you have to educate them about what's coming down," she says. "Sometimes we have to get leaflets printed and things like that."

Ms. Partee is also on the union's negotiating committee, which bargains for contracts on behalf of its members with government representatives.

She served last year on the board of directors of Memphis Urban League and has been active in various union fund drives to raise donations to Le Moyne-Owen College and area YMCA branches.

Hammer in hand

When word gets out that a carpenter has moved into the neighborhood, everybody wants help building something.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Local 345, hears the same demands, says James Kerley, the full-time business representative for the union. Kerley said his 700-member group is glad to do projects for anybody who really needs help.

"The people who really can't afford to pay for something — that's who we try to help. We're not trying to compete with contractors," says Kerley.

Kerley said the union members, who come from contractors, governments and independent shops, build the scaffolding each year for the WKNO-TV Channel 10 Action Auction, which is an annual fund-raiser to help pay the expenses of local public television.

The carpenters have helped a variety of local agencies with various projects. Union members hung gypsum wallboard in the auditorium and classrooms at the Singleton Community Center in Bartlett when the facility was renovated in 1984. Three years ago when a storm blew through the grounds at Memphis Boys Town in the northeast section of Bartlett, the carpenters union rebuilt the booths for their annual Labor Day fund-raiser carnival.

The current project is designed to help financially strapped handicapped people who have missed out on assistance from social service agencies, Kerley said. The union members will build wheelchair ramps at private homes for people who can't afford to pay for the work.

Kerley said some of the union's members have done similar projects in their own neighborhoods without going to the union for help.

"The members feel like they owe something back to the community," Kerley says. "The community has always been so good to organized labor."



Lt. Ron Mitchell, president of Pioneer Black Fire Fighters Inc., says that as firefighters, members of the group have seen their share of tragedy. So they raise funds to help those in need.

Photographs by Jerry Holt

A 16

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE A.P.W.U. AREA LOCAL AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION-AFL-CIO



Yvonne Moore, secretary-treasurer of the American Postal Workers Local 96, is a United

MEMPHIS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

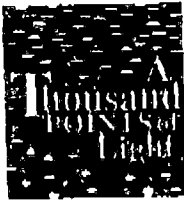
VIEWPOINT

Volunteers find time to help

THE Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.

Today's points of light:

After she moved to Ripley, Tenn., 10 years ago Lyn Walker started a Baptist Hospital League and a Humane Society. She also became active in the Junior Auxiliary, a service group working primarily with children. One year, she was president of three organizations at the same time. She also was soliciting blood donations in the community and became an active volunteer for Lifeblood. She now works with Lifeblood throughout Lauderdale County. "I am a wonderful beggar," she says. "I'm doing what I was meant to do. In the past I begged for money; now I beg for blood. Blood is so essential." And her new position allows her to spend more time with her 6- and 8-year-old sons, her 12-year-old daughter and her "ever supportive" husband, Jody.



Because it tears her up to think of a young child out on the street, Lora Slocum has welcomed 11 foster children, ages 2 days to 6 years, into her home in the past five years. She and her husband adopted one of the children and they have two of their own. Some of the foster children were mistreated, some neglected, some hungry. "We let them know they're loved and cared for," the 25-year-old Parkway Village resident says.

Despite the time it takes to care for many children, Mrs. Slocum managed to help Knight Arnold Church of Christ design a resource room for teachers. With her husband she compiled a list of teaching resources and made a catalog. In addition, Mrs. Slocum teaches Bible classes at the church.

When Dana Poteat's neighbor's home in Forrest City, Ark., was broken into, the community organized a Neighborhood Watch. When the same youngsters broke into her home a few months later, Ms. Poteat decided something had to be done about the juvenile laws in her state.

She and her neighbors organized CAPER, Community and Police Equal Results. The group is working to study the existing laws and change, through legislative action, those that allow juveniles to be released with no punishment for crimes other than murder, rape or aggravated assault; to work with state authorities to create programs, such as boot camps for juvenile offenders; and to institute follow-up

programs to support the youngsters once they are released back into the community.

