

VIOLA BLYTHE CENTER PHOTO ALBUM

by Nagy

St. Patrick's Volunteer Meeting

3/15/96

Viola Blythe
Debbie Carvalho
Mary Nicolls
Imogene Masters
(Picture taken by
Tom Goodwin)

Edwin Eugenio
Bill Masters
Manuel Padilla
Elder Gambill
Elder Holland



Debbie at family home

Newark

Stanley Blythe, community activist and husband of Newark social activist Viola Blythe, died Friday, March 31, 1995, at the Veterans Affairs Hospice in Menlo Park after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 76.

Born Feb. 20, 1919, in Macomb, Okla., he worked 25 years with a food machinery company until his retirement 10 years ago. He was a

recipient of the City of Newark's first Volunteer of the Year award.

Mr. Blythe also was a life member the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7906 of Niles. He enjoyed golf and poker. He lived 49 years in Newark.

In addition to his wife of 47 years, he is survived by a daughter, Debra Carvalho; two sisters, Maudie McGlasson of Clinton, Okla., and Myrtle Rittenhouse of Shawnee, Okla.; a brother, Orville Blythe of Morgan Hill; three grandchildren, Daniel, Demetria, and Desiree Carvalho, all of Newark; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, with a memorial service at noon, at Fremont Memorial Chapel, 3723 Peralta Blvd., Fremont.

Remembrances should be sent to the Viola Blythe Community Service Center, P.O. Box 362, Newark 94560.





Viola with Pat, cheer leader



Viola with Al, escort







Councilman Al Nagy
Senator Bill Lockyer
Honoree Viola Blythe
Mrs. Shirley Majors
Mrs. Leona Haggard of
Oklahoma
Director Debbie Carvalho

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1995 CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

Woman of the Year

Luncheon
March 20, 1995
Sacramento, California

SHELLY MONAHAN, Mistress of Ceremonies, KCRA News, Sacramento

MAUREEN MURRAY, Community Relations Program Manager, IBM

HONORABLE GRACE NAPOLITANO, Chair, Women's Legislative Caucus

HONORABLE KATHLEEN CONNELL, California State Controller

DR. SUSAN FORWARD

HONORABLE GRACE NAPOLITANO, Closing statements



SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY



STEPHANIE SECREST — Staff

Camp Fire Girl Kelsey St. Marie, 6, prepares a Thanksgiving food basket Saturday morning at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Camp Fire boys and girls made 20 baskets that will be

delivered to the Viola Blythe Community Service Center in Newark, from where they will be dispensed. Assembling the holiday baskets was a service project for the youth organization.

Local charities list wishes for season of giving

By Chris O'Connell
STAFF WRITER

It can be regarded as a staggering task or a great opportunity.

Heading into the holiday season in the Tri-Cities, the bad news is an increase in the number of people who are asking for meals, presents and other assistance from local charities.

The good news is there are so many

ways to help meet the need, from simply donating a turkey to lending a hand with gift-wrapping.

"I think it's going to be a pretty big Thanksgiving and Christmas," said Debbie Carvalho, who runs the nonprofit Viola Blythe Community Service Center in Newark.

In a nutshell, the wish list of major Tri-Cities nonprofit groups includes at least 5,000 turkeys, 17,000 toys and as

many volunteers as are willing to step forward. Always welcome, too, are boxes of instant stuffing and potatoes, canned yams, cranberry sauce and other fixings for holiday meals.

Given the combined population of more than 280,000 in Fremont, Union City and Newark, the task seems doable.

If the community responds — and nonprofit leaders point out that the Tri-Cities routinely does — then thousands

of people who otherwise would go without will have a brighter holiday. Nearly as important, charities that serve the needy year-round won't be wiped out entering 1996.

"Last year was one of the first times I had to go out and buy toys, (which) really puts a stress on the budget," Carvalho said.

Please see **Charities**, A-14

Continued from A-1

Generous-minded citizens have several options for helping:

► The Blythe center, run entirely on donations, hopes to supply 150 families with food baskets for Thanksgiving and another 250 families for Christmas. That's up from about 100 and 200 last year, respectively, Carvalho said.

Turkeys are needed most, along with side dishes, milk, baby food, baby formula and diapers. Grocery-store gift certificates are helpful.

The majority of people the center helps are from Newark, Carvalho said. The group operates out of a small building at 37365 Ash St., next to Ash Street Park. The building is rented from the city for \$1 a year.

The center also is planning its annual Christmas party next month for as many as 300 low-income children. New toys always are needed, Carvalho said.

The center also connects needy families with churches, businesses and families willing to "adopt" them for the holidays — that is, buy them food for holiday dinners and perhaps gifts as well. About 60 families were taken care of last year, Carvalho said.

The center also needs volunteers

to answer phones, type and file reports, sort and wash donated clothes, wrap gifts and pick up contributions. The center is open from noon to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 362, Newark, 94560. Or call 794-3437.

► The Tri-City Volunteers in Fremont expect to provide 1,200 food baskets for Thanksgiving and another 1,200 for Christmas, said Barbara Chabot, the executive director.

That is not a huge jump from last year, but the largest food-distribution center for needy people in the Tri-Cities is pinched now because it recently lost a \$5,000 annual grant from a private foundation, Chabot said. The lost money translates into more than 7,200 meals, since the nonprofit group, through bulk buying and other shrewd means, can provide a meal for 69 cents.

The volunteers serve people from all three cities, the majority of them families headed by working, low-paid adults, she said. Other clients are on welfare, are mentally ill or have problems with booze or drugs, Chabot said. About one in 10 are homeless.

The volunteers' only government funding is \$33,500 for food from the Federal Emergency Manage-

March 14, 1995
at



King's Restaurant
Newark

Al Nagy,
Chairman of the
Board giving
out awards

S-924 © 3M



Debbie giving credit
and praise to her parents



Chairman Nagy's
turn to make remarks



FANTASTIC!

Jean Ficklin, Retired Educator
receiving certificate



FANTASTIC!

Rev. Ralph Hall, Volunteer



EXCELLENT!

Volunteers
Extraordinaire


Christine Hodgkins
Ernest Huntley



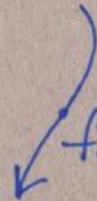
Mrs. Caravvalho expressing appreciation to Chairman Nagy







Imy Masters of Fremont has received the 1995 Viola Blythe Community Service Center Volunteer of the Year award. She volunteered more than 500 hours during the year. According to Debbie Carvalho, center direction, "Imy is a lifesaver. I've called on her so many times for help. She never says 'no' or 'I'm too busy.' "



 face hidden

Volunteers' Awards Day
 Debbie Carvalho,
 Director of the
 Viola Blythe Center
 partakes of tasty
 Chinese food!
9-924 © 3M



Bill
 Masters

Rudy Soto Edith Gene Marshall

Bay Area women receive honors

By Sam Delson
SACRAMENTO BUREAU

SACRAMENTO — An orphan who went on to personally aid more than 30,000 homeless and poor people in Alameda County was honored Monday by the Legislature as one of its 1995 Women of the Year.

✓ Viola Blythe of Newark, who left an Oklahoma orphanage in the late 1920s with a vow to "find a home for everyone there," was one of 10 East Bay women whose community service contributions were celebrated in the Capitol.

The Women of the Year program, started by former Assemblywoman Sally Tanner of El Monte, allows each member of the Legislature to designate a constituent for recognition. Honorees are introduced on the floor of the Legislature, presented with a corsage and plaque, and feted at a luncheon.

✓ The 78-year-old Blythe, began using her garage as a distribution point for food, clothing and blankets 40 years ago.

Other honorees from the East Bay included:

➤ Young Shin of Oakland, executive director of Asian Immigrant Women Advocates, who was selected by Assemblyman Tom Bates, D-Oakland.

➤ Lois Workman of Alameda, a teacher and community volunteer, selected by Assemblywoman Barbara Lee, D-Oakland.

➤ Nancy Gans, 86, a teacher and sociologist who organized the first nursery for disabled children in Berkeley and founded senior centers in El Cerrito and San Francisco.

➤ Brenda Knight, who served as the first woman coach, manager and president of Oakland Babe Ruth Baseball and is now a trustee of the Peralta Community College District.

➤ Ann Igarashi Boylan, a Union City teacher who designed an innovative program for educationally disadvantaged students.

➤ Sister John Marie Samaha, a 52-year member of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Fremont, who serves as a pastoral associate at St. Joseph's Parish and has dedicated herself to serving the homeless and counseling bereaved families.

➤ Rollie Mullen of Moraga, who established a housing and employment center in Contra Costa County for battered women and their children.

➤ Concord Mayor Helen Allen.

➤ Rosie Bachand of Stockton, a nurse and clinic developer for the Tracy Community Memorial Hospital.

Volunteer: Children hold special place in his heart

Continued from A-1

When it comes to the Youth of the Year, Haas said he likes to see youngsters win who are "not necessarily the best athlete or valedictorians or bookworms at the school."

"I like to also recognize the kids who have turned their lives around and found positive ways to express themselves," he said.

Haas also volunteers many hours each month to the Newark D.A.R.E. program.

"I think it's the best drug (diversion) program around . . . and I think everyone should support it," he said.

Haas also helped convince the Newark Optimists Club to donate money to the police department to purchase a second police dog.

"Now, a lot of people were behind that . . . not just me," he protested. Others, however, say it was Haas who helped hammer the point home about how important the canine officers are to communities.

Children have a special place in Haas' heart.

It was Haas who began purchasing and delivering teddy bears to the Newark Police and Fire departments so they could hand them out to children in distress.

About six years ago, on his own, Haas began donating the bears. Once, after dropping off a fresh supply at the police department, Haas was approached by an officer who asked "Did you see that kid in the waiting room?" Haas said no, and was told the child had been molested.

"We gave him one of your teddy bears, and it made all the difference," the officer said. "We were able to interview him without any problems."

The memory is etched in Haas' mind. Since then, he has made certain both departments are well stocked in teddy bears.

Since 1982, Haas has been dressing up as Santa Claus (he owns the suit) and visiting local schools, convalescent homes and hospitals to cheer up developmentally challenged children.

"I love to let them sit on my lap, give them candies and watch them smile," he said. "And

it's kind of fun to joke around with the nurses . . . after all, nobody can get mad at Santa Claus."

Haas and his wife, Sandra, have raised four children; Linda, 34, Teri, 28, Edward, 24, and Kristyn, 23. He has one granddaughter named Kiley, 5, and one more on the way.

"She'll be called Hannah," Haas said with obvious pride.

Haas, an agent for State Farm Insurance in Newark, says it was his father who first motivated him to volunteer his time to help others.

"My father told me years ago if you don't give back a little bit you won't get much," he said.

Asked whether he deserved to be nominated, Haas quickly answered "Heck no."

"I belong to a community service organization, and that's what we do. Believe me, there are a lot more men and women out there who do more work than I. They may deserve the attention, but I don't," he continued.

"You don't do that kind of stuff for recognition . . . it's just fun."

Imogene W. Masters

Imogene Masters was the first woman to become a manager at McDonald's Restaurant in the Tri Cities.

