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\$58,609 raised at Dream Telethon

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Gail Maholick/TIMES NEWS

Presenting the largest check at the Dream Come True, Blue Ridge Chapter, were a group representing Apollo Metals. From left are, Marie Reiner, Wayne Wolfe and Travis Blöse, who are the committee who organized a golf tournament at Whitetail Golf Course, Bath on Sept. 2.

More than \$58,000 was raised at the annual telethon held Sunday at Penn's Peak, Jim Thorpe to raise funds for Dream Come True, Blue Ridge Chapter. The telethon aired live on Blue Ridge Communications TV13 and Service Electric, channel 19 in the Tamaqua area.

While there was no tote board or drum roll, the announcement of a total of \$58,609 brought the audience to their feet cheering. The funds will be used to fulfill dreams of local, qualified children.

The Blue Ridge Chapter currently has eight children who are waiting for dream fulfillment.

The telethon featured great entertainment, plenty of check presenters, and people calling in pledges, plus it provided an opportunity for the public to meet several of the youngsters who have received dreams. The children and their parents told of the excitement and hope the dreams represented.

Among the children who have received dreams appearing live were Nadalyn Imbriaco, Derek Szena, Brittney Clouse and Voula Sabol, all of Palmerton. Several youngsters who could not attend were interviewed on tape and were also broadcast during the telethon. Hosts for the evening were George Roberts, Kristal Nemeroff, Nick Hawkey and Dr. Ed Miller. Dr. Miller opened the donations with a check presentation from the Hospital Medical Staff for \$2,500.

The biggest donation was from Apollo Metals, which held its second annual golf tournament at Whitetail Golf Course, Bath on Sept. 3. The golf tournament raised \$18,338.

Also donating a substantial check was Becky's Drive In, which holds a festival and car show every October. The check presented by Cindy Deppe totaled \$13,334.20.

Car Quest's check for \$5,000 was accepted. Car Quest holds a comedy night at Penn's Peak in the spring.

Harriet Visnosky represented PenCor employees who operate a sausage and frozen yogurt stand at the Palmerton Festival which raised over \$4,000.

Walnutport Playground's yearly donation has steadily been rising, reaching \$2,500 this year.

In their second year of donating was Dynamite Woodworking of Palmerton, which raised \$2,000 by holding a haunted Waldorf Hotel event during October.

Donations were accepted from schools, businesses and individuals who all wanted to help the sick youngsters realize a dream.

Among the schools donating were, SS. Peter and Paul School, \$300, raised during a Chinese auction; National Honor Society at Palmerton School District, \$300, raised through a bake sale.

PenCor employees also held a golf tournament that raised \$500. Jukebox Cruisers Car Club raised \$1,000. Also raising over a \$1,000 was The Dream Kids, who have donated over \$30,000 over that last few years. White Christmas Tree Farm held a Breakfast With Santa that raised \$500.

Local talented singers helped provide a reason for people to tune into the telethon.

Among the great entertainment heard throughout the evening was Tommy Zito, who has been working in the entertainment field for 50 years. Other entertainers included Kristal Nemeroff, Angela Nardini, Don Andreas, "Just Plain Don" on Acoustic Guitar, Richard Leone, Jim Thorpe Idol winner; Grace Loudon, Hannah Ahner, Michael Perkins, Pat McGeehan, the band, Night Wind, and the musical group, Recreated Christmas.

One of the most adorable entertainment acts was a group of young dancers from the Carbon County Performing Arts.

Presented Dreammaker Awards were a group of special individuals who have consistently supported Dream Come True. Among the recipients are Wasyl Mauser, who held hayrides at Becky's Dream Come True event; Holly Prescott, Jolly Holly the Clown, who has made balloon animals at Becky's for the young and old alike; Stacy Henry Gogel, provides games at Becky's, such as a fish pond and frog hop and donated funds and services to Dream Come True; Brenda Emerick, editor and publisher of Blue Mountain Town and Country Gazette, which has published free full page ads and published articles before and after the event since 1988; and Frank Stanek, a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter Board of Directors for the past three years, helps with dream fulfillment and has helped in producing the Dream Come True telethon and worked at fund raisers for many years.



Outstanding volunteers for Dream Come True, Blue Ridge Chapter, were recognized with Dreammaker Awards. From left are, Nick Hawkey, host and presenter; Brenda Emerick, editor and publisher of Blue Mountain Town and Country Gazette, who has published free full page ads and published articles before and after the event since 1988; Frank Stanek, a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter Board of Directors for the past three years, helps with dream fulfillment and has helped in producing the Dream Come True telethon and worked at fund raisers for many years; and Wanda Strohl, who organizes the car show portion of Becky's Drive In fundraiser. She assisted the presentation of the check from the event.