

## Helping Others

Devoted though they are to their successful National Camp Project, members of T.T.T. have continued to work quietly at home, helping the needy and participating in local community activities.

During the war years, they joined and taught classes in nutrition; learned home nursing and first aid. They folded miles of surgical dressings for the Red Cross. They sold Victory Bonds and stamps, assisted with blood banks, made afghans and pieced quilts for hospital patients. Chapter members became Volunteer Nurses' Aides and Gray Ladies, relieving the nurse shortage and bringing cheer and comfort to the sick and lonely.

Many planted Victory Gardens. Those with mechanical skill might be found in the Red Cross Motor Corps. Some members enlisted in the Women's Army Corps, the Waves and the Nursing Corps, and served their country in the United States and overseas. Day in, day out, T.T.T. worked for peace.

Mabel Stewart Bales, one of the T.T.T. founders, who distinguished herself for her war work in her Iowa City community, wrote in *T.T.T. Tidings*:



We know the valiant effort of our men in active service, laboring tirelessly with every ounce of their strength, that we and our children may live a free people. . . .

It is the patriotic duty of us, the home women, to enlist ourselves 100 percent in the Army of the Home Front. Let us do willingly every small and inconspicuous task that is allotted to us.

War activities successfully concluded, T.T.T. chapters have continued their modest activities in their own areas. Day by day they are on hand to aid the deserving — young and old. Eye glasses are provided for school children, and dentures for elderly folk. A young girl is made happy when T.T.T. members come to the rescue with money for her commencement expenses, or provide a Homecoming Queen with an attractive wardrobe.

A new hearing aid helps a grade school student keep pace with classwork. Handicapped children are transported from school for therapy treatments. Movie projectors and television sets, gifts from T.T.T. members, furnish entertainment in County Homes. A little boy who lost both legs in a train accident will walk again with artificial legs. T.T.T. contributed to a fund which changed his outlook from despair to hope.

Many chapters "adopt" families and individuals and provide them with necessities and cheering gifts the year around. One group contributed 3,660 half-pints of milk for undernourished school children. "Fairy Godmothers" sponsored a Cin-



derella project and sent, anonymously, gifts of money, clothing, game tickets and other surprises to two high school girls in need of a special lift.

A member of one chapter gave free music lessons to a talented girl and boy, and later, her chapter financed a year's college scholarship for the boy, who was ready for advanced work. An elderly woman was made happy with a train ticket to her home town, where she spent an unforgettable Christmas holiday with old friends.

Less romantic, but equally helpful, are such philanthropic projects as helping with furnace payments; paying the telephone bill for an invalid woman; assisting during a visit of the Bloodmobile, or giving funds for the repair of a dilapidated chimney. Chapters buy wheel chairs which are free to deserving invalids, and members sew for hospitals and plan ward parties for patients.

Cheers for the good work of T.T.T. are expressed in this letter from a beneficiary, published in a California newspaper:

There is a club in this city of ours that is deserving of a lot of credit. This club started in Iowa and has become nationally known. The members have done wonderful work, and as I and my children have received help, such as food, clothing and fuel, we do want everyone to know that this city (Santa Cruz) has such a wonderful organization. . . . I am writing this article in gratitude to the club for the many blessings we have received. May God bless them and give them the strength and courage to carry on their great work. The club is T.T.T.



Since *charity* is the altruistic purpose of the Society, set forth by the six founders more than a half-century ago, individual and state organizations necessarily display ingenuity in money-raising projects for their philanthropic work.

You may meet T.T.T. members selling hot dogs and hamburgers at County Fairs, horse races and ball games, or presiding prettily at Silver Teas. One chapter sold 500 pounds of pecans — "we really went nuts," a member recalls.

Some groups have earned money serving meals for service clubs, mother-daughter banquets and church meetings. They have washed dishes, assisted at receptions and decorated churches for weddings — for modest fees.

Home talent shows have proved profitable for some chapters. Proceeds of \$315 from a minstrel show went to the school band fund. Another entertainment netted \$350 for the local library.

The attitude of T.T.T. toward its philanthropic activities is expressed by Mary Firebaugh Swaney, the Society's first president, in these words:

It is true that in each local project our love is made visible, because each T.T.T. Chapter has this spiritual approach and concern for persons in need; a sincere desire to share another's burden and to do something about it. Can we be true members of T.T.T. without having that feeling of involvement in the life of mankind?

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