Nowadays she volunteers 12 hours a week at the Viola Blythe Community Service Center in Newark and spends her days helping those in need, coming in even when she is sick, and taking over when Blythe herself was mourning the death of her husband in March.

A friend of Blythe's since they met at a bingo game, Masters began volunteering years ago when Blythe ran the Salvation Army.

"It's a rewarding experience," said the woman who retired in 1975 and who has raised three children.

"I believe in what Viola started, trying to help those people in need."

Masters uses the skills she honed during her time working as the bookkeeper for five local McDonald's restaurants, assisting in all the office duties it takes to run the Viola Blythe Center. She has done so for five years and is trained in all areas of services the center provides.

Fellow volunteers describe her as well-liked and professional. She has contributed 1,000 hours plus.



Masters

Bay Area women receive honors

By Sam Delson
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► Concord Mayor Helen Allen.

► Rosie Bachand of Stockton, a nurse and clinic developer for the Tracy Community Memorial Hospital.

NEWARK — The Viola Blythe Center benefitted from the **Newark Chamber of Commerce's** annual Christmas luncheon Wednesday, in the amount of \$412.50, Chamber executive Don Winn announced. The chamber added \$2.50 to the price of each lunch for the benefit. The turnout of 165 people at the Newark Hilton was more than double the largest turnout for any previous chamber luncheon, Winn said.

July Fourth special

NEWARK — The Viola Blythe Community Service Center will sponsor a fireworks stand as one of its fund-raising projects.

The center will offer a wide variety of fireworks produced by the American Eagle Fireworks Company. There will be two-for-one specials.

The center will also offer an illegal fireworks exchange.

People who bring in illegal fireworks and fire crackers will receive coupons good for items at local retailers.

The fireworks stand is located at 2900 Newpark Mall in the parking lot of the Glendale Federal Bank. The stand will be open from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Lunch for business people

NEWARK — The Chamber of Commerce is planning a holiday luncheon this month for business people looking to make contacts and help the needy.

Along with the usual opportunity to rub elbows with fellow merchants, the gathering will offer assistance to the nonprofit Viola Blythe Community Service Center.

Part of the proceeds from the \$15 admission price will go to the charity.

The event starts at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in the Newark-Fremont Hilton, 39900 Balentine Drive. Lunch is served at noon. To make reservations, call the chamber at 744-1000.

Center still seeking gifts, food

The Viola Blythe Community Service Center needs more children's gifts and food to brighten the holidays

and fill the stomachs of low-income families, according to the center's director.

Debbie Carvalho said her group plans to distribute food baskets and gifts to between 150 and 200 families during the week before Christmas. She said the group already scheduled a party for today to give toys to about 250 children.

She asks donors to drop off new or "like new" kids' presents and holiday foods (cranberries, turkeys, etc.) at the center, 37365 Ash St., Newark, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

Anyone with questions should call 794-3437.



Around the towns

Newark Tuesday, August 23, 1994

Gifts to food pantry: The nonprofit Viola Blythe Community Service Center received donations of about \$3,400 last week that will help feed low-income people until the holiday season. The Fremont Ford dealership gave the center nearly \$3,000 worth of food, while Safeway contributed a \$400 check, said Debbie Caravahlo, the center's director. The center is at 37365 Ash St. To donate, call 794-3437.





Viola dumping water over Al Nagy's head. Viola was surprised the cup contained water!

MAGICAL PARTY



CAROL PADOVAN — Staff

Donovan Ouelletee, 5, and Kayla Herring, 7, perform a magic act during a Christmas party at Newark's Schilling School Saturday for more than 250 underprivileged kids ages 3 to 10. The party was sponsored by the Viola Blythe Community Service Center.

Sharing a part of Christmas
fun at Schilling School festivities!







WISE KIDS BEARING GIFTS



KRISTY MacDONALD — Staff

Four-year-olds from Fremont Parent Nursery School delivered gifts Monday to Newark firefighters like Ernie Morua at Station No. 2. Firefighters will deliver the gifts, which are wrapped in paper decorated by the youngsters, to the Viola Blythe Center.

Nursery school teacher Barbara Mathias, who organized the gift-giving adventure, says "It's the first time we've done this, but it's been such a big hit and the kids are so into it, I'm sure we'll do it again."

Cargill

Just because the writer of a recent letter (Argus, 11-17) has a gripe with Cargill Salt, to try to take away the good it did for the Viola Blythe Center was uncalled for.

Through the generosity of the writer's Newark neighbors, Cargill collected 4,360 pounds of food for the center, then matched it at \$2 per pound. Does he realize the number of needy people that will be helped? Many thanks to all who brought food and cash donations to Cargill on "Share the Harvest" day.

The Viola Blythe Center is a non-profit organization that depends solely on donations from private individuals and the many businesses that contribute food, clothing, cash and toys. Keep up the good work, Cargill and all who help Viola's center.

On Dec. 18, Viola will have her annual Christmas party for the kids who otherwise would not receive toys or meet Santa Claus. If this writer could see the faces of these little kids when they open their gifts, I don't think he would be so mean as to mix politics and Viola's center in the same sentence.

Imogene Masters
Fremont

Aileen Fox
of
Cargill Salt
comes to the
rescue. Many
thanks to Cargill
employees!!

GREAT!

1994



September 1994

Congratulations
to
V.B.C.S Center

9-924 © 3M

THE ARGUS

Newark Days parade winners

The following entries won in the Newark Days parade Saturday.

Music

Marching Handbell Choir, California chapter of the Bell Ringers

Specialty group

U.S. Navy drill team

Best music score for school band

Wilcox High School, San Jose

Best overall high school band

Wilcox

Mayor's Trophy, best commercial entry

Unique Cycles, Pain Relief Center

Best float

"Bear-rels" of fun, Seaside parade of champions

Best high school band, class A

1. Wilcox

2. Logan

Best high school band, class B

1. Milpitas

2. American

Best middle school band

1. Redwood, Saratoga

2. Cesar Chavez

Best drum major

1. Wilcox High

2. Logan High

3. Milpitas High

Best majorette solo

American High

Best flag team

1. Logan

2. Wilcox

3. Redwood Middle School

4. Cesar Chavez Middle School

Best ID units

1. Wilcox

2. Redwood

3. American

4. Milpitas

Best baton solo, senior

Napa Pepperettes

Best baton solo, junior

Napa Pepperettes

Best drill captain, senior

Peacemakers

Best drill captain, junior

Peacemakers

Best comic

Tommee the clown

Best comic group

Joe Joe the Clown and Friends

Best baton corps, senior

1. K and K Twirlers

2. Napa Pepperettes

Best baton corps, junior

1. Napa Pepperettes

2. K and K Twirlers

Best military drill team

U.S. Navy

Best civilian marching unit

1. Graham School

2. Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

Best military color guard

U.S. Navy

Best color guard

Milpitas High School Navy JROTC

Best drill team, senior

1. Peacemakers

2. Milpitas Navy JROTC

Best drill team, junior

Peacemakers

Best professional float

Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Future

Best local amateur float

1. First Baptist Church

2. St. Edward's School and Carl's Jr.

3. Cattleman's Restaurant

4. Newark Senior Center

Best out-of-town amateur float

1. "Bear-rels" of fun, Seaside parade of champions

2. Cactus Corners

3. Revolucion y Norte

Best mounted group

Charros de Valle Del Sunol

Best family entry

The Cahills

Best color guard, senior

1. Shady Ladies of the Mother Lode

2. City of Benicia firefighters

Best matched pair

Lynne West and Maria Moore

Best horse-drawn vehicle

1. Wells Fargo stage coach

2. JMP Ranch

3. Newark City Council

Best mobile band

1. South Bay Traditional Jazz So-

ciety

2. Cedar Boulevard Neighborhood Church

3. Sweet Sensations

Best civilian marching band

1. Marching Handbell Choir

2. Gustine city band

3. Golden Gate Bell Ringers

Best vehicle club

1. Northern California Kit Car Club

2. Acorn A's Club, Brake-Away A's

3. Vintage military vehicles

Best historical vehicle

1. Orchard Supply Hardware

Best novelty vehicle

1. Grey Fox

2. Hall family

Best-decorated vehicle

1. K and K Twirlers

2. Viola Blythe Community Service Center

Best classic vehicle

1. Two Navy guys

2. Laura Boese

3. Children's grand marshal

Best civic club

1. Boy Scouts of America, Cub Pack 101

2. Newark Sister City Association

3. Friendship Forces

Best novelty group

1. Fabulous Flappers

2. Balloon Platoon

3. Ohlone College drama

Best novelty group, commercial

1. Unique Cycles, Pain Relief Center

2. Mason-McDuffie

3. Red Robin

Kids Kickoff Parade awards

Participation: K and K Twirlers

Most colorful: YMCA

Originality: Blue Angels marching unit

Spirit: Santa Paula third-grade cheerleaders

Creativity: Newark Soccer Night-hawks

Theme: Fremont Parent Nursery School

Sweepstakes: East Bay Recycle Group



ARLEEN NG — Staff

Pat Kite of Newark is surprised to have been named that city's volunteer of the year.

Community activist Kite flies from good deed to good deed

By Chris O'Connell
STAFF WRITER

NEWARK — Some people know her through the Newark Library League, others through the Viola Blythe Community Service Center.

She's active in groups ranging from the Chamber of Commerce to Tri-City Ecology. She has served as a judge for elementary school science fairs and local cable television awards. She also is an elected member of the Union Sanitary District board of directors.

Pat Kite spreads her time quite liberally around the city, and she was recognized for it Friday night as this year's Newark volunteer of the year. Created in 1984, the award was given during a city anniversary ball at the Newark-Premont Hilton.

Kite, the mother of four grown daughters, was

one of 11 nominees for the award. Along with tickets to Friday's ball, each received a certificate of appreciation from the city.

Earlier this week, Kite said she didn't expect to be nominated, let alone win the award.

"I was really surprised," she said. "You never think of yourself as being as worthy as other people."

Kite, 54, said she draws much of her inspiration from Viola Blythe, a longtime Newark resident and founder of the nonprofit center that bears her name. The center on Ash Street distributes food and clothes to about 3,000 needy people a year.

"I admire Viola an awful lot," said Kite, who began doing volunteer work in Newark soon after

Please see **Kite**, A-14

Kite: Honored as city's Volunteer of the Year

Continued from A-1

moving here in 1970.

Al Nagy, the city's vice mayor, said he nominated Kite because she is an ideal volunteer. As secretary of the board that oversees the Viola Blythe center, Kite keeps detailed minutes of meetings and writes hundreds of thank-you letters to supporters, Nagy said.

"To have somebody do it that thorough as a volunteer, you just don't normally find that," Nagy said, adding that Kite also raises money for nonprofit groups by writing grant applications. "When she gets involved, she can be counted on."

Kite, a professional writer and the author of several science books for children, said her community service provides a welcome break.

"I prefer people work, because in my writing career I spend most of my time in front of my computer," she said. "You mix them both because you want a complete life."

However, a devotion to books is

the reason she serves as a library league board member, Kite said. Last May, she organized a successful sale of used books that raised money for new children's books at the city library.

