

Chapter Spotlight on a

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Our chapter, **Tennessee Preceptor Chi, Knoxville** wanted to help with a charity this year. That's not unusual – we help with charities every year. The difference this year was that they wanted to help "physically" not just monetarily. So I emailed the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign headquarters and asked if we could 'ring the bells'. A lady answered my e-mail and said she would send me the information for helping and she wanted to know more about us. I wrote, 'We are located in the North Knoxville/Fountain City area. Our chapter has only 8 members at this time who have been together 20 or 25 years. Our ages range from the late 50's to early 70's. We aren't as physically active as we used to be! We try to improve our treasury in order to provide money to give organizations instead of being active in them. Some members have a hard time standing or walking and that's why I want us to have at least three of us working together in this campaign. I may not be able to get us into more than 2 hour time slots, but we will see. This is the first time in years that the ladies actually wanted to help an organization in a physical way.'

The Salvation Army lady called me and told me some time slots and I set up our members as well as I could and sent her the e-mail letting her know what we could do. By the time she got my e-mail, the



Tennessee Preceptor Chi, Knoxville member Susie Tries (*right*) with Legacy and granddaughter of member Paula Donaldson, Rachel French.

campaign had already started. She had been bombarded with emails and ours was lost in the shuffle. Finally an email arrived from her and she had two Saturday time-slots for us if we wanted them. Yes, I wrote back, we want them!

Sorority sister, Susie Treis, and I dressed warmly on that first Saturday because it was 32 degrees outside and our time slot was for 2 hours! People were friendly and had smiling faces as they contributed. My 6-year-old-granddaughter, Rachel French, came for about half an hour to help us out (she had already helped her mom rake

Joyous Christmas

leaves at their church, so she got a little tired and cold, too!) She was really a hit and it seemed as though more people were giving because of the cute little girl standing there smiling and ringing the bell! I guess it doesn't matter why they give as long as they feel they want to. The giving spirit just

comes out. It started to snow around 11:15. Some asked if ringing the bells brought the snow! Great idea! The snow came down heavily but after leaving the area, there wasn't a snow flake to be seen!

The Knox County Sheriff's Office has a project called SCAN (Senior Citizens Awareness Network). Sorority sister, Julia Northern, has a daughter who is over this project in our area. 'It was organized in 1996 to provide services to the elderly and disabled in our community. Volunteers are able bodied senior citizens. They help relieve the uniformed officers from performing the time consuming tasks. Six days a week, the volunteers check on the safety and security of older citizens who have enrolled in the free program. Currently the program has over 80 volunteers and approximately 225 recipients.' Our chapter tries to help the ones that Julie herself sees



Tennessee Preceptor Chi, Knoxville members Brenda Mertz (left) and Evelyn Emory work on gift bags for area seniors.

regularly have a little bit of a Merry Christmas. Our project is called 'Baskets of Joy'. We fill medium size baskets or Christmas gift bags with lots of items that seniors can use and some items just for fun. We put in shampoo, toothpaste, combs, lotions, etc. Then we add Christmas cards, ornaments, small calendars and a few pieces of hard candy. This year we filled 17 Christmas gift bags for senior men and women.

'They' say the economy is bad and people are scared for the future. As we try to cut back and save on all that we can, I hope we will always think of how others may still need our help. This year we made a 'difference' because we wanted to do a little extra for the ones we don't know and may never know who need a little extra help. So ring those bells and fill those baskets, keep our Christmases bright!"