

Volunteering a steep hill but a powerful tool

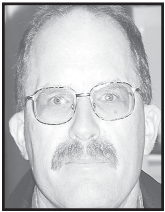
The idea of volunteering can be a very steep hill to climb. It is a powerful tool both in the person who is doing the volunteering and the child who is receiving the time.

At times, a volunteer may wonder, "What in the world have I gotten myself into?"

But I would bet that most of the time, a person is glad that he contributed. A parent or guardian will also believe that a mentor for this child is not worth the time, just another thing to have to mess with.

In reality, this friendship will relieve some of the pressure if the parent accepts the help in a positive way.

Patience and communication can work wonders if given time, allowing a friendship to develop. But just wanting time and material needs quickly destroys the magic of "making a difference."



dennis daise

- big brothers big sisters

An article in *The Denver Post*, explains how volunteering can be a reward.

The pilots noted in the article flew for Angel Flight, an organization consisting of 5,000 volunteer pilots nationwide with 200 pilots in Colorado.

Missions range from flying cancer patients, delivering donated blood and disaster situations. I believe these pilots are using their time in a constructive way, contributing in a way that those who are helped can only repay them by giving of their time.

ing from not trusting the organization, to not having time, to not having a reason.

The article told of some pilots who had only known a man for two hours, but they cried tears of joy and sadness once they returned home. They had flown the man to see his dying daughter, and the man was able to spend the last four hours of her life with her.

Another pilot, Rick Russon, explained that "When you write a check to a charity, you never see where that money goes... But when you look right into the eyes of the

person you've helped, it's indescribable."

When I recently visited with a Big in our community, she described the same feelings. It has been a slow process but the trust and the appreciation that the Little has discovered from the Big is priceless. Yes, there can be problems with a match, but the effort is worth it.

Another pilot, Kevin Kauffman shared that he had been struck with a strep infection that was so serious that he feared for his life.

Now recovered, he shared why he volunteered: "My way of coping with the blessing of having survived, my way of thanking God for that, is to give other people an opportunity to be closer to their loved ones..."

Kauffman finished the article by stating that "in life, you're either a spectator or a participant... There's

a great sense of fulfillment in this, beyond your job, your family, and your community involvement..."

Sherman County Big Brothers Big Sisters depends on the community to give. Not in a monetary sense, even though that is important, but with your effort and your time.

Money will help the affiliate to continue, but without the community buying into it with their hearts, the agency is just a building.

Even if you don't become a volunteer or check out the program concerning your child, be sure that you give something positive back to your community.

To close, the organization would like to thank the Ambassadors for welcoming the affiliate with the ribbon cutting Sept. 11th. May the toast on that day be a start of many successful matches in the years to come.



Raelyn Lea Hillmer

Baby girl born in September

Raelyn Lea Hillmer was born Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces. Richard and Tracy Hillmer of Goodland are her parents.

Kenneth and Molly Hillmer of Goodland and Rita Coonts of Cheyenne, Wyo., are her grandparents. June Louser of Goodland and Nola Mangus of Burlington are her great-grandmothers.

Flu shots to be given next week at health department

Flu season is fast approaching. Shots will be given the last week of September, the 29th and 30th, and the first three days of October. Due to a new ruling of privacy that became effective in July, these shots will be given at the health department on Broadway from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each of those days.

No appointment is needed, but there may be a little waiting, depending on how many people show each day. These shots will be like last year but not at the senior center.

Sorry for the change, but one has to abide by rules and regulations. Mark your calendar if you want to get these shots. I saw a note in a letter from Colorado where the flu shots there were \$22 if not billed to your Medicare or other insurance. The cost here will be \$15 if no insurance.

I'm feeling much better, but I still have some tiredness that will undoubtedly leave one of these days. The McClung family next door have had some similar things, Ana first and now Gary.

Ana lost some school time, and Gary should have but kept going. Laura said they are both still fighting that awful tired feeling. They've



jan zwetzig

- goodland gazette

had some bad headaches, which I didn't have for an extended time, like they are facing. I hope this isn't a sign of what's to come with this winter season coming on.

My friend in the canyon says they are still seeing bears, but hopefully that will cease as soon as they get their tummies full, and they crawl into their dens for the winter.

This cooler weather has been great for sleeping. A couple at the center said their gardens got hit pretty good Thursday night, as most of their vines and stems of plants are beginning to turn very dark and droopy.

One didn't think his tomatoes got hit too hard but doubts they will all turn ripe now with this frost. The plants were in a sheltered part of the garden, so they fared better than most of his other.

I can't believe October isn't here and the stores are already display-

ing Christmas things. Why the hurry? Don't they understand that we have Halloween and Thanksgiving to do before Christmas is here?

And yet the aisles are getting full with stuff. No wonder people are burned out by the time the holiday arrives.

I saw on the television roll around ads where Bob and Ione Todd are having a moving sale. I've known for several weeks they were wanting to move closer to their families and doctors in Colorado, but it all depended upon the sale of their home here.

Apparently things look okay to do it. I'm sure sorry to see them go, but they have to do what is best for them. I wish them the best in this new venture.

Christie is getting a little bit more adjusted to her new surroundings but still talks about her homecoming. Time will tell how this thing turns out.

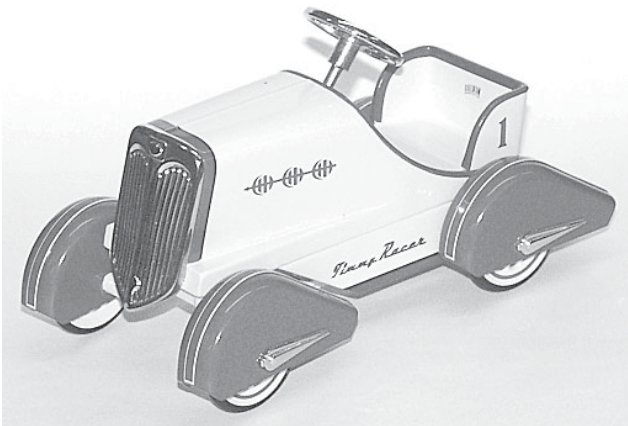
The only birthday this week is that of Leonard Kashka. I fooled you and remembered it this year.

Happy birthday.

The latest word on Viola Jacobs, who is in the hospital either in Wichita or Topeka, is that she is still in very guarded condition. A family member said visitation is lim-

ited, so maybe a card sent to her Goodland address might be more appropriate.

I don't see anything lying around here, so I will close for now. See you next week, God willing.



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