

# CARES

## Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 4, Jan. 2005

Community Action Reaching Every Student  
a School Volunteer Program of the  
Bay City Independent School District  
Department of Community Education & Information

### BCISD Community Education & Information

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#### Staff:

##### Sally Fry

Coordinator of Community  
Education & Information

##### Terry Miller

Community Schools Coord.

##### Sandra Wacker

Community Ed. Secretary

### Campus Volunteer Coordinators:

#### Cherry Elementary

Beverly Peters

#### Tenie Holmes Elementary

Margie Jenewein

#### Roberts Elementary

Mary Doss

#### Bay City Middle School

Angie McNiel

#### McAllister Middle School

Georgie Hadley

#### Bay City Junior High

Lisa Bischoff

#### Bay City High School

Kimberley Tatro

## February 9th - Hearts of Gold

The CARES *Hearts of Gold Day* was instituted last year and was wonderfully received by all. We plan to continue with this and make it a CARES tradition.

The concept behind *Hearts of Gold* is to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism and to acknowledge the on-going commitment of the CARES Program to enrich the school program by making available the talents and resources of the community.

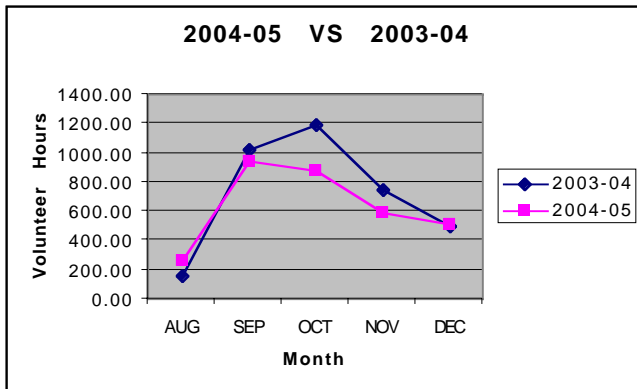
A picture is worth a thousand words; the old adage goes. The best way to convey the essence of *Hearts of Gold* is through pictures. Here's a sampling of last year's activities.



This year we're planning a valentine contest for 1st and 2nd grades at Cherry, Holmes, and Roberts Elementary Schools. Last year so many elementary students made their own valentines to give to that special person that we plan to add to the fun and recognize the best valentine in the district for each grade level. Three members of the Community Education & Information Advisory Council will make the district selections based on originality, creativity, and epitomizing the spirit of *Hearts of Gold* by caring for someone special. The three elementary schools mentioned above will select their respective best valentines. Check with your CARES campus coordinator for more details.

# CARES Hours

## Reflections by Terry Miller



From the graph above, you can observe the monthly trends for 2003-04 and 2004-05. In 2003-04, the hours for Oct. reflected an increase; whereas, in 2004-05 they reflected a decrease. October was the month we experienced the greatest divergence from last year. For the time period Aug. through Dec., hours are down 12 % relative to last year. The individual campus contributions are given in the chart below.

Campus	2003-04	%	2004-05	%
BCHS	163.00	4.5	49.5	1.5
BCJH	163.5	4.5	114.5	3.6
BCMS	240.5	6.7	215.5	6.8
McAllister	391.5	10.8	304.5	9.6
Cherry	392.5	10.9	410.0	12.9
Holmes	372.5	10.3	639.8	20.1
Roberts	1,889.3	52.3	1,452.5	45.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,612.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,186.3</b>	<b>100.1</b>

The school district appreciates every single hour that is contributed by our CARES volunteers. Thank you for your time. A special thanks is warranted, however, for the following volunteers.

### The Semi-Millennium Club, 200-500 Hours

Mary Doss 266

### The Century Club, 100-200 Hours

Michele Dunn 179  
 Beverly Peters 144  
 Dana Robinson 130  
 Cheri Zenker 125  
 Lisa Bischoff 121  
 Ellen Farmer 113  
 Angelia McNeil 106  
 Georgeann Hadley 106

On Christmas eve, I received a phone call from a friend who exclaimed, "It's snowing!" Surprising for Bay City to say the least. The last time the local old-timers can recall it really snowed was 1973. Sure we've had sleet with snow flurries on occasions since then, but 1973 was the last time we had powdery snow that stuck on the ground.

I looked out my window to see the snow slowly blanket everything in sight. It was exciting! I walked out the front door and saw adults playing like children, with children. How could I help but to venture out from the warmth of my home. The spirit of a white Christmas was contagious. About 2:00 a.m., when the streets of Bay City are usually vacant, there was a bustle of activity everywhere I looked. I saw people building snowmen and delighting in the projectile characteristics of the powdery stuff.

The landscape was enthralling! How different did the usual sights appear. Shrubbery that I paid little attention to before now were masterpieces of nature's beauty. A mundane storm drain became a geometric wonder. A drab, grassy field became as alluring as a field of bluebonnets. And all it took was a little snow!

But it was cold! My fingers and toes soon started to tingle painfully even though I was wearing gloves. I saw cars losing traction on the roads. I thought how dangerous the roads would be mainly because we are not used to driving under such conditions.

As I started reflecting about our white Christmas I asked myself how the spirit of a white Christmas might compare to the spirit of volunteerism. True volunteerism is surprising to the extent that volunteers make up a small percentage of our work force. People helping people altruistically is a relatively rare phenomena on a day-to-day basis. We seem to lend a helping hand in the case of catastrophic events such as 9/11 and the tsunami relief; but, day-to-day giving is not so common. Volunteerism is exciting, it unites people, and in the particular environment of a public school setting, it unites intergenerationally. There is a sense of beauty about volunteerism in that it is a noble endeavor and people see it as such. Volunteerism changes things: it changes a mundane task into an act of giving, it changes interpersonal attitudes because the act of volunteering is done for someone - not something, and in our case it changes the amount of time the instructional staff has to devote to actual engagement with their students. I hope you enjoyed the snow and I hope you enjoy your experience as a CARES volunteer!