"We were kind of wondering who was going to take charge of it. She took it and ran with it," Nagy said.

"I love libraries," admitted Kite. "I've loved them from the time I was a kid in New York."

Although she grew up in bustling Manhattan, Kite said she managed to develop another love — for nature — because of a high school teacher who took classes on field trips. Now, Kite helps out with Tri-City Ecology fund-raisers and takes part in a yearly East Bay Regional Parks trail cleanup.

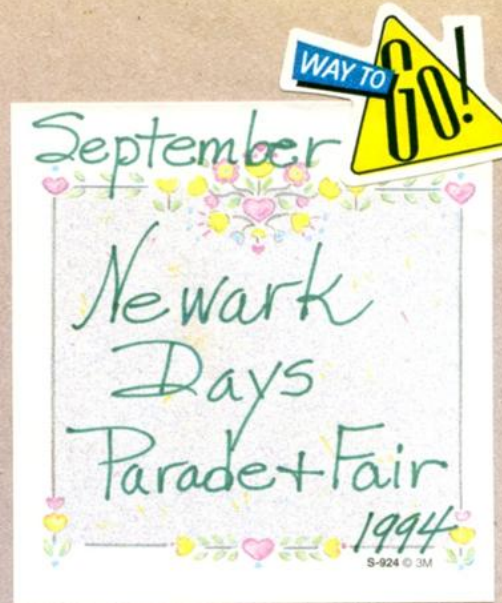
"Once I discovered there were actual trees out there, I got so excited I don't think I ever stopped," Kite said with a laugh.

The same appears true for volunteering. "It makes me feel good," she said.

Information Fair



People Pride Progress Tent



Looking good!



Parade Entry

Ash St. Park



Cartoon Kids Remin
Summer '94

John H. Jones '94

Jorge B. Gill D. ALEX R. KRISTIAN M.
 TINA MARIO R. Gabe V. Melissa C.
 Daniel B. DRANIC R. Enrique
 KEVIN LISA
 NICOLO HARRY P. LAQUISHA
 ADRIAN MARISOL
 YUSUF IZABRA
 JOAQUIN ROSA' YUETTA RENE
 KANNY KATIA JEFF ALI
 GUNJAN JULY THU DIEGO
 JULIE ALEX
 SOPHIA H+HOBBS A.
 KERRI CLAUDIA
 AGUSTIN SURA E.
 JAVIER VANESSA
 LOY D. MICHAEL A. DANEA M.
 ABRAHAM STEFANIE JOY CYNTHIA
 DAVID R. MATHY OSCAR
 SAUDIA PTA
 FELIX VALDINO

VIOLA BLYTHE COMMUNITY SERVICES
 We the kids of the 1994 Ash Street Park Summer
 Recreation and Nutritional Program on behalf of
 the City of Newark Human Services Division
 would like to *thank you* for your cash
 contribution. Because of your contribution many of
 us enjoyed a great program.

Josh Albert Leonardo
 PHILIP MARY SUKHANI LAYINA MELROO
 IRENE SERGIO MAYER
 JEFFREY JESSIE FELIX
 CARLA MARTIN OSIEL
 JOSE ANDRE GOMEZ CHRIS MELINA
 ROMAN ART JOANNE
 MARILIA STACEY PAMELLE
 VERONICA
 CESAR
 MARLONA OSCAR TRAVIS
 VICENTE
 JESUS TR. ENY CORY

Kids' Dog Show in Newark

NEWARK — All kinds of pooches and pups are welcome at a "Kids' Dog Show" this month at the Newark Community Center.



The contest is open to children under age 18 with dogs of any age and breed. The entry fee is a can of dog food, which will be donated to the Viola Blythe Community Service Center.

Winners at the 4 p.m. Sept. 29 show will get ribbons. All contestants must be on a leash. To register, call 745-1124 before Monday.

A healthy tribute to community helpers in the Tri-Cities

Mention public health, and some people envision towering hospitals filled with masked surgeons and ominous equipment.

But a Newark nonprofit group and a Fremont volunteer were honored this week for providing something far more basic: something to eat, something to wear and education.

The Viola Blythe Community Service Center and Joey Hunnicutt of Remove Intoxicated Drivers of Alameda County each received a Public Health Partner award at a luncheon Wednesday in Oakland. The honor was created this year by Alameda County's public health department as a means of recognizing "the outstanding examples of what folks

in the community can do" for public health, said Ruth Shane, director of the department's management services.

The Blythe center provides needy people with free food and clothing, while Honeycutt often spends 80 hours a week trying to educate people about the impact of drunken driving and drinking. "Things like this make it a lot easier on the days you're saying, 'When can I sleep?'" Honeycutt laughed.

"I think the message we want to get across is that public health is a total community effort," Shane said. "It's not something that comes out of a building somewhere."

Neat!

Honors received at a luncheon in Oakland
April 6, 1994

East Bay Component, California Dental Hygienists' Association

Volunteers from this professional organization provide oral health education to school children, their parents, teen mothers, nursing home residents and the homeless. As enthusiastic participants in the school-based Healthy Start dental clinics, hygienists have provided cleaning and fluoride treatments for more than 500 children and have placed nearly 150 dental sealants on teeth to prevent decay. They have also raised funds to support school and community oral health programs, participated on advisory committees and provided mentorship to dental hygiene students.

Voila Blythe Community Service Center

With a part-time director and volunteer staff, this program provides services to more than 3,000 people each year, including seniors in isolated home settings, home-bound people and the disabled. In addition to their adult and infant food, clothing and diaper solicitation and distribution program, the Center added a free lunch program in the summer of 1993, serving a minority disadvantaged neighborhood.

Oakland Chinese Community Council

This organization, which provides health education and prevention training programs presented in appropriate Asian languages, is also a major sponsor of the annual health fair in Chinatown. Staff works with media, promotes and delivers free flu shots, free mammograms to low income women and smoking cessation programs aimed at youth.

Alameda County Dental Society

This professional organization, which mobilizes volunteers for annual screenings of more than 7,000 preschool and elementary school children, also recruits members who participate in Healthy Start dental clinics at two Oakland elementary schools, providing donated examinations for 700 low-income children within the first 6 months of the program. Twenty-four Dental Society members participate in the "Share the Smiles" program, which enables Medi-Cal eligible children to receive preventive and restorative care in private dental offices.

Women's Economic Agenda Project, Health and Disabilities Committee

These volunteers lobby for voice for low income women to have a voice in policy decisions about health care. Developing a survey of health concerns in their community, they used the survey to initiate discussions about the cause and effects of low-income women's health care concerns and alternatives.

UJIMA House/East Oakland Family Life Resource Center

A collaborative project of Allen Temple Baptist Church and Allen Temple-Haight Ashbury Recovery Center, this program provides social, health and educational services to the East Oakland community.

IMANI House/West Oakland Family Life Resource Center

A collaborative project of the West Oakland Health Council, Inc. and other community-based organizations, groups and community institutions, this Africentric program is committed to reducing infant death by making the community healthier and more self-determined.

Fruitvale/San Antonio Family Life Resource Center

This program, designed to combat issues related to infant mortality, serves a multi-cultural, primarily Latino community. The program plans to serve as a magnet for large numbers of women and families using health promotion, family empowerment, economic development and community revitalization.

Extraordinary Contributions
of our
Public Health Partners



1994
Public Health Partners
Awards Luncheon

Three
Generations
of
Volunteers

S-924 © 3M



Mrs. Blythe,
Humanitarian

Debbie, daughter



Program Director





Demetria,
granddaughter



Desiree,
granddaughter

Services and Programs

- Food distribution
- Baby food and formula
- Bedding
- Clothing
- Children's shoe fund
- Referral to other agencies.

Holiday

- Adopt-A-Family program
- Thanksgiving food baskets
- Children's Christmas Party
- Christmas food & toy baskets

Eligibility

Children, men, women or families in immediate need of food or clothing or referral.

No fees are charged for services provided by the Center.

Funding

The Center relies on the generosity of residents, schools, service organizations, churches and businesses for funds and supplies.

We always have need for:

- Food
- Cash
- Clothing
- Bedding
- Diapers
- Toys

Donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Mission Statement

The Viola Blythe Community Service Center of Newark is a nonprofit, nonsectarian corporation organized to promote, support and advocate social and human services to any person who is in immediate need.

This mission is accomplished by a variety of programs, including emergency food and clothing distribution, referrals to other agencies, and special programs at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Location: 37365 Ash Street

Mail: P. O. Box 362
Newark, CA 94560

Phone: (510) 794-3437

Hours: 12:00n. - 4:00p.m.,
Mon., Wed., Fri.

Shalom



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the backbone of the Viola Blythe Center. There are many opportunities for volunteering, including: serving on the Board of Directors, working at the Center processing requests, sorting food and clothing, stocking shelves, planning holiday activities and coordinating food collection. During the holiday season, our volunteers coordinate food pickup and distribution, collect and wrap toys, help at the Children's Christmas Party, and participate in our Adopt-A-Family Program.

Additional Information

If you would like to make a donation to the Center, or would like additional information on our programs, or want someone to contact you, please check the applicable categories and mail:

- Accept my donation of \$ _____
(donations are tax deductible)
- Food collection/distribution
- Adopt-A-Family Program
- Thanksgiving/Christmas Program
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Children's Christmas Party
- Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Thank you for your interest in our program.



Newark Days Parade



1993 Children's Christmas Party - Schilling School

Magicians' are
Special guest

SUPER!

WOW!



12 19'93

The party fun
is over. Let's have
a hand for Santa's
helpers.

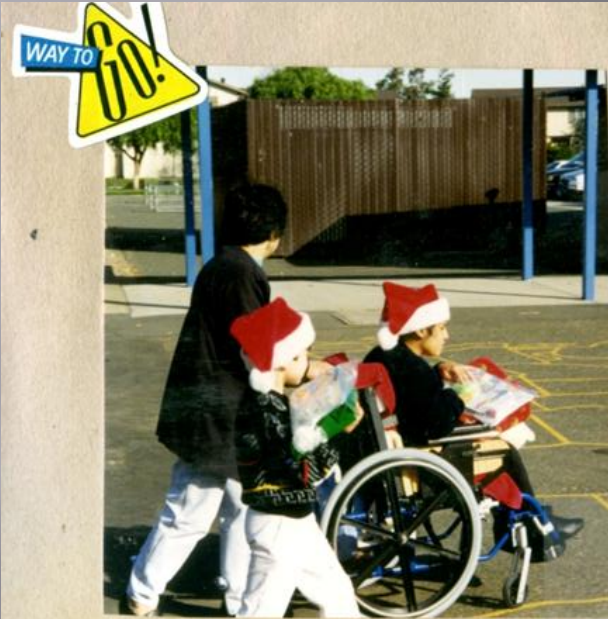




Mr. Nick...
a word on the spirit
of Christmas.

A candy cane for Fat Kite





Thanks Mr.+Mrs. Santa



Happy Children!

Gifts for all
the children
wrapped with love!!



Have a safe holiday!





↑ Mr. Nick Deacon
St. Edwards



SUPER!

