

Whirlies work hard for winter service

During the holiday season, Grimsley service clubs help out around Greensboro with cans, tabs, and care.

By Margaret Hair
Reporter

As temperatures drop and food pantry shelves become filled with empty space, it is increasingly important for people in the Greensboro community to volunteer with various agencies in an effort to help the situation. This marks the busiest part of the year for many Grimsley clubs, as they fill up their schedules with service projects that lend a helping hand to those in need. The following are a few of the several clubs that have participated or plan to take part in winter service projects:

Lifeguards: Winter Walk for AIDS is the biggest event on the Lifeguards' annual calendar. The walk, which took place on December 1 at the Greensboro Coliseum, is a community event that raises money for AIDS patients and research. The Lifeguards were joined by TAGS in the event, in which many participants carried with them the names and dates of death of those whose lives have been claimed

by AIDS.

The Rock for Awareness concert was held at Somewhere Else on December 9, and showcased six Greensboro-based bands. Admission was either \$4 or 5 cans of food, both of which were donated to AIDS patients. Three groups from Grimsley, including the Sour Kids, performed.

Members of the Lifeguards club participated in gift wrapping at Border's, with all the proceeds going towards AIDS patients. Money was also contributed to a Christmas fund which went towards buying gifts for high school aged children who have been affected in some way by AIDS. Finally, club members plan to help serve food at Beacon Place, a hospice house which cares for AIDS patients.

TAGS: On December 1 and 8, TAGS members helped out with Habitat for Humanity, a project that they have worked with in the past. Participants lent a hand in several tasks, including plastering, cementing, and landscaping.

TAGS also made 150 cupcakes on December 8 for the Grace Community Church Holiday Banquet, which is held each year for refugee families in Greensboro from countries such as Kosovo, Ethiopia, and Vietnam.

"Girls' Day Out" was held on December 15, and involved club members spending the day with girls of



Morrison photo

TAGS joined Lifeguards to participate in the Winter Walk for AIDS this year. The TAGS members get together for a group shot before walking the 5K race.

the same age from Gateway Education Center. These girls, some of whom have severe handicaps, enjoyed the afternoon of movies and companionship with TAGS participants.

The Lutheran Family Services Holiday Party took place on December 15 as well, and offered games, music, dancing, and food for the refugee families that are clients of the agency.

Student Council: The canned food drive held at the end of November

raised over 1000 pounds of food, with Mrs. Lackey's first period collecting the most cans.

Participants from the senior class worked with Santa's Workshop, which cleans and distributes new and used toys to needy families. The Student Council is also adopting a family for Christmas, and will buy gifts for each family member.

Key Club: Boxes were placed around school to collect can top tabs

for the Ronald McDonald Foundation. A specific amount of money will be given for each can top, and the money raised will go to that charity, benefiting children who have been affected by terminal illnesses.

Each one of these service projects alleviated the strain on food banks and donation funds as these Grimsley clubs joined in the spirit of giving, accompanied by background music of Salvation Army and sleigh bells alike.

Downtown tries to regain spot in city's heart

Historic Downtown Greensboro begins to undergo changes to attract city residents.

By Hannah Wineburg
Reporter

"When you're alone and life is making you lonely, you can always go Downtown. When you've got worries, all the noise and the hurry seems to help, I know. Downtown." These famous lyrics sung by Petula Clark create an image of a bustling city-center—something Greensboro's downtown was once recognized for and is now trying to reestablish.

Until the early 1960s, Greensboro's downtown flourished with numerous people and businesses giving it vitality. The downtown was known as a social, political, and a legal center of the city. Grimsley alumnus, Mr. Sidney Gray, a real estate investor and developer downtown, compares the shopping activity back then to that of today's Friendly Center and Four Sea-

sons mall.

By 1960, Greensboro's downtown started to slide. Mr. Gray considers this era a "death blow" for Greensboro. People moved to suburban areas. Shopping centers were built where people were moving. Convenience kept people away from downtown. There was also more parking available in the shopping centers, therefore attracting larger crowds.

Lastly, riots over segregation downtown scared people away. African Americans were protesting in cities across America. These demonstrations as well as the other aspects helped push out businesses, even those on the upswing, taking a great toll on the economic survival of downtown Greensboro.

There were only a few stores that did not relocate, and Mr. Gray has great respect for those store owners. He said, "The true pioneers were the ones who did not run to the shopping centers in the 1960s." One such pioneer is Schiffman's, a jewelry store located on S. Elm Street. Blumenthals is still downtown, as is Fordham's drugstore, Coe Gro-

cery, Deal Printing Company, and a few others.

Finally, in 1977, the Old Greensboro Preservation Society was formed. This committee saved historical buildings such as Blunwood Mansion and Carolina Theater, and urged Greensboro citizens to envision a viable and energetic downtown scene.

Within the past few years, the local government has provided financial aid to rejuvenate Greensboro's downtown. Mr. Michael Schiffan, a real estate consultant with an office in the center of the city, has high expectations for the growing downtown area. He said, "I think all businesses will prosper from a dynamic downtown."

Schiffan also believes that it will take three to five years before most projects for the area will be completed. The construction of a new minor league baseball park is gaining momentum. Triad Stage, a new 300 seat theater, is being constructed. The Civil Rights Museum is being built in the old Woolworth's Building.

Numerous restaurants and bars such as Liberty Oak, Ritchy's, Paisley Pineapple, Café Europa, Ganache Bak-

ing Company, and many more create a big city ambiance. Children can enjoy the newly opened Children's Museum, as well as the relocated and refurbished Greensboro Public Library.

New Dawning Playhouse offers tailor-made art classes for those who have an interest in furniture painting. Craft shops, such as Glitters and Two Art Chicks, occupy a number of stores in downtown, adding to its growing art

crowds of young people. Freshman Sarah Roach lives in the downtown area and is excited about its growing appeal. She said, "It has been a long time since Greensboro has had a thriving downtown. Because I live downtown, the new attractions will be more convenient for me."

There are two major projects underway that will draw even more people to downtown. Bowman developers will build 90 condominiums in its Southside Development downtown. Greensboro's former train station, The Depot, will become the dominant train station again. The project which is called "Multi-Modal-Transportation-Center" will include an inner and intra city bus system, and taxi service running to and from the airport. This will profoundly enhance the public transportation system for our city.

As Schiffan's energy focuses increasingly on downtown, he said, "A vibrant downtown is critical to the health of the city." Or as Petula Clark sang, "Just listen to the rhythm of a gentle Bossa Nova. You'll be dancing with them too before the night is over. Happy again in Downtown."

"It has been a long time since Greensboro has had an attractive downtown."

-Sarah Roach, freshman

culture.

A new night life, which will be available to Grimsley students soon enough, is establishing a solid presence. The N Club, The Rhinoceros Club, and Rumba Latina draw large

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Sheriff Hege's controversial policies draw criticism from locals.

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