Others counted on Geneva Walker's help for decades. The 62-year-old Memphis Area Legal Services employee is credited with helping desegregate Memphis schools, working as Title I chairman when her 10 children were youngsters.

She has worked with both the NAACP and the Urban League, helping to find people in need. Better race relations are an important goal for Mrs. Walker. She has spearheaded the effort to get blacks and whites together at her church.

For the past five years, members of the black Centenary United Methodist Church have met with the largely white congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church for fun and fellowship.

Rev. Jim Stanford, in his capacity as senior pastor at Woodland Presbyterian Church in Memphis, has a full schedule.

The church is involved with Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association and participates as a feeder church for its food system, regularly filling sacks of groceries and delivering them to St. Patrick's Catholic Church for distribution. Church members are actively involved in Habitat for Humanity and other community projects in the Memphis area.

Mr. Stanford schedules what free time he does have to include a regular drive to Corinth, Miss., to help an elderly woman who was a parishioner in a former church. He helps her shop for groceries, keep appointments, pay bills and get repairs done around the house. She has no family and as Mr. Stanford says, "she needs company and companionship and knowing someone is there for her."

Julie Borys, 41, volunteers to make her neighborhood "a comfortable, stable place for all ages, races and economic levels." As president of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association (VECA), she devotes many hours to the issues affecting the area's 3,500 households. She attends or monitors meetings of the City Council, school board, Board of Adjustments and the Land Use Control Board on behalf of her neighborhood and others near it.

"I've discovered that no matter what the neighborhood, we all have similar concerns," she says.

"We in the Vollintine-Evergreen area are trying to connect with other neighborhoods and advocate for them as well."

Mrs. Borys is a member of the advisory

board of the Center for Neighborhoods, which, she says, "offers support and a general focus for VECA and other neighborhood associations."

Verties Sells of Whitehaven, the 47-year-old Shelby State basketball coach, is committed to young people.

Each summer he holds a free basketball clinic for more than 200 boys and, during the winter, he allows community center directors to bring youngsters to Shelby State basketball games free of charge. He works with amateur athletes in AAU competition and opens up the gym at Shelby State as often as possible to allow young people to play. He is a frequent speaker in Memphis and Shelby County schools, giving up to 75 speeches a year.

"Whatever I can do for youngsters, I do it," he says.

Jose Arturo Zapeda, pastor of the First Hispanic Baptist Church, and church members offer help to Spanish-speaking persons in Memphis, despite being "a small, poor church." They teach the Bible and sing hymns to Spanish inmates in jail on Sunday afternoons. They help find clothing, shelter and jobs for those new to Memphis. They also help Hispanics with immigration matters, teach them English and prepare them for citizenship tests.

Memphis area hospitals call on Mr. Zapeda and others to serve as translators for Spanish-speaking patients. "We have few resources but do what we can," he says.

