

TRUE STORIES



COLLECT NEEDED ITEMS: Longtime volunteer Mary Zaffino rallied 2,000 others in Pennsylvania to: collect food, clothes, socks, books and toys for the ill and needy; clean up town; and raise money to fix a landmark.



REAL COMMUNITYWIDE PARTICIPATION: Amanda Renelt, 15, of Rosholt, S.D., organized more than half of her town's population to participate in a community-wide cleanup and outreach effort. Volunteers cleaned streets, public parks and the community center; spruced up the fire and ambulance buildings; collected clothing, food and pet supplies for charities; and entertained at a senior center.



TAKE CARE OF A NEIGHBOR: Delmarva Montgomery and Lauren Davis, both 10, delivered personal-care items to an older needy friend in Maryland.



LOOK AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY: Gary Mills and sons, Brandon and Dylan, reset headstones, cleared trash and repaired the fence at a Santa Rosa, Calif., historic cemetery.



COLLECT FOOD: With the help of family and friends, sisters Mildred and Violet Steffen collected 1,270 pounds of groceries for two food banks in Indiana.



CONSULT SHELTER WISHLISTS: Rosemary Lincoln-Clark and Gloria Jardine in Massachusetts collected clothes and toys and held a raffle to buy a vacuum cleaner for a women's shelter.



RAISE NEEDED CASH: In Easton, Mass., 8th grader Erin Conley and 12 friends raised \$600 for a local organization that helps needy residents.



COLLECT DONATIONS: Elizabeth Nolan and six family members collected donations for a pediatric HIV program and visited residents at a Connecticut convalescent home.



MAKE A SPECIAL DONATION: In Des Moines, Iowa, the four Hendrix brothers, Alex and Ben, 8, and Tom and Drew, 6, donated books, games and stuffed animals -- their own favorites -- to the hospice where their stepfather, Dennis, died from a brain tumor in January 1995.



BOOST YOUR PASSION: Adam Page, 13, gave \$120 -- a year's allowance -- to feed and care for dogs and cats at the Robert Potter League for Animals in Rhode Island, where he volunteers.



HELP OTHERS TO GIVE: Dottie Pickerel, 65, and grandchildren, Andrew and Ann Elyse, gave three laundry baskets full of food and personal care items to the Women and Children's Abuse Shelter in Virginia.



VISIT HOSPITALS: Ilana Gildenblatt 15, of Cincinnati, Ohio, brought four friends to spend an afternoon and cheer 30 young patients at a hospital burn unit celebrating with Halloween activities as part of her annual "Mitzvah-thon," which raised \$3,600 for the unit two months earlier.



SPREAD SOME CHEER: The Schiel, Shantz and Golden cousins of Nebraska, ages 9-15, celebrated Halloween with residents of a local nursing home.



CHEER JUST ONE PERSON: Kendra Jochimsen, 17, and friends in Wisconsin raised \$200 for a teenage cancer patient to spend a weekend home from the hospital and helped nursing home residents make arts and crafts for hospice patients.



CONTACT A VOLUNTEER CENTER: The Volunteer Center of Mid-Michigan rallied 250 volunteers to work on seven community projects, from collecting toys and blankets to cleaning a shelter for battered women.

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