

Christmas cards do 'get-well' duty for hospital



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Kathie Buchino is certainly living up to her title as hospitality chairman of Kosair-Children's Hospital auxiliary.

She has turned over her living room to the sorting operation for the auxiliary's fund-raising Christmas-card sale.

"We haven't furnished the room yet," said Mrs. Buchino. That means there was plenty of space to stack the 80 or so cartons that began arriving in July filled with 64,000 cards and an equal number of envelopes.

In one corner are cardboard pieces to be folded into mailing boxes. On a table, covered with a red-and-white checked cloth, is a coffee urn. That's for the Monday-morning sorters.

Since July several auxiliary members have gathered at card tables in Mrs. Buchino's living room to count cards into packets of 25.

All the cards have been counted now, and only the envelopes remain. But in the fall, the living room will be the scene of labeling and addressing boxes of cards to fill the mail orders.

"I do think packaging is the most fun part," says Joan Kmetz, auxiliary president. The women get to visit with each other and hear about auxiliary projects coming up.

"We played Christmas music one morning," says Mrs. Buchino. Only she, daughter, Susan, almost 7, and Barbara Nagaraj, ways-and-means chairman, were on hand that time.

One auxiliary member who was hospitalized gave a hand from her hospital room. Jane Jobst "was our best counter last year," says Mrs. Kmetz, and was most disappointed not to be part of the sorting operation. The auxiliary was

happy to deliver cards to her in the hospital.

Mrs. Jobst will be in charge of staffing the booth at Stewart's in Oxmoor Shopping Center, where the auxiliary will sell cards for six weeks in the fall.

Seven designs will be available this year. Keith Spears Jr., whose art work has graced a card for the past two years, will be represented this year by a country scene in winter.

Primitive artist Pamela Miles, who was asked to lend a work last year, will have a wintry scene of a horse farm reproduced on a card.

Last Christmastime auxiliary members spotted a watercolor of poinsettias by Sylvia Moore in a store window at Oxmoor. They wanted at least one traditional subject for this year and finally managed to track down the artist to ask permission to use her painting on a card.

Other artists represented are Marge Welch, former president of the Kentucky Watercolor Society, and Deborah Bundy.

About 150 designs were submitted by Jefferson County Public School students. The one selected was a drawing of a Christmas-tree branch by Tommy Brock, 11, who will enter Jesse Stuart Middle School this fall.

Available again will be a card with the della Robbia wreath, the international symbol of children's hospitals.

All the artists' designs are depicted on the order form, which is available by calling the hospital's volunteer office, 589-8172.

Barbara Jones was drafted as chairman of the sale, which is quite an undertaking in marketing and processing. She contacts the printer and does all the banking and bookkeeping. All the

order forms are sent to her. "She is either on the phone or in her car," says a fellow auxiliary member, Cynthia York.

Auxiliary members will visit about a hundred businesses, asking them to buy cards. Order forms will be sent to previous individual purchasers and will be available at several banks.

The cards will also be sold in the gift shop at Kosair-Children's Hospital/Medical Center, 200 E. Chestnut, and at the annual TWIGS bazaar Nov. 5 at the hospital. (TWIGS is an association of groups that raises funds for the hospital.) The auxiliary has already received \$1,500 in orders.

A box of 25 cards costs \$7. A one-line imprint of an individual's or company's name, available on a minimum order of 100 cards, costs 7 cents a card. Shipping charge is \$1.50.

Last year's card sale raised \$14,742.51. The auxiliary raised another \$4,000 from other projects. The money goes to the Children's Hospital Foundation with recommendations from the auxiliary for its use.

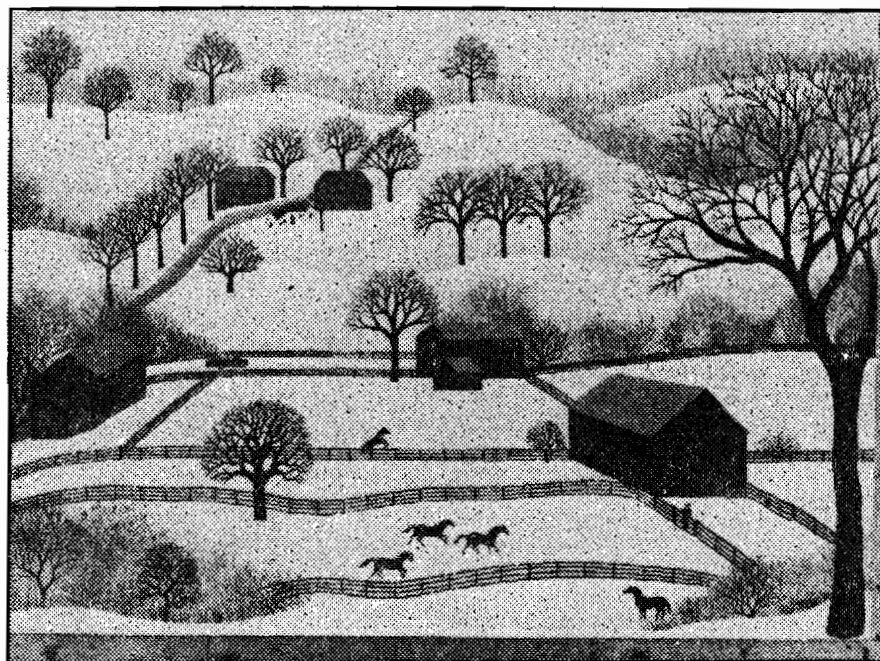
Equipment bought for the hospital with money from last year's sales included two heart monitors and an infusion pump, which automatically gives medication and fluids.

The card sale is not just a fund-raiser, says Mrs. Kmetz, who has been in the auxiliary for 17 years. It serves to keep the community aware of the hospital, which is another auxiliary purpose.

Some of the group's 360 members do volunteer work at the hospital, conducting tours, working in the information booth and assisting with mailings.

Another fund-raiser is the Day at the Races, held on the first Saturday of the fall meet at Churchill Downs. And at this year's rummage sale, auxiliary members donated baked items.

A new fund-raiser will go before the footlights in April. Doctors, nurses and other hospital staff members will be cast in a production of "Guys and Dolls," to be presented in Trinity High School's auditorium.



Below, from left, Kathie Buchino, Joan Kmetz, Cynthia York and Barbara Jones sort Christmas cards. Above is a Pamela Miles card.