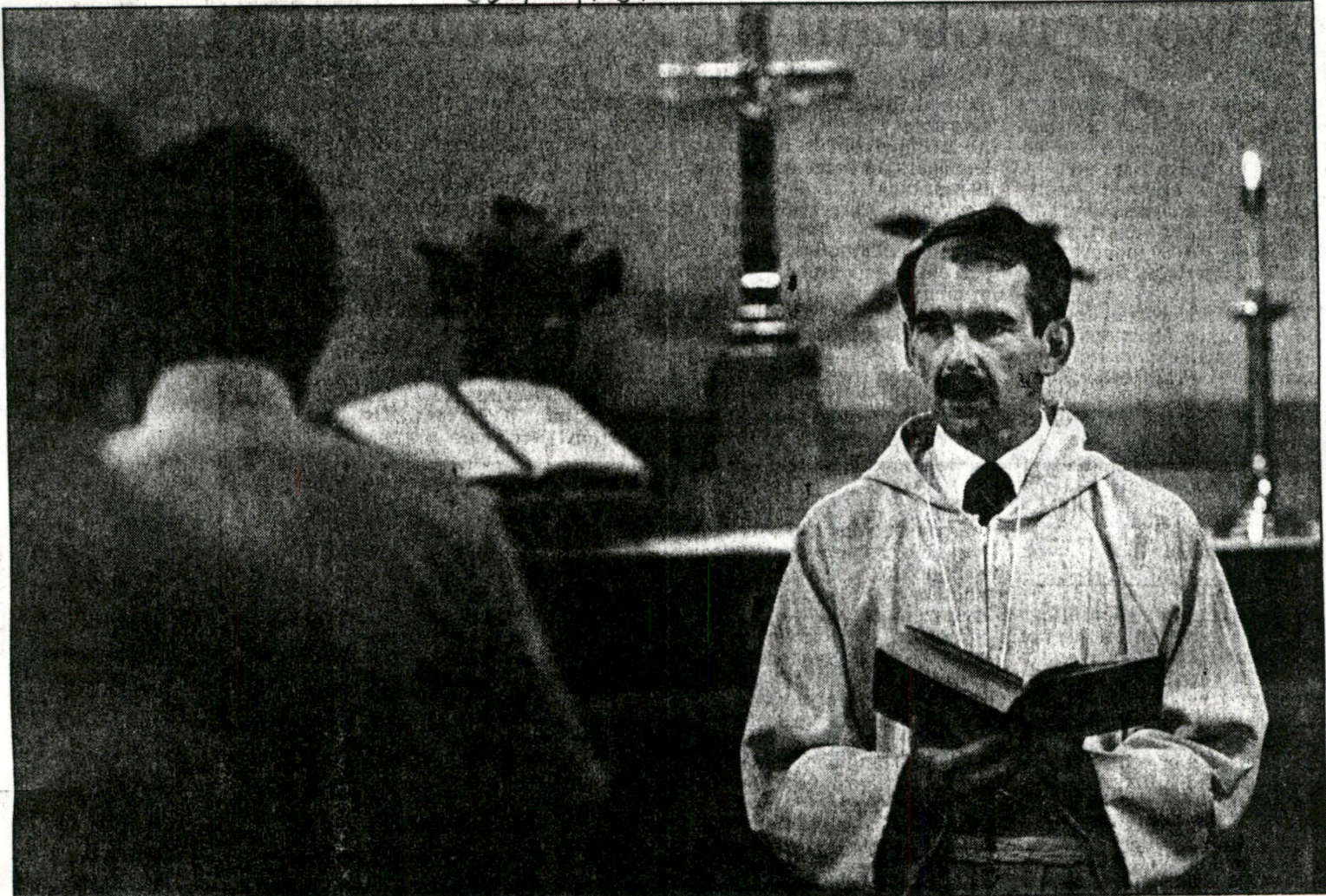
"We're willing to help anyone, not just Hispanics."

Businessman Walker Uihorn, 52, of East Memphis, is bullish on his city and gives much of his time to it. "I've never seen a community with so many good, positive things going on," he says.

Uihorn is on the board of directors and the leadership committee of the Boys' Club of Memphis. He has served as president of the Naval League and the Memphis Naval Academy Alumni Group and was recently selected by the area military commands as the recipient of the Chamber of Commerce's Civilian of the Year Award.

He is on the board of St. Mary's School and is an active member and former vestryman of the Church of the Holy Communion.

He has been involved for many years in Carnival Memphis and will serve as its president in 1991. He sees the future of carnival as not only saluting industry but also promoting tourism as well. Uihorn is an enthusiastic member of the board of Memphis Museums and is a member of the Germantown Rotary Club.



John McCawley conducts a service at Our Savior Lutheran Church, a congregation of 150 for which he is lay minister.

Changing things for the better

CW2 John McCawley's driving credo is simple: "If you don't like something, do something to change it for the better."

At Defense Depot Memphis, McCawley is responsible for the sanitary handling of rations and foodstuffs shipped to the military around the world.

It's a job he's done for the Army in Thailand and Germany, among other places, over the past 18½ years. McCawley, 38, says he plans to retire at the Defense Depot.

Since August, he has served as the lay minister to Our Savior Lutheran Church, a congregation of 150.

"Our church burned in November so since then we've been holding services at Christ Church Episcopal," he said.

McCawley said he originally offered to "help out with the services," but his offer of help evolved into a full-time ministry for him. "Now it's expected that I will do the Sunday service."

McCawley is the congregation's vice president and chairman of the call committee, the group responsible for hiring a full-time minister to replace him as the preacher.

He also serves as an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 30 at Whitehaven United Methodist Church.

"I was in scouting back when I was a kid, in Waukesha, Wis., outside Milwaukee. I know what a positive impact that has on boys' lives. Several scoutmasters made a tremendous impression on me and this is my way of repaying them for their work."

McCawley and his wife, Laura, have three sons, ages 9 to 14. All are involved in scouting.

Why does he volunteer? "I don't know," he said, reflective

ly. "A job needs to be done and someone needs to do it. I think, 'I could do that, I could help.' And the next thing, I've volunteered."

Providing skills to benefit others

Getting fired up about his favorite youth service program should be a natural for M. Gy. Sgt. Conrad Belanger.

Belanger is veteran of more than 25 years in the Marine Corps, all of it as a firefighter and aviation rescue specialist.

He is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the firefighting school at the Memphis Naval Air Station at Millington.

Volunteer work is, in part, a busman's holiday for Belanger.



Conrad Belanger

His volunteer work includes tours and demonstrations of firefighting techniques and fire safety for school groups and special-education students and being a volunteer counselor for American Legion Boys' State, a position in which he has served for the past six years.

"Those kids are the cream of the crop — really outstanding kids. They come from all different types of circumstances — rich and poor, black and white — but they are uniformly outstanding academic-wise, with outstanding character and determination."

"They really keep you on your toes, not from the standpoint of behavior or anything like that, but from trying to learn more about government and citizenship," he said.

In addition to his work with Boys' State and various tour groups and demonstrations, Belanger has helped with classes on

cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for Boy Scouts and for the Millington Police Reserve. "I wouldn't want anyone to think that I'm providing that training on my own," Belanger said. "I have a lot of help from all the instructors here at the school."

"I like relating to the people and providing them with skills and knowledge that will be of benefit to them and to others."

Turning moves into an asset

Cmdr. Michael J. Donohoe has used the wide variety of experiences he has had as a Coast Guard brat and Coast Guard officer to offer different perspectives to several organizations.

"I grew up in the Coast Guard (his father is a retired Coast Guard captain) and I really have

no hometown. We lived all over the place. And over the past 17 years in the Coast Guard, we've had a lot of different assignments," said Donohoe, 40.

"That has provided me with a lot of different experiences — different ways of looking at problems. I can offer people some different perspectives on situations and I try to do that."

For the Coast Guard, he commands the Memphis Marine Safety Office, which is the coordinator of federal law enforcement activities dealing with the Mississippi River and its tributaries (Arkansas, Oklahoma, West Tennessee and North Mississippi).



Michael J. Donohoe

He also is assistant Cubmaster for Troop 274 of the Cub Scouts at Holy Rosary Church, a member of the school commission at Holy Rosary School, a board member for the Mid-South chapter of the American Red Cross and a volunteer working with the Military Affairs Council of the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

Why does he get involved? "It just sort of happens to you. It's not all giving. I learn a lot and I meet a lot of interesting people. I visit organizations and I sometimes see ways that improvements can be made."

"I think it's incumbent on me to get involved. It's important to share one's talents."

Perseverance lands Jaycees

Joseph T. "Joe" Kirkland Jr. spent the past nine years trying to get a national Jaycee convention in Memphis. Last month, Kirkland and about 250 volunteers said goodbye to the 4,415 men and women who attended the four-day event.

Kirkland, 39, headed up the convention effort, but he had to depend on others to make sure the right person had the keys to the north concession stand, or that a minimum of 2,800 delegates would be eating lunch on Thursday, or seeing that plain — not crunchy — peanut butter was in the dressing room for Three Dog Night at the Saturday night dance.

Kirkland stayed in touch with others within the organization who were seeing to the millions of little details by handing out 24 walkie-talkies, 20 beepers and eight cellular telephones.

When the battery of his cellular phone ran down, Kirkland was still in touch — with a beeper strapped to his side and a walkie-talkie in his hand. And despite the potential for mayhem, Kirkland remained calm. "I've got good people working with me. You have to depend on them," he said.

The idea of hosting a national convention started when the local president of the Memphis Jaycees threw away a piece of paper asking Memphis to bid for the event. Kirkland was told that Memphis didn't have enough hotel rooms. Undaunted, Kirkland talked to Marti Kuhn with the Memphis Cook Convention Center.

"How many motel rooms are in Memphis?" Kirkland asked.

"How many does there need to be?" Ms. Kuhn is said to have replied.

"Six thousand," he said.

"Then, we have 7,500," she answered.

That was in 1980. "Looking back, it was probably the stupidest thing I've ever done," he acknowledged. "Everybody told me it couldn't be done, and I don't like that."

But despite the long hours, the headaches and lost revenues from a neglected law practice, Kirkland said the experience taught him how to manage volunteers: "If you can manage volunteers and do that effectively, then you can do anything. Plus, I get the personal satisfaction of seeing something important

Spearheading the United Way

In the early 1970s Susan H. Sanford, 44, could have been considered a professional volunteer. She was married, and her husband's income allowed her the luxury of getting involved.

Now divorced and working as a professional fund-raiser for the Memphis Arts Council, she still finds time to volunteer.

Currently, she's chairing the governing board of the United Way, the largest fund-raising effort in Memphis. Last year, 9,000 United Way volunteers raised \$16.5 million for 58 agencies in the community.

She's the first woman to chair Memphis' United Way board.

"Traditionally, men have been the gender who have been able to get that kind of money from one another," she said.

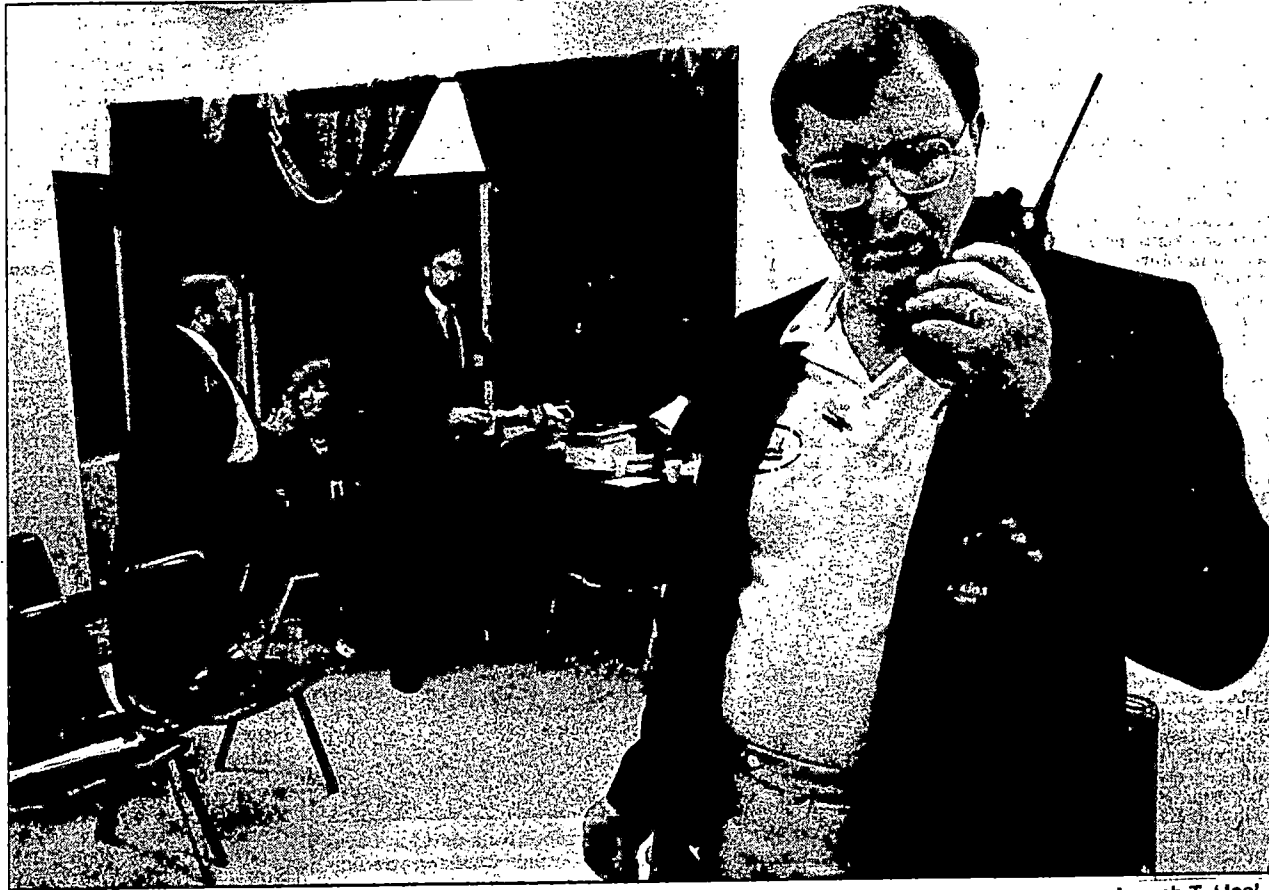
But as more women enter the work force and more men learn to volunteer, she said, "The whole notion of volunteers has changed drastically. Many, many volunteers work. It's not just the ladies stuffing envelopes any more. It's marketing, public relations and accounting. And organizations have had to change to meet the needs of the new volunteer. Sometimes, it's as simple as meeting at night rather than at 10 o'clock in the morning."

