

NOVEMBER'S HONOREE

Cans can buy dogs

Dorothy Maguire guided her club in the right direction

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Ants, flies, metal cans filled with unidentifiable sticky substances and the mixed bouquet of days-old swill. To Dorothy Faul Maguire, that's the smell and feel of money.

Maguire, the Historical Society's selection for November's Leisure Worlder of the Month, is coordinator of a collection program that gathers aluminum cans and plastic soda bottles from around the community, to raise funds for a good cause: financial support to two schools in California which provide trained guide dogs at no cost, to blind people.

"Individuals like Dorothy are very important to our school: we're completely dependent on donations and couldn't exist without them," says Jim Hyatt, executive director of Guide Dogs of the Desert in Palm Springs. "Tell Dorothy we thank her."

Hyatt says the money is used to provide a specially-trained German shepherd, Labrador or Golden retriever, plus training, equipment and post-graduate assistance for the working life of the dog and person.

He points out, though, that what the money really buys is something much greater for the blind individual: "the freedom to live a half-way normal life."

Annually, 24 student/dog teams graduate from the program which requires an annual budget of about \$370,000.

Hyatt says since February 1990, Maguire, donating \$6,000 to his organization in the name of the Leisure World Creative Crafts group she founded.

Maguire, who has been collecting for guide dogs for 11 years, notes that in the beginning a pound of aluminum only netted an 18 cents payback for her

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Don Leach/The News

Dorothy Faul Maguire is often seen driving her golf cart around the community collecting cans. Maguire will be honored as Leisure Worlder for November at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3 in Clubhouse 6.

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charity. Now, the same pound nets 80 cents.

Sandy Kenner, director of public relations at Guide Dogs of America in Sylmar, which graduates 60 teams each year and runs on an annual \$1.7 million budget (also funded completely by donations), says Maguire and her group have added to collections by raising funds in other ways as well, such as selling chance tickets for a quilt drive.

"We wouldn't be here without the generosity of people like Dorothy," says Hanner, who notes that since 1986, contributions from Maguire's Creative Crafts group have totalled \$10,900.

Background: Born in Spokane, WA. and employed at Douglas Aircraft for 23 years, Maguire plunged into a whirl of activities after she came to Leisure World in 1971 to keep boredom at bay after her busy career.

"I signed up for every class that caught my eye including sewing, slipcasting, sculpture, basketry, macrame, calligraphy, square dancing, clogging and hula."

She and her husband Charlie Faull (she married Jim Maguire this year, 12 years after Faull's death) also travelled extensively and became charter members of the Aero-Space Club. Gardening and ballroom dancing were other favorite pastimes.

When a favorite class terminated because of state budget cuts, Maguire organized and became lifetime president of a Creative Crafts group; and later, at the request of a friend, she started a hula dance troop, the "Luau Leilani," which has lasted 13 seasons and which she manages.

Raising funds for guide dogs

came into the picture when she suggested Creative Crafts have a philanthropic project.

The members were enthusiastic and slowly the recycling dollars began to accumulate.

"When we started, it took over two years to save \$500, but now, through the help of other clubs such as the Rod and Gun (and) Nit Wits (and) neighbors, friends and complete strangers in Leisure World who see our bins at several locations, we have donated \$20,000 to our cause," says Maguire.

Maguire said she singled out guide dogs because of the respect she has for the gift of sight—"I've always been afraid of losing it."

Maguire says she even arranges her medicine cabinet's contents so if that occurred she'd still be able to find what she needed.

Impact of recognition:

Maguire says she was dumbfounded when the Historical Society told her she was their choice for November and flattered her work had been noticed.

Maguire said, though, that even without the distinction and in spite of the dirty and time-consuming nature of her work, she plans to keep up her collection drive as long as she's able.

"It's such a good cause . . . I don't know what I would do if I couldn't see the beauty around me."

To find out where the collection sites are for the guide dog drive in Leisure World call Maguire at 837-6734.

For further information about Guide Dogs of America write 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, 91342 or call (818) 362-5834; for information about Guide Dogs of the Desert write P.O. Box 1692, Palm Springs, 92263 or call (619) 329-6257.