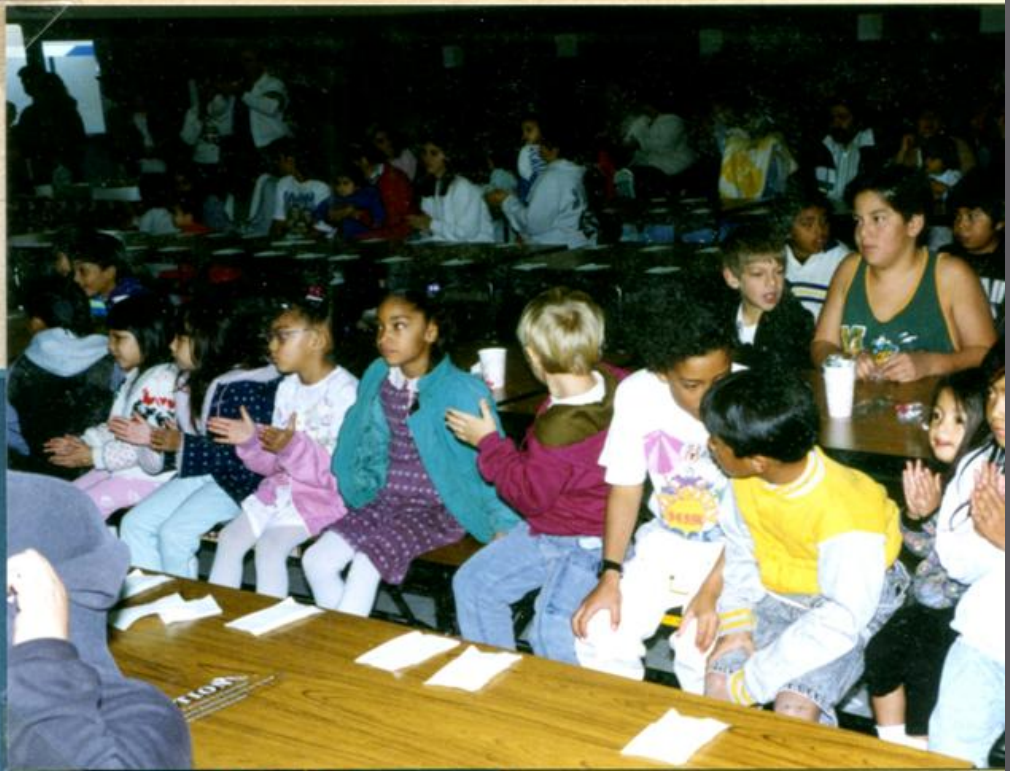
Entertainer
Lolly By Golly
Clown
of
Fremont



SUPER!

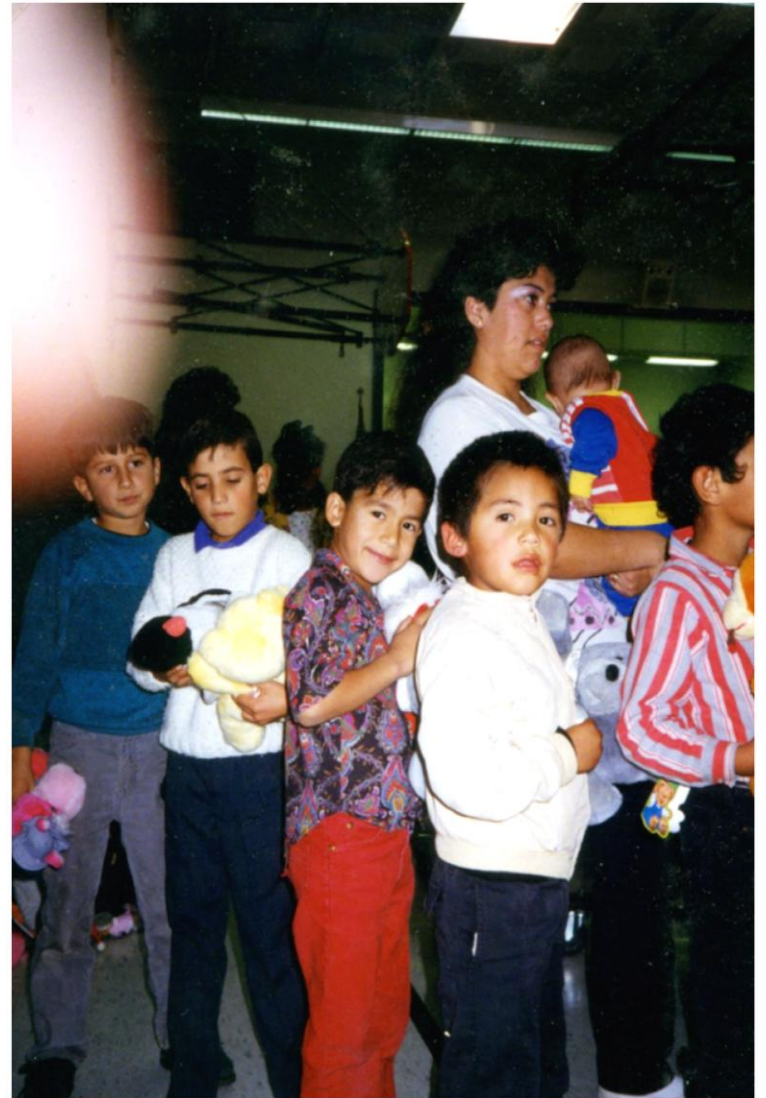


Vivien Larsen, Volunteer
Clark Memorial Career Center



Holiday fun...
Caring and s







Terrific!

Christmas Party
Schilling School

Terrific!

Dec
19
1993



Seconds for lunch program

By **Evette Reiss**
STAFF WRITER

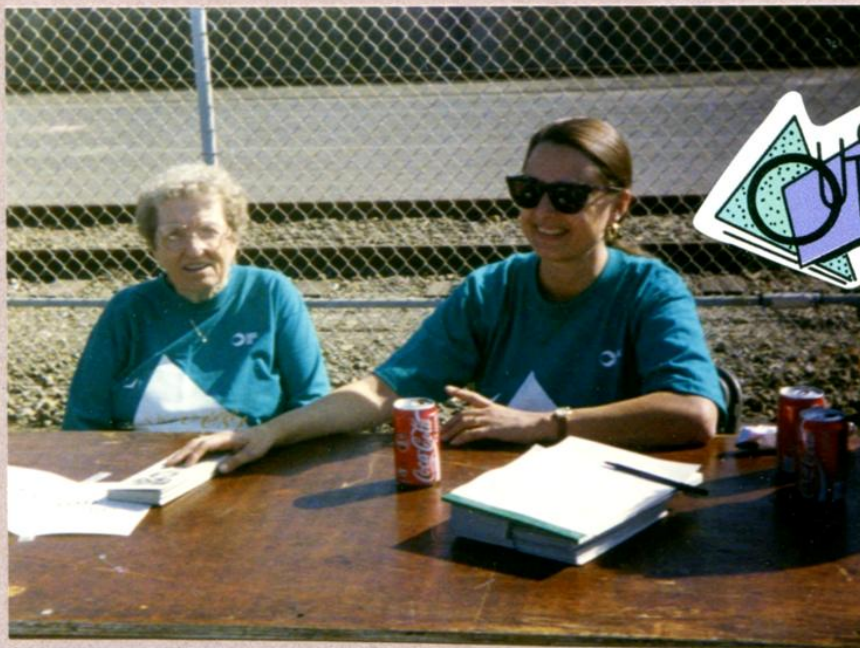
Riding the momentum of a successful first try, Newark and several service groups are gearing up for next year's summer lunch program.

The goal of the Newark Summer Lunch program, held at Ash Street Park, is to provide hot meals and activities for children from low-income families.

Between July 6, and Aug. 28, the pilot program served 2,600 meals; and 4,400 children participated in the program, said Olga Estrada, Newark human-services officer.

LOV-Newark, Tri-Cities Children Center, Southern Alameda County Summer Youth Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Latinos Unidos de Newark, Dreyer's Ice Cream, Jones-Hamilton Corp., Viola Blythe Community Services, Cinedome West and Berkeley Farms participated in the summer program.

LUNA, Dreyer's and Jones-Hamilton donated a total of \$6,200, which was used to buy sports equipment and treats for the children, Estrada said.



On Thursday, Estrada will present a report on the lunch program to the city council.

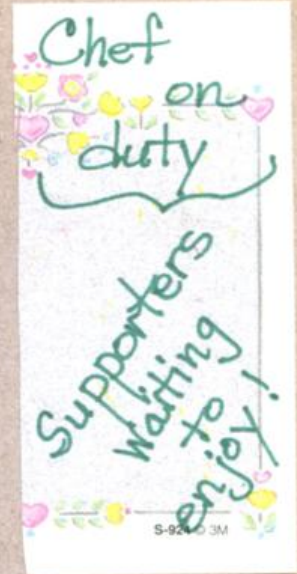
Planning already has begun for the 1994 summer program. Next year Head Start will participate, coordinating activities for preschool children. LOV-Newark will oversee activities for children attending the first through seventh grades, and the Newark recreation department will handle teen sports.

Estrada is looking for summer interns, preferably students working on master's degrees. For information, call Estrada at 790-7282.



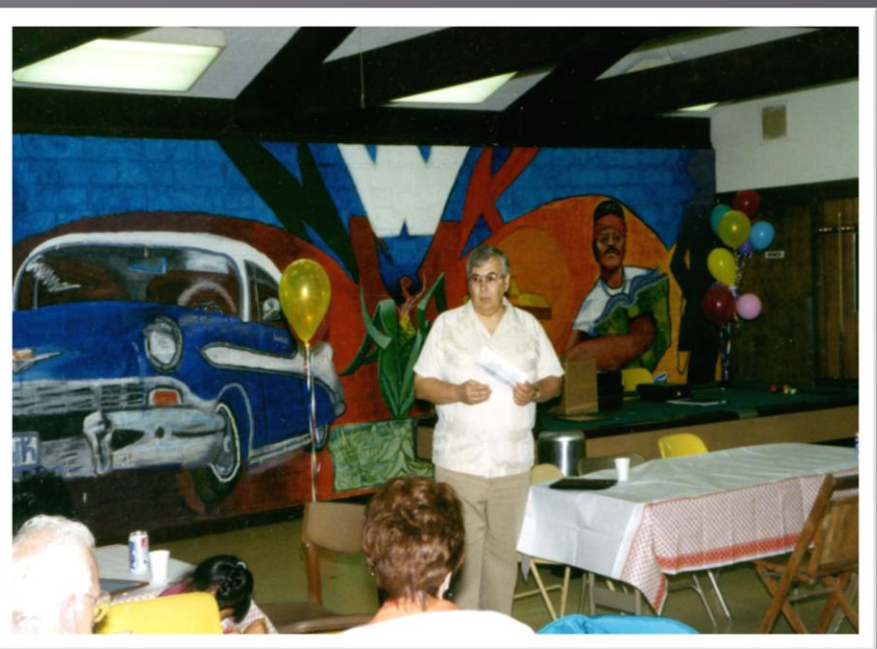
Al Nagys chef

Olga Estrada
Waits patiently!