When she was in her mid-20s, Ms. Sanford lived in Chicago, where she loved the big city life. But, "I personally had a need to be a part of the community and to make a difference," she said.

With that in mind, she returned to Memphis in 1969.

"It is my hometown. I have a love/hate relationship with my city. There are so many things we need."

Ms. Sanford and others saw that need. That is why they founded Leadership Memphis and the Volunteer Center of Memphis.



Joseph T. "Joe" Kirkland Jr. (above) directed volunteers last month at the Jaycee convention — an event he spent nine years in bringing to Memphis.

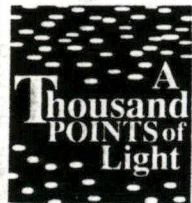


Sanford

VIEWPOINT

Mid-South reaps huge rewards from the efforts of volunteers

By Steve Gaither



A crippling childhood accident and arthritis haven't stopped Susie Bryant from doing what she considers her Christian calling.

Mrs. Bryant, who is in St. Louis caring for a sick brother, founded the Orange Mound Settlement House more than five years ago as a neighborhood assistance agency. Volunteer staff provide information to the needy and help them find the help they need from local public and private agencies that provide emergency rent assistance, food, clothes, counseling or some other aid. The Settlement House operates out of an annex building at Mrs. Bryant's church, Mt. Gilliam Baptist Church at 1029 Raymond.



Mrs. Bryant

Through the agency Mrs. Bryant started a program to deliver food commodities provided by the city and county to sick and elderly people in the Orange Mound area using volunteers she recruited from around her home at 2567 Select.

"They have been beautiful to work with," Mrs. Bryant said of the volunteers and assistance groups.

"I am a Christian and I belong to a mission organization. We always go to conventions and take classes on help-

ing your neighbor."

Mrs. Bryant, who will be 85 July 29, said she remembers her mother doing similar volunteer work, such as taking food to sick people in the neighborhood.

"That's what led me into it. I also had a teacher in a Christian boarding school (in Itta Bena, Miss.) who was very good to children. That inspired me."

Mrs. Bryant said she has turned over daily supervision of the food delivery program because she has trouble walking, even with a walker for support. She had an accident as a child that partially crippled her legs, but Mrs. Bryant said she can't remember what happened. Arthritis has also started taking its toll in recent years, she said.

A past president of the Christian Benevolent Credit Union and the first president of the Dunbar School Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. Bryant also volunteered her time to work in her home with children from the Porter Leath Children's Center.

Other points of light in The Mid-South:

Sally Banks, 61, started volunteering when she was a little girl.

"I rescued every cat I'd see on the street and volunteered to keep it well. If we kept them up, my mother allowed my sister and me to keep the cats we found." This spirit has translated into 14 years of volunteering at the Memphis Humane Society and nine years at MIFA. She volunteers two days a week at the humane society and delivers meals for MIFA another two days. At the humane society she has served as president and has worked on the education program teaching children in schools how to care and treat pets. "I attempt to tell the children that pets are not toys you get for Christmas and throw away in six weeks. When properly cared for, they can give you so much

love and happiness." Seven years ago, Ms. Banks started the humane society's Pet Therapy program. With her standard poodles, Oliver Twist and Victoria, she visits patients in hospitals and nursing homes. "We go into the rooms and the patients see, touch and love the pets, then they seem to open up and want to talk. It's marvelous therapy." Ms. Banks lives in East Memphis with her four dogs, three cats and a raccoon.

Hector Flores, 50, of Midtown, recalls the troubles of Spanish-speaking immigrants: "I've been there myself," he says of his arrival in the United States from Mexico at age 24. "I wish I had had someone to help." Today, he volunteers through Sacred Heart Catholic Church as minister of the Hispanic poor in Memphis — working to aid newcomers to the Hispanic community with language, legal, employment, medical and housing problems. But to Flores, a Memphian for 22 years, charity remains a religious obligation blind to color. Earlier this year, he gave care and free housing from his rental properties for several months to a transient Anglo couple and their four children.

Dorothy Moran, neighbors say, has been the Yard of the Month committee of the Stagepark Homeowners Association for as long as they can remember. "When you can't get somebody else to do these things, you just keep doing them," responds the Raleigh association's secretary. And for 18 years, the registered nurse has just kept volunteering one day a week for the Red Cross at the Memphis Naval Air Station at Millington, where her husband Lloyd retired from the Navy in 1967. "When people help you, then you turn around and help them," says Dot, 62, who also volunteers in the nursery at her church, Raleigh Baptist, and takes flowers and vegetables to friends and

neighbors.

Farrell Roe, 57, of Jackson, Tenn., volunteered to have a family that played together. Roe and his wife of 37 years, Jane, have six children and 13 grandchildren. "Dealing with kids is what it's all about," says the South Central Bell supervisor, who admits slowing down to four to five hours of volunteer work weekly. His credits include time with Scouts, PTAs, Sunday School and youth baseball. "I've got to be doing something constructive," says the National Guard colonel. "These are things the family could come along with and support." President of the Jackson Optimist Club, he will be installed as Tennessee district governor in Memphis Aug. 12.

Dr. Sunny Hinshaw, 38, a veterinarian of Springdale, Ark., be-

A Thousand Points of Light

The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. To suggest people for this feature, please fill out this coupon and send it to:

A Thousand Points of Light
The Commercial Appeal
Box 364
Memphis, TN 38101

Name of nominee: _____

His or her address: _____

Nominee's phone: home () work () _____

Here's what this person does to help others: _____

Your name: _____ phone: () _____

lieves "you do the best you can with what you have." About seven years ago, when concerned residents began discussing problems at the city pound, she believed that, because of her profession, she had the opportunity and responsibility to do something about the situation. Working 10 hours a week after her clinic time, she established the Adopt-A-Pet program to replace the city operation. Serving Springdale, surrounding counties, northeast Oklahoma and southwest Missouri, the new program has increased the pet adoption rate from 5 per cent to 30-40 per cent, nearly three times that of most city or county pounds.

Steve Gaither is a reporter for The Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal is featuring a thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts.