

Residents, businesses come to aid of One Way Farm

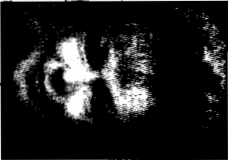
Slow holiday giving season left shelter \$40,000 short

By Joe Glemmo
For The JournalNews

FAIRFIELD — Fairfield residents are starting to answer a plea to help One Way Farm.

After a slow holiday giving season, the shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children was approximately \$40,000 short of where it stood a year ago.

That's when founder and Executive Director Barb Condo sent out a letter to businesses and residents asking for help.



Barb Condo

"I wondered how can we gain the necessary funds to carry through the winter," the letter stated.

"As I began to think, I could only envision how a one-dollar donation could become a miracle."

The letter ends with "There is a scripture that says, 'You have not because you ask not.' I feel this is true. I am asking."

Condo said the letter and her continued fund-raising efforts are getting results.

"We're trying to somehow

retrieve that (lost) funding," Condo said. "We're trying to find companies that will donate their product. We've had to assess where to spend the money and how to cut back on spending. Basically, if we have to buy it, we have to find it."

Condo said the fall off in donations stems from the sluggish economy and higher utility and gas costs.

Couple that with the farm's rising insurance rates and the financial situation is even tighter.

"A lot of people may not think those things affect us, but they do," Condo said. For example, "We go to Fairfield Pediatrics every day. Our vans are constantly on the road. We need gas certificates."

That's one way Condo is battling the situation: if individuals or businesses can't donate money, she'll take the actual product.

"It's easier to get products than money," said Condo, who makes two or three speaking appearances a week, asking for donations. "Last week I spoke at two churches, and now I have a liquid soap church and a ketchup church. If I need a product, I ask one place for one product."

The strategy has been successful in helping meet the great demand at One Way Farm, she said.

Clothing and food items have already begun to roll in.

A local barber has agreed to give free haircuts, which Condo

said was a big expense before.

Currently, One Way Farm is seeking hamburger meat, as well as restaurant and entertainment certificates.

"What we're doing now is really trying to accumulate recreation (donations) because that is very expensive," Condo said.

All types of donations, including money, are still needed, Condo said.

One Way Farm was brought to Fairfield from Cincinnati in 1976 and has helped more than 4,000 kids in need between the ages of 6 to 22.

For more information on One Way Farm, access its Web site at www.OneWayFarm.org or call 829-3276.