Debbie Carvalho, Viola Blythe, Dan Archer





Viola Blythe, Jerry Raber, Al Nagy, Debbie Carvalho

Area motorcycle run draws a full house of enthusiasts

By Brian Dines
STAFF WRITER

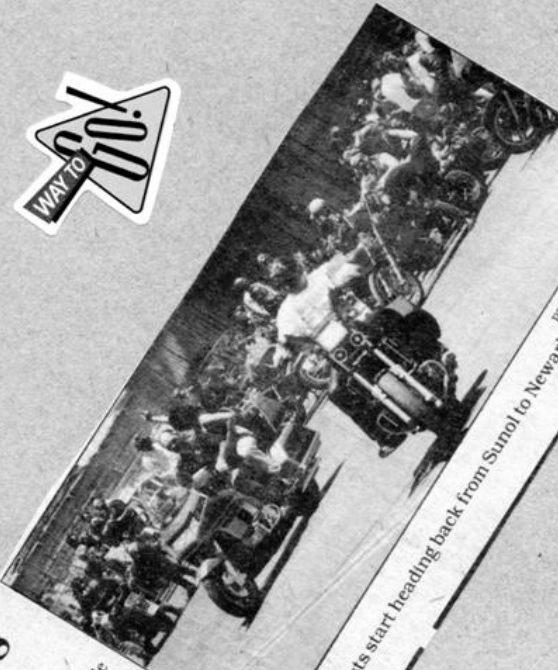
NEWARK — It was a festival of black leather, chrome and Harley's. It was a convention of balding, bearded men with beer bellies.

It was the 21st annual Father's Day Poker Run, an 80-mile road rally that took 2,217 Bay Area motorcyclists around the East Bay in about three hours, according to event organizers

from the Fremont Travelers motorcycle club, who staged the event from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Newark Pavilion on Thornton Avenue.

The event was started on Father's Day in 1971 as a way for motorcycle enthusiasts to ride together and share in camaraderie, according to Gerry Starnelli, president of the Travelers. It is called a poker run because its participants stop at

Please see **Bikers, B-2**



Motorcyclists start heading back from Sunol to Newark after the poker run.
PETER DA SILVA — Staff

Local briefs Motorcyclists to make toy run

FREMONT — The Fremont Travelers motorcycle club is sponsoring its third annual "Toy Run" to benefit children and disadvantaged people in the Tri-City area. The club will collect new, unwrapped toys and cans of food from noon today until 2 a.m. Sunday at the Sunol Lounge, 11988 Main St., Sunol. The club will work with Newark children in the Tri-City area. For further information, call the lounge at 882-2237.





Stanley Blythe, Viola Blythe

Loving neighbor needs a helping hand herself

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NEWARK — Viola Blythe, who has spent decades collecting and distributing food and clothing for the needy, is in need of some tender, loving care herself after a fall on Saturday.

The 74-year-old altruist was moving a heavy coffee table to vacuum when she fell and fractured several vertebrae. After an emergency trip to Washington Hospital, Blythe was treated and released for care by her family at home.

Blythe said Tuesday that she continues to be in pain from the injury, but her doctor has encouraged her to walk around. A complete recovery is expected in three to four weeks, she said.

Her injury comes in the midst of a small crisis for the Viola Blythe



Viola

donations to help meet requests.

"We're getting more clients and less food. It's not balancing out right now," said Debbie Carvalho, the center's program director and Blythe's daughter.

The Viola Blythe Community Service Center (794-3437) is located at 37365 Ash St. and is open from noon to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Community Service Center, which provides emergency food, bedding, clothing and referrals for the needy. The center is running short of canned food and is soliciting

Letters to the editor

Honor well-deserved

Editor: Your columnist Percy Ross really knows his business. Newark's wonderful Viola Blythe has just received a Percy Ross Humanitarian Award for "outstanding efforts in helping your fellow man."

Nominated by a Newark citizen for her continuous work aiding the poor, hungry and homeless, Viola received a medallion and note of special recognition. Columnist Ross said, "For all that you do to help make this world a better place, stand up and take a bow. I applaud you and your efforts."

If anybody well deserves applause, it's our Viola. I think everybody who knows her will rejoice in the good news.

Pat Kite
Newark

PERCY ROSS

'Thanks a Million'
SYNDICATED COLUMN

Friday, April 13th, 1990

Stanley & Viola Blythe
37225 Ash Street
Newark, California 94560

Dear Viola & Stanley,

Congratulations! You have been nominated for the Percy Ross Humanitarian Award because of your outstanding efforts in helping your fellow man.

Although your nomination was not selected for print in my THANKS A MILLION column, I had to seize this moment with a note of recognition for all that you do to help make this world a better place.

It fills my heart with great joy to learn of others who share my philosophy that "Sharing is Caring." So stand up and take a bow... I applaud your efforts!

Please accept the enclosed memento as a reminder of your unselfish ways. May God bless you, always.

Your friend and admirer,

Percy Ross
Percy Ross

5151 EDINA INDUSTRIAL BLVD.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. 55435

(612) 835-2400

**First
Rate!**



Good cause

A Christmas party hosted by Fremont Ford resulted in a bounty for needy Fremont, Newark and Union City children. Fremont Ford owner, Dee Barnes, left, presented a \$3,000 check to Dolores Blythe, chairwoman of the Blythe Community Service Center, second from left. Partygoers donated toys, which were piled on a new Ford Ranger. Donations will go to the center's holiday food baskets for the children. Also on hand were Newark Councilman Al Nagy, right, Olga Estrada, Newark Human Services coordinator, next to him, and Carolyn Barnes, center. The Ford agency is located at 39700 Balentine Drive near the Newark Mall. The center provides emergency services to local residents in need, and is staffed by volunteers and banks on non-government contributions.

EXCELLENT!

People



Employees collect gifts: More than 200 employees of Fremont Ford donated gifts to the Viola Blythe Community Service Center at

the company's Christmas party. Fremont Ford president Dee Barnes, with Viola Blythe, presents a check for \$3,000 to the center.

EXCELLENT!

Woman's good will fills new community center

By Mary Jo Hill
Staff writer

NEWARK — For 30 years the word has informally gone out among the needy about Viola Blythe's place on Ash Street, where food and clothing can be had for free. Now the community is making this good will official.

On Saturday an open house will celebrate the opening of the Viola Blythe Community Service Center of Newark, but needy people will be going to a city building, not the Blythes' home, for help.

Instead of sorting through clothing and canned goods stacked in her garage, Blythe and other volunteers now have the goods on shelves in a building at Ash Street Park.

Blythe's history of helping

“My volunteers were crying; we were crying.”

— Debbie Carvalho

people began in 1959, when she lived in a house just across the street from the new center. A friend who was building apartments behind her house gave her \$200 to buy Christmas presents for tenants living in the not-yet-complete housing.

From there the work just kept coming to her doorstep, everything from high school students running away from home to unemployed immigrants hungry for supper.

Although Blythe said she doesn't know what draws people

in need to her, she thinks her own soft spot comes from her childhood as an orphan when there was never enough.

Blythe's love of helping others spread to her daughter Debbie Carvalho who will be paid from donations to act as coordinator of the center. The city is leasing the building for \$1 a year to the non-profit organization and paying utility costs.

Although the center won't officially open until next week,

people have already been stopping by, and a single working mother provided the most recent heartwarming tale for volunteers.

The mother's income disqualified her for government help, but she needed food and shoes for her family. When the center provided these goods plus an electric train for her son's birthday, the mother was in tears, said Carvalho.

“My volunteers were crying; we were crying,” said Carvalho.

An open house will be held on Saturday beginning at 1 p.m. Tours of the center will be given and refreshments will be served. The center will be open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Oakland, Calif.
Tribune
(Cir. D. 186,745)
(Cir. Sat. 187,722)
(Cir. Sun. 218,094)

MAR 25 1975

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Aide's Resignation Brings Action on Help for Needy

By ⁴⁷RUUD VAN DER VEER
Tribune Staff Writer

NEWARK—After 12 hectic but rewarding years of helping the poor, the hungry and the homeless, Mrs. Viola Blythe will close her Salvation Army Emergency Service "because we have no home life any more."

But Mrs. Blythe, 58, had barely announced that bad news when the community responded with a drive aimed at finding a storefront headquarters somewhere in the city—with Mrs. Blythe inside, of course.

A year ago, Mrs. Blythe's workload had climbed to 70 pleas for help per month, all at her front door at 37225 Ash St.

Although it was hectic, she could handle it, and there was time left to spend with her husband, Stanley.

But in these days of inflation and a gloom-and-doom economy, the workload has skyrocketed to 140 such pleas a month. That became too much for her, and her husband said, "That's it!"

Commissioner Frank M. Saunders of the Salvation Army headquarters in San Francisco explained that Mrs. Blythe's emergency service picked up the slack where welfare agencies cannot provide quick help—from food to furniture for people who are burned out of their home—and that the 100 per cent increase in the workload during the past four months has proven "too great for a volunteer to cope with."

But the commissioner sees great promise in community support for the emergency program and he made quick use of the initial enthusiasm by coming to Newark to fan the flames of involvement.

Saunders spoke with city officials yesterday and said, "This crisis may jerk the community into the realization of what we're doing and what we need."

Heading the support drive is Salvation Army volunteer



MRS. VIOLA BLYTHE OUTSIDE HER HOME

A 100 per cent workload increase was too much for her

Hear ye! Hear ye!

The House By
the Side of the
Road needs
help and soon!

Viola Blythe Community Service Center Of Newark

Annual Programs:

- Thanksgiving food basket distribution
- Children's Christmas Party
- Christmas food and toy basket distribution
- Adopt-a-Family program

Type of Donations Accepted:

- Food
- Clothing
- Bedding
- Diapers
- Cash
- Gift Certificates
- Toys

Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteers always needed to work at the center processing client orders, stocking shelves, inventory, processing paperwork, and planning fund raising projects.

How Funded:

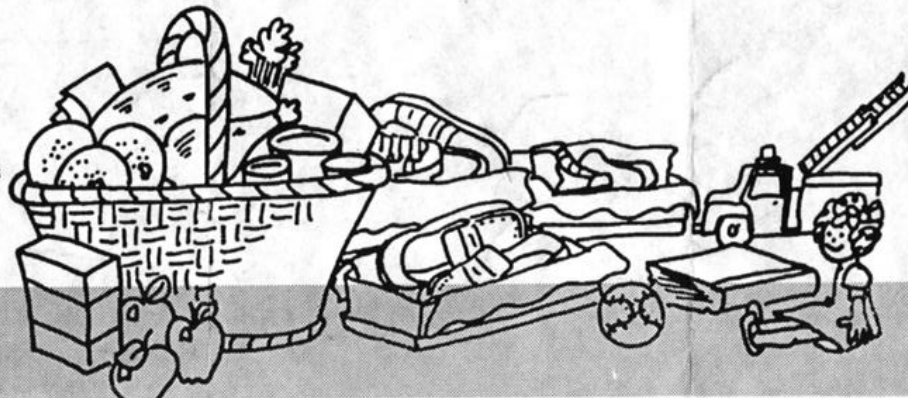
Center is funded by contributions from local residents, community service organizations, and businesses.

Board of Directors:

Community residents serve on the volunteer Board of Directors and provide policy direction to the program.

Chairman:	Alan L. Nagy
Vice-Chairman:	Hank Lewis
Secretary:	Charlotte Health
Treasurer:	Pat St. Germain
Center Director:	Debbie Carvalho
Members:	Viola Blythe
	Mary Adamson
	Dan Archer
	Marta Gold
	Marie Grade
	Cindy Gygax
	Leo Hinkel
	Olive Layton
	Paul Snowden

GREAT!



Non-profit, Charitable Corporation
under code section 23701d

ific!

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Saunders spoke with city officials yesterday and said, "This crisis may jerk the community into the realization of what we're doing and what we need."

Heading the support drive is Salvation Army volunteer Mrs. Bobby Lane, who can be reached afternoons at 792-1261. Another campaign coordinator is community relations officer Hop Collin of the Newark Police Department.

Commissioner Saunders said that with people calling at the Blythe home "at all hours of day and night," the home was no longer a suitable



MRS. VIOLA BLYTHE OUTSIDE HER HOME

A 100 per cent workload increase was too much for her

Hear ye! Hear ye!

The House By
the Side of the
Road needs
help and soon!

S-924 © 3M

City helping woman feed the hungry

Newark leases building for food distribution

By Nancy L. Nelson
Staff writer

NEWARK — Viola Blythe knows children don't end up in orphanages anymore.

But she can't forget the time she spent in one, or the children she left behind when her older sister took her away to a real family.

"I wanted to take them all home with me," Blythe said. She couldn't, of course, but in the years since, she has dedicated her life to helping people who have nothing.

At 73, she is still at it with help from friends, family and local businesses who donate time, money and food.

The City of Newark is helping, too, as it prepares to lease a small building to Blythe for \$1 a year. City staff has recommended the council approve the transaction at its Thursday meeting.

Blythe can hardly wait until January, when the building is expected to be ready and she'll be able to move the boxes and barrels of canned food that fill her garage.

The building at the end of Ash Street near her home is small, "but it's better than working out of your home," Blythe said.

It will also mean she can help more people.

"Oh, there'll be lots more people. People will find out," she said.

More volunteers will want to help her, too, Blythe said.

They will use the building to distribute food, clothing, bedding and vouchers for gasoline. Blythe will also refer people to



Ben Margot — staff photo

Viola Blythe sorts food in her garage in preparation for her move to a building being supplied by the City of Newark.

other services that can help them.

The city is helping Blythe get tax-exempt status and has asked her to set up a board of directors, Newark Human Services Officer Olga Estrada-Wallin said.

Newark will also pay for liability insur-

ance and all utilities for the building except telephone and janitor service.

Meanwhile, city workers have been repairing and remodeling the building to make it better suited as a distribution center, Estrada-Wallin said.

"The city is trying to promote human services and quality of life in Newark," she said.

"When Viola came before the City Council (in June), we thought 'What an excellent partnership,'" Estrada-Wallin said.

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Tribune photo by LEO COMEI

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Heading the support drive is Salvation Army volunteer Mrs. Bobby Lane, who can be reached afternoons at 792-1263. Another campaign coordinator is community relations officer Hop Collin of the Newark Police Department.

Commissioner Saunders said that with people calling at the Blythe home "at all hours of day and night," the home was no longer a suitable base for the present-day massive effort required to meet all needs.

"With a storefront somewhere, perhaps we can perform our task with greater dignity and efficiency," the commissioner said. And Mrs. Blythe already has volunteered to staff the new headquarters once it becomes a

Hear ye! Hear ye!

The House By
the Side of the
Road needs
help and soon!

S-924 © 3M



VIOLA BLYTHE

"People trust me. That's why they give to me," says blue-eyed Viola Blythe with a smile which would make a tiger donate his stripes. She's director of the Salvation Army Center in Newark, and mentioning her name makes community members say "Isn't she wonderful!"

Viola used to operate a program for the needy from her garage. "Also my patio shed and one of the bedrooms," she laughs. It all started many, many years ago when a contractor, Art Cotton, gave her some money and asked her to go shopping for some of his employees who weren't working due to the rainy season. "Then it got to be different people who had a family emergency," Viola recalls. The list gradually grew, and last year the Salvation Army gave 90 Christmas baskets and served over 6,000 people. "Mostly children," Viola explains, "but we also have a 92-year-old. Referrals come through schools, police, firemen: the in-contact people."

Doesn't seeing sickness and dire poverty affect Viola's optimistic nature? "I couldn't do it without the help of my husband, Stanley' or my daughter Debbie," Viola acknowledges. "And I have a whole wall full of award plaques, and a drawer full of letters from people who have thanked me." The anonymous letter to Brightside stated, "I would like to say thank you to Viola Blythe for helping me when I needed help."

"That's what makes the whole thing worthwhile," Viola smiles. "That and watching adults I helped when they were little who have grown up to become good citizens."

Good Neighbors

Viola Blythe: One-woman human services agency



Ask nearly anybody in Newark which resident helps the needy and the answer is usually Viola Blythe at the Salvation Army Tri-City Service Center, said Newark Councilwoman Shirley Sisk.

"She has been the one-woman human services agency here for as long as I've been in Newark," said Sisk, who has lived in the city for 29 years. She nominated Blythe as this week's Good Neighbor.

Blythe, who hails from McComb, Okla., started handing out food to people in need and finding shelter for them soon after she arrived in Newark in 1946.

After serving five years as the paid director at the Salvation Army's Ash Street center in New-

ark, Blythe retired in 1981 and turned over the job to her daughter, Debra Carvalho.

But Viola Blythe, 68, still puts in four hours a day as a volunteer helping serve about 1,000 people who come to the center each month.

"I spent six years (from age 3 to 9) in an orphanage," she said. "And I made a promise after leaving there to help people in need.

"Besides, it makes me feel good. And I can look in the mirror and feel proud of myself."

If you would like to nominate a Good Neighbor, call Carol Goodhue at 791-1245.

I can, and I will!

By Ann Pesalke
Special to The Tribune

Orphaned woman gives her motherly love to the downtrodden

PROFILE



NEWARK — IT HAPPENED more than a half-century ago, but Viola Blythe will never forget the moment in 1925 when her older sister in an Oklahoma orphanage came to get her out of her home. She'd been in the orphanage for six years. Her mother had died in childbirth, leaving 11 children in the care of their father, a share-cropper. He deserted the family and the children were farmed out to orphanages. As soon as Blythe's sister turned 18, she got the rest of the children out of the orphanage. There would be years of hard work ahead, but

Blythe didn't care. She was with her family again. Blythe grew up, got married, and had a family of her own. But memories of her tough early life left her wanting never to see another child in need.

So, for the past 50 years she has become a mother with a mission, set on helping others who are temporarily down and out.

She has helped the unemployed and many homeless children. She has volunteered on a 24-hour basis for the Salvation Army. The Newark Police Department sends her people in need, knowing she'll patch broken hearts while she fills empty stomachs.

"A woman and her five little children had to go to the veterans hospital across the Bay. They had come all the way from Bakersfield," she says, describing one woman who knocked on her door. "It turns out her husband had to stay in the

hospital. They hadn't counted on that, and all the woman had in her pocket was couple of dollars. On the way back she ran out of gas on the Dumbarton Bridge.

"She had heard of me and walked clear across that bridge with all those children in tow, and showed up on my doorstep. She asked me only for gas money, but we could see she needed more help than that. They lived here with us until her husband got out of the hospital."

Does she ever get repaid?
"That woman has repaid me many times over. She comes back with food and clothing for others. That's what they all do, because they know how it feels," she said.

Blythe is 73 now, but she hasn't slowed down. Working steadily out of her garage, she said she would like to let me use that deserted building on Ash Street Park for a food and clothing distribution center," she

said. Council member Alan Nagy said he hopes he can help. "I've known Viola for 20 years," he said. "It's hard to say no to a woman with such goodness of heart."

Blythe has received many honors for her good deeds. One of her favorites was the Good Samaritan from St. Rose Hospital. "Congressman Don Edwards gave me that one," she said proudly. Her biggest thrill was being asked to throw out the opening pitch last September at an Oakland A's game.

"My family, because they pitch in 100 per cent," she said. "And my scrapbooks. Pictures of all those families who have allowed us to share in their lives are in there. Those are the things that recharge me."

Helping the helpless have
HOPE!



Helping others has been her life

By Jim Sparks
staff writer

NEWARK — One Christmas Eve, a Newark family gave away its Christmas dinner to a hungry family with six children, and searched for hours to find a restaurant where they could eat.

That family was Viola and Stanley Blythe and their daughter, Debbie. Helping people in need has been a way of life for them for years.

Viola Blythe has done a lot of giving in her 20-year career with The Salvation Army, which officially ended recently at her appreciation dinner. Her daughter, Debbie Corvalho, is now going to take up the task.

Despite official retirement, Viola said she plans to help out at the Salvation Army room at Muller School.

"I'm going to be a volunteer until I die, I guess."

That attitude has characterized Viola's life. When people needed help, they turned to Viola for help, Debbie said.

"People wouldn't call the welfare people or the police; they wanted to know where Viola Blythe was," she said.

"I know I'll never be able to replace her," Debbie said. "If I am successful, the credit goes to her because she is my teacher."

"It's in the blood."

Stanley Blythe once grumbled when Viola brought home an award that "It won't put food on the table," but he helps fold and stack the clothes, put the food on the shelves, and also does maintenance. Even Debbie's 7-year-old son has started to pitch in.

Viola, 65, was orphaned at the age of 4, and Debbie thinks her mother's life of service came about because she wanted to "give everyone something she didn't have."

"She has taken it out of her pocket and out of our home many times," Debbie reminisced. Her home has been open to a stream of visitors and countless phone callers, some of whom "would call and make up things, just for the company," she said.

Viola also has let many people live in her home, including three who stayed long enough to graduate from high school. "Everybody calls her 'mom' and 'grandma' . . . She's raised 100 kids," Debbie joked.

Viola started her volunteer work in her garage 20 years ago, when the



Viola Blythe receives many letters of thanks from people she has helped.

Nick Lammers — staff photo

Salvation Army woman she had been helping, Louella Kellerman, died. She received a salary for only three of those years.

She has given out food and clothing, and put people up in hotels when they were homeless or have been abused by their spouse.

Although she has a tough act to follow, Debbie, 28, has lots of experience since she has been helping her mother all her life. From 1975-78, when the Tri-City Salvation Army received federal

funding and had 15 staff workers, Debbie did most of the paperwork, except when she took some time off for maternity leave.

The Salvation Army dispenses food provided by the government, which requires a referral by welfare workers, and food that has been donated by individuals and churches. Bread and milk are donated by Lucky Stores, and Lucky also accepts vouchers written by the Salvation Army workers.

The only times the operation has been

officially funded were 1975-78 by the government and 1978-80 by the Salvation Army.

Now the operation is similar to its early days. Viola almost moved the boxes of clothes and food into her garage early this year, but the site at Muller School opened up.

She still gets calls for assistance, and the work continues to be rewarding. She has received many letters of thanks from people she has helped.

"People don't forget," she says.





Bay Area women honored in Capitol

By Sam Delson
SACRAMENTO BUREAU

SACRAMENTO — An orphan who went on to personally aid more than 30,000 homeless and poor people in Alameda County was honored by the Legislature on Monday as one of its 1995 Women of the Year.

Viola Blythe of Newark, who left an Oklahoma orphanage in the late 1920s with a vow to "find a home for everyone there," was one of 10 East Bay women whose community service contributions were celebrated in the Capitol.

An immigrant-rights advocate from Oakland, an innovative teacher from Union City and a nun from Fremont's Sisters of the Holy Family were among other honorees.

The Women of the Year program, started by former Assemblywoman Sally Tanner of El Monte, allows each member of the Legislature to designate a constituent for recognition. Honorees are introduced on the floor of the Legislature, presented with a corsage and plaque and feted at a luncheon.

The 78-year-old Blythe, who began using her garage as a distribution point for food, clothing and blankets 40 years ago, was selected by Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer of Hayward.

Other honorees from the East Bay included:

► Young Shin of Oakland, executive director of Asian Immigrant Women Advocates, who was selected by Assemblyman Tom Bates, D-Oakland.

► Lois Workman of Alameda, a teacher and community volunteer, selected by Assemblywoman Barbara Lee, D-Oakland.

► Nancy Gans, 86, a teacher and sociologist who organized the first nursery for disabled children in Berkeley and founded senior centers in El Cerrito and San Francisco. She was selected by Assemblyman Robert Campbell, D-Martinez.

► Brenda Knight, who served as the first female coach, manager and president of Oakland Babe Ruth Baseball and is now a trustee of the Peralta Community College District. She was named by Sen. Nicholas Petris, D-Oakland.

► Ann Igarashi Boylan, a Union City teacher who designed an innovative program for educationally disadvantaged students, was designated by Assemblyman Michael Sweeney, D-Hayward.

► Sister John Marie Samaha, a 52-year member of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Fremont, who serves as a pastoral associate at St. Joseph's Parish and has dedicated herself to serving the homeless and counseling bereaved families. She was selected by Assemblywoman Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont.

► Rollie Mullen of Moraga, who established a housing and employment center in Contra Costa County for battered women and their children, was honored by Assemblyman Richard Rainey, R-Walnut Creek.

► Concord Mayor Helen Allen, who previously served as mayor of Clayton, was designated by Sen. Dan Boatwright, D-Concord.

► Rosie Bachand of Stockton, a nurse and clinic developer for the Tracy Community Memorial Hospital, was selected by Assemblyman Mike Machado, D-Linden.

Viola Blythe

V - vibrant, visionary

I - invaluable

O - outstanding

L - loyal

A - asset, aspiring

B - beneficent

L - lively, likeable

Y - young at heart

T - thankful

H - hospitable, heroine

E - exceptional experience

by Jean Ficklin,
another cheerlead

B

TUESDAY
MARCH 7, 1995

A

San Jose Mercury News

LOCAL & STATE

FREMONT ♦ NEWARK ♦ UNION CITY ♦ TRI-VALLEY ♦ ALAMEDA COUNTY ♦ EDITORIALS

INSIDE

State News

■ Golden Gate Bridge costs \$170 million to shore up./3B

Newark's patron of poor says she'll prevail



ANGELO FIGUEROA

Being falsely

BY E. MARK MORENO
Mercury News Staff Writer

At 78 years of age, **Viola Blythe** is still determined to feed and clothe the many people in need whom she serves in Newark and other cities. This month, she'll be the recipient of local and state awards, but times are wearing hard on her.

Her husband of almost 50

years, **Stanley**, has been fighting cancer for some time and the doctors say the prognosis is grim.

Viola, who founded the popular Viola Blythe Community Center, is recovering from breaking her shoulder blade. And she's having a hard time getting around.

Still, the phone calls for help keep coming. And things are still left at the doorstep of her New-

ark home by strangers who know the center will need them.

"Sometimes they come here to my house for me, people that are in need," she said Monday, sitting in her living room with her daughter Debbie, older sister Leona Haggard and niece Mary Adamson, a volunteer at the center. "People who are friends with people that I helped in the past.

Word starts traveling around pretty fast."

For nearly four decades, Viola Blythe ran a makeshift food and clothing distribution center for the area's poor and needy from the garage of her home in central Newark. Five years ago, the center opened in a city-owned building with the help of officials who said they couldn't turn her down.

Last year, the donation-financed center served 6,000 people, mostly from the lower-income neighborhood that Viola Blythe has called home for 48 years.

Monday, she was headed to an Oakland ceremony to accept an award, from the county's commission on the status of women.

See **VIOLA**, Page 2B

Elderly and ailing, Viola Blythe says she'll be back to help poor

■ **VIOLA**
from Page 1B

On March 20, state Sen. Bill Lockyer is to honor her as his district's Woman of the Year at a Sacramento awards ceremony.

She might not make the trip, because she might be watching after her husband, who provided much of the muscle for the center.

"He was the backbone of the center," **Debbie Carvalho**, said of her 76-year-old father, a retired Food Machinery Corp. worker and former Navy man who did a lot of the lifting work and other tasks for the community center, less than two blocks away on Ash Street. "The heavy canned food, pick ups, taking stuff to the dump."

Although she gets around a little slower than in years past, Blythe doesn't plan on retiring yet from the needy business. In better days, she regularly dropped by to help fold clothes or see what else she could do.

"I'll be going back," she says.



GREAT!

And the word
Spread across
the state!

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County honors seven women

Judy Ronningen
WRITER

EWARK — Viola Blythe, the dithive, 78-year-old local resident giant in Tri-Cities community ce, is one of seven women who be inducted next month into the eda County Women's Hall of e.

lythe will be given one of the ty's top honors for her 40 s of service to the poor.

lythe also has been nominated tate Sen. Bill Lockyer, D-Hay-), as a candidate in a statewide tion for Woman of the Year 5. Health permitting, her iter, Debbie Carvalho, said, will travel to Sacramento to at- a March 20 ceremony as Lock- guest.

so nominated for the county en's Hall of Fame are Oakland rintendent of Schools Carolyn dge, Asian Health Services Ex- ve Director Sherry Hirota, San cisco Bay Revels Director Eliza- Lloyd Mayer, attorney Bernida an, champion bowler Helen l and environmental activist y LePell.

What distinguished the winners the other applicants was that all had a strong belief and com- ent, outside of their profes- , to make a difference in their nunities," said one of the s, Alameda County Undershe- urtis Watson.

ey will be recognized March 6 30 p.m. at the Oakland Museu e Hall of Fame's sponsors, the eda County Commission on the s of Women and board of su- sors and the Highland Founda- Admission is \$25.

lythe began collecting food and ing for the poor in her Newark e 40 years ago. The effort has nded into a city-owned ing named after her, that s 5,000 people a year. Only a n arm is keeping her away the center for the time being.

he is my role model, so when I orm for an award I think she win, I nominate her," said Pat last year's Newark volunteer of ar



ARLEEN NG — Staff

From left to right, Debbie Carvalho (Blythe's daughter), Mary Nicolls, Viola Blythe, Betty Theis, Inny Masters and Frances Holt.

Blythe's unassuming manner comes across when she is reminded of her nomination to the county's most prestigious civic awards — set to be the most recent additions to a wall already full of plaques and awards at her Newark center.

"It sounds OK, but I never heard of it before, I really don't know anything about (the Hall of Fame induction)," she said.

"All I know to do is fix people some food and give them clothing. I ain't working for no awards," she said.

The awards come as Blythe's

family has fallen on some hard times. Apart from the fall she recently took that resulted in her broken arm, Blythe's husband, Stanley, is seriously ill.

"Things have been tough for the family, but (the awards) make things a little easier. This is a very positive," said her daughter.

Reagan, 40, is executive director of the Berkeley Community Law Center, where a few staff attorneys and dozens of Boalt Hall law students represent the legal rights of the poor. She co-founded the AIDS Project at the center, which helps

evictions of AIDS patients and helps terminally ill mothers arrange guardianship for their children.

Long after her law center students have passed the California Bar and moved on, Reagan continues to advise many involved in their own public interest projects. "I feel like they're my children," she says.

Duval, former owner of College Bowl in Oakland and a resident of Berkeley, began bowling competitively in 1939 and has received so many awards — including the

Congress Hall of Fame — that she has trouble keeping track of them.

At 78, she travels the state holding bowling clinics and spends several weeks teaching disabled, hospitalized veterans: One of her students, who lies on a gurney, bowled a 173 game. She chairs the national Bowlers Victory Legion, which raises \$1 million annually for special equipment and outings for those veterans.

Staff writer Eric Fenster con-



STEPHANIE SECREST — Staff

Frank Haas doesn't do community service work for the recognition; he just enjoys it. But his efforts were recognized Friday night at the

Newark Days Ball when he was named the Viola Blythe Volunteer of the Year. Eighteen other Newark residents were also honored.

'Santa,' teddy bear donor honored at Newark ball

Daniel Vasquez
STAFF WRITER

WHETHER he's in a Santa Claus suit or a business suit, Frank P. Haas symbolizes generosity.

A member and former president of the Newark Optimist Club, Haas, 53, does whatever he can to help the community he works in, but the local insurance agent wants no accolades in return.

Nonetheless, Haas is the 1995 recipient of the Viola Blythe Volunteer of the Year Award. The award, and those recognizing 18 other volunteers, were presented Friday night at the annual Newark Anniversary Ball, commemorating the founding of the city 40 years ago. The banquet

“Police officers and firefighters often stick their necks out for others ... and the club just thought they deserved a thank you.”

Frank P. Haas
Newark Optimist Club

was hosted by the City of Newark and Chamber of Commerce at the Newark-Fremont Hilton Hotel. Each year it heralds the arrival of Newark Days, a festival that kicks off Thursday and runs through the weekend.

"I don't know who nominated me for this award, and if I find out who it was I'll burn their

car," Haas said with a laugh.

In 1970, Haas joined the Mission Peak Optimists Club in Fremont. He remained a member until "it faded into the sunset" in 1988, then joined the Newark club.

As a member of both clubs, Haas helped create what are now the Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and Youth of the Year programs in Newark, Fremont and Union City. The idea is to give credit where it's due, he said.

"Police officers and firefighters often stick their necks out for others ... and the club just thought they deserved a thank you," Haas said. Although he was a big part of it, Haas credits other club members for creating the awards.

THE FULL STORY

Frank Haas was just one of 19 volunteers recognized Friday night at the annual Newark Days Ball. While he received the Viola Blythe Volunteer of the Year honors, the 18 others received Newark Volunteer of the Year awards. They included: Jenny and Kim Chartier, Patricia Danielson, Cindy Dycus, Gaela Eugster, Jean Ficklin, Rick Johnston, Marcia Lawrence, Bruce Mapes, Rick Marks and Sandy Young, Imogene Masters, Karen Mueller, Sandy Rodrigues, Harry Sanders, Floyd Seymour, Claire Warman and Nancy Williams. To read their stories, see A-6.



P-DAY FOR THE RAIDERS

It's do or die for L.A. today!

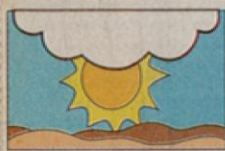
SPORTS DAY



HOLIDAY EVENTS

A sleighful of family fun for Christmas CUE

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS



Showers likely
— full weather, A-13

The Argus

of FREMONT, NEWARK and UNION CITY CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1994



'Toon' in to Christmas

'It's a Wonderful Tiny Toons Christmas' is only one of many choices for holiday specials on TV. [B-1]

Charities lift spirits for the holidays

By Eric Fenster
STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — The value of a charity like Newark's Viola Blythe Community Center was driven home to Ricardo Mitchell and his wife this Christmas season.

Both on disability and out of work, the couple were heading into Christmas with barely the means to take care of their basic monthly needs, let alone mount an effort to do Christmas for their family.

"Last year, I was working," Mitchell said Friday at the center. "Now, what seemed was going to be bleak, is not. I've been assisted."

"It's excellent here," added Mitchell, the father of a teen-ager and two other children. "When I was

See who has given to the Holiday Basket.

A-4

The First Presbyterian Church of Newark donated 15 holiday baskets to families like Mitchell's.

After 40 years of charitable work in the same Ash Street, Newark neighborhood, Blythe and her daughter, Debbie Carvalho, the acting director, are

down, there was somebody to help me stand up."

Viola Blythe, a diminutive 78-year-old who founded the center, made it possible for up to 300 families this year to enjoy a Christmas of warmth and dignity compared to what might have been without

unflagging in the work they do.

"If I see there's a need, they get it as long as I have something on the shelf," Blythe said.

The center reportedly was overwhelmed with extra calls for help as Christmas drew closer. But thankfully, Blythe said, they managed to accommodate each family with children's toys and food for the holiday.

The center will be open today from 10 a.m. to noon only, in case any extra donations or families in need come around before Christmas. It will reopen Tuesday to continue the work it does year-round.

Thankful to all who contributed this year to her

Please see **Charity**, A-13



TOM GALLAGHER — Staff

Ricardo Mitchell of Newark waits as Debbie Carvalho, director of the Viola Blythe Community Center, sifts through donations with volunteer Kathy Prez.

Charity: Families receive Christmas food donations

Continued from A-1

holiday drive, Blythe turned her attention momentarily to the need that is ever-present.

"No more toys, please!" she hollered happily. "But we can always use food, juices, and fresh produce to tide us over."

To help the center call, 794-3437.

By Leslie Haggin
STAFF WRITER

It seemed like a miracle.

Two weeks before Thanksgiving, Barbara Chabot, executive director of Tri-City Volunteers Inc., struggled to find the 900 turkeys she needed to feed hungry families. But publicity given to fund-raising drives, including the annual Turkey Bowl at Robertson High School, spurred a frenzy of giving in Fremont.

Checks for hundreds of dollars, small change and a flurry of \$20, \$5 and \$1 bills poured into the offices of the Fremont agency. The day before Thanksgiving, Chabot had 956 turkeys.

"It was totally successful," Chabot said. "I was really concerned."

Now, Chabot and others committed to staving off hunger pangs among Fremont, Newark and Union City's needy are busy again.

"People are willing to give this time of year, and then we get forgotten," said Louis Chicoine, program director at Tri-City Homeless Coalition.

Chicoine expects the agency to house and feed about 650 people in 1994. While there is little storage space to keep food and clothing, the coalition needs blankets, cash donations, Christmas toys for children and teen-agers and a slew of school supplies, including binder paper, books, crayons, rulers, pens and pencils.

The supplies are given to the 20 or so children and adolescents who stay at the shelter at any given time, and who usually don't have the equipment they need for school, Chicoine said.

LOV-Newark also is conducting its big collection drive for the year, said Donna Sisk, assistant director. "We hope food (donations) will tide us over until July or August. We push, push, push now because this is the month when people give."

LOV-Newark needs food, financial contributions and gifts for its annual Christmas drive. This year, LOV-Newark is not limiting its toy and gift drive to toddlers.

"We focus on teen-agers, too. People say they're old enough to understand if they don't get a present. Well, we're all old enough to understand, but it's still Christmas," Sisk said. In fact, the agency would like to collect perfume, books, gloves and other gifts for the hundreds of senior citizens who spend the holiday alone, Sisk added.

Meanwhile, Chabot and others at Tri-City Volunteers are scrambling to raise money for canned food.

Send checks or drop off food, blankets, toys and other supplies at: Tri-City Volunteers, 37350 Joseph St., Fremont 94536; LOV-Newark, 37400 Central Court, Newark, 94560; and Tri-City Homeless Coalition, 588 Brown Road, Fremont 94539.

How excited can anyone be about fruit cake?

Not very, according to Jim Herget, a Fremont businessman, who decided to donate turkeys to local charities on behalf of his clients instead of sending his customers the usual selection of cakes, dried fruit, candy and flowers this holiday season.

"It was like throwing money into the ocean," said Herget, president of Action Appraisal, a Fremont housing appraisal firm. "Each year we'd send typical things that not anyone gets too excited about."

Ad aid

But this year, as he read a newspaper advertisement asking people to donate to food banks, Herget realized he could use the \$100 he usually spends on dried fruit and candy for food someone could really use.

Ten turkeys went to the Coffee Tyme Cafe. They will be giving free Thanksgiving dinners to the homeless and hungry. The other 10 went to the Viola Blythe Service Center," Herget wrote in a letter sent to mortgage lenders who do business with his firm.

In addition, Herget is donating one turkey to a local charity for each appraisal order Action Appraisal receives between now and Jan. 1, 1994.

"Even if it doesn't work out with the appraisals, the other (20 turkeys) solve the problem of what we'll buy for presents every year," Herget said.

Debra Carvalho, director of Viola Blythe, was thrilled to receive the turkeys and said other companies also have launched similar gift-giving plans.

"I think they've started to relate (to the needy)," Carvalho said. "If (unemployment) hasn't hit their home, it's hitting close to it. The ones who are working are thankful."

No fruit cake, please

In addition to spreading goodwill, companies who give also enjoy favorable publicity.

"It's absolutely fabulous," said Jerri Winter, a San Jose mortgage broker who does business with Herget. "Appraisers and savings and loans send flavored popcorn, candy. I'd rather see somebody make a donation. It's especially needed."

Moreover, fruit cake isn't the only gift that sometimes goes wasted, Winter admitted. "I absolutely hate most of the cheese logs and fancy mustard. I've never found one that's good."

FANTASTIC!

Last-minute turkey donors save the day

Surge of generosity gives Tri-City Volunteers its Thanksgiving quota

Hold the fruitcake, charities request

By Leslie Haggin
STAFF WRITER

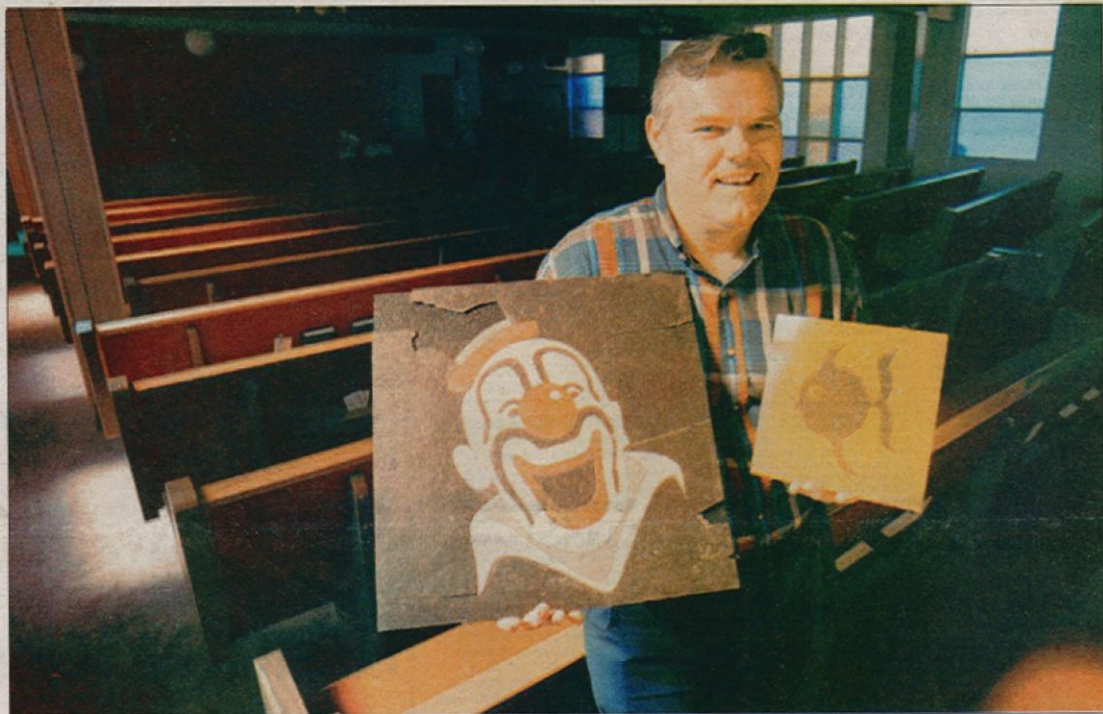
Wow!

GREAT!

Newark 8-28-94

Gifts to food pantry: The non-profit Viola Blythe Community Service Center received donations of about \$3,400 last week that will help feed low-income people until the holiday season. The Fremont Ford dealership gave the center nearly \$3,000 worth of food, while Safeway contributed a \$400 check, said Debbie Carvalho, the center's director. The center is at 37365 Ash St. To donate, call 794-3437.

Terrific!



ALAN GRETH — Staff

Ralph Hall, pastor of First Baptist Church in Newark, holds up two of the tiles he saved from destruction nine years ago. The artwork on the asphalt

tiles was created by an anonymous artist and will be sold to raise money for the Viola Blythe Community Center.

Bit of school's polished history for sale

By Daniel Vasquez
STAFF WRITER

NEWARK — With a little elbow grease and varnish, Ralph Hall has restored a piece of Newark history that will give some people the chance to relive their childhood and at the same time help raise money for a good cause.

At the very least, Hall's work will allow longtime residents to remember an odd character from the past.

Hall, the pastor of First Baptist Church who calls

himself a "nostalgia buff," spent the past several years restoring two dozen handcrafted tiles that once decorated a classroom at Muller Elementary School. The school was shut down 15 years ago.

"When they were tearing the school down, I decided to go down there to try and save these tiles because I knew they would be valuable to someone someday," said Hall, who at the time, had been living in Newark for a couple of years.

Now he is offering the 9-inch square tiles to anyone

who donates \$50 or more to the Viola Blythe Community Center, a nonprofit organization that offers emergency aid to troubled families.

The unique tiles were created decades ago by an anonymous artist who decorated them with animal characters, the alphabet, counting numbers and other childhood symbols.

As some tell the story, the forgotten artist was once a

Please see **History**, A-10