

Lights! Camera! Seeds of Hope

It sometimes seemed like the phones just weren't ringing, and not as many people as normal were walking in, but Oberlin's annual Seeds of Hope Telethon had no problem raising more than \$10,000 for area organizations Saturday.

To bring in money during the telethon, donated items are auctioned off, people pledge money for every lap they walk around The Gateway's indoor track, and homemade pies and food are sold to the audience and crew. The activities throughout the day Saturday bring in money for charitable organizations in the county. The whole thing is broadcast on Oberlin's cable access channel 7.

Organizer Anita Hirsch over 159 items were donated for the auctions this year, including all-day and hourly on-air auctions and live and silent auctions off camera. She said the organizers appreciate the donations from area businesses.

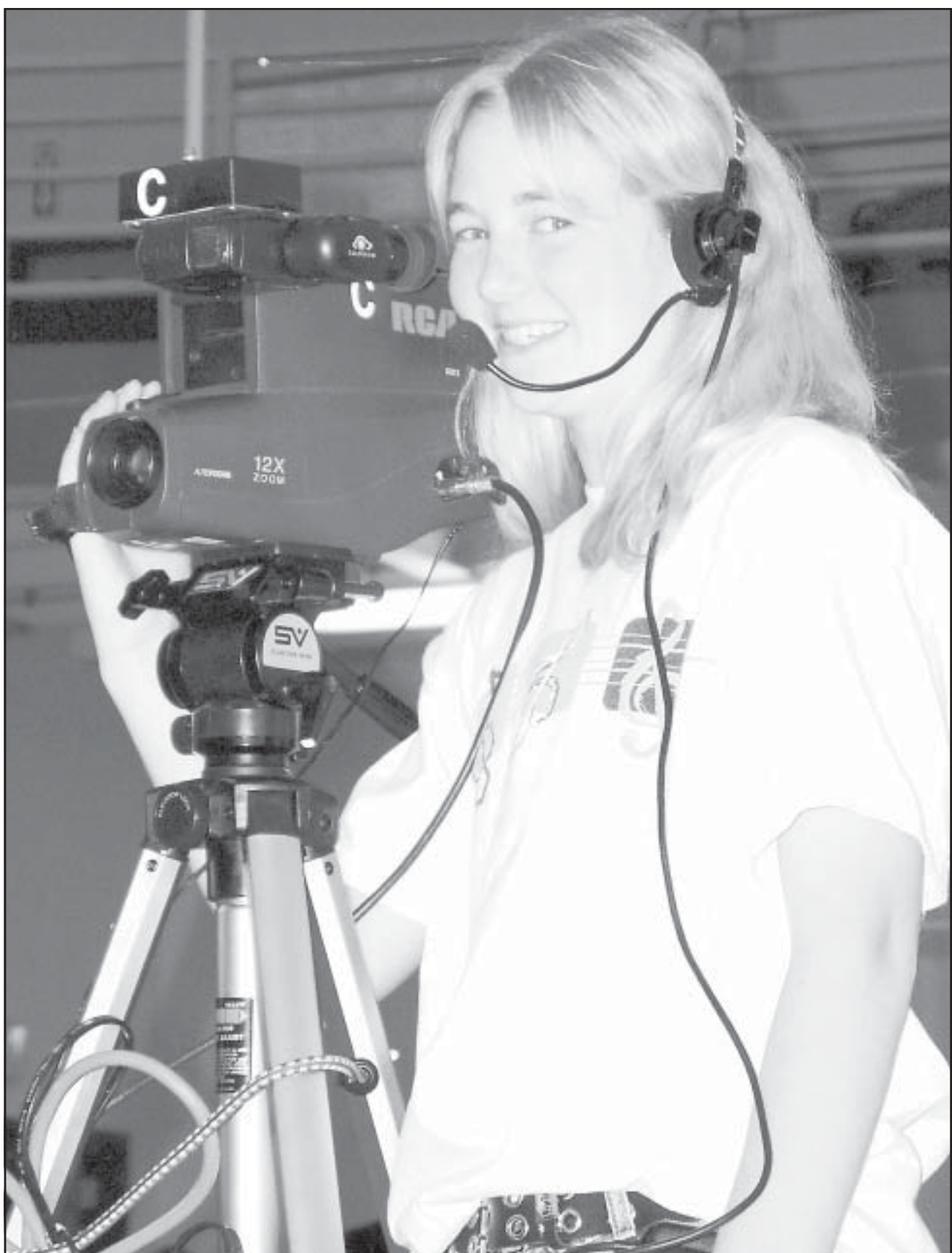
Also appreciated were all the performers who gave their time throughout the day. Local talent ranged from piano players, to singers to the Boy Scouts singing about purple stew. They performed throughout

the telecast.

In the evening, said Mrs. Hirsch, Glenda Macy won the chili cook off. Afterwards, the telethon's first live auction was held, featuring Jennings auctioneer Mike Bailey. Mrs. Hirsch said there was some confusion from people who wanted to see the items on television and be able to call in to bid.

She said the group was sorry for the confusion, but all in all things sold well with the new event and they plan on doing it again next year.

This year, 16 groups will benefit from the telethon including Decatur County Stand Against Violence, Decatur County Museum, Czech Museum in Jennings, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, Forget-me-Nots and Doorway Ministries; Jennings City Library; Decatur County Ministerial Association; Decatur County Fair Board; Decatur County Relay for Life; Sunflower Cinema; Oberlin Lions Club; Oberlin Teens for Christ; Boy Scouts; Oberlin Swim Club and the Decatur Area Theater Association.



MANNING A CAMERA, Marci Metcalf was one of dozens of volunteers to help at the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon on Saturday.



CATCHING THE PHONES, Vicky Ray (above left), Joyce Hartzog and Mike Helm (on phone) took bids and donations. Taylor Macfee and her piano teacher, Elisabeth Orr (below), waited to perform. Lois Carlson (above left) offered tunes on the harmonica, and Farra McChesney (below left) looked over the silent auction bids.



Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes