



TEENS sort through food gathered during the drive held in Bird City.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.



RENEE COLTHARP, new director of nursing at home health, looks over patient records.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

# Teens gather up items and toys

Teens for Christ met on Wednesday, Nov. 14, with 21 students and seven leaders. At 7 p.m., they divided into four groups and drove around town to gather food from the houses with porch lights on, to take to the Methodist Church to be used for the Thanksgiving boxes that will be delivered by the local Ministerial Alliance.

After delivering the food and sorting it, they returned to the Lutheran Church where the Teens filled shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child organization. They had a great time filling approximately 65 boxes with all the items donated by Teens for Christ members, sponsors and the community.

Joan Banister took them to McDonald to the drop off place at the Federated Church. Three sponsors and eight Teen for Christ members will be going to Denver on Nov. 21, to the distribution center to help with packing and distribution of the shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse where they will be delivered to children all over the world.

Those Teen for Christ members include: Heath Churchwell, Austin Cobb, Cassie Rucker, Nakita Schneider, Grant Shrader, Connor Hazuka, Shayla Hubbard, Danae Magnani, Ivan Kemp, Nicole Glass, Dominique Johnson, Destany Clemens, Abbi Miller, Kalin Ritchey, Diana Garcia, Ha-leigh Rucker, Amber Manners, Alex Hazuka, Andy Miller, Jacob Serrano and Derek Vandike.



**FILLING OPERATION Christmas Child boxes are (L-R): Grant Shrader, Diana Garcia and Shayla Hubbard.**

# Home health care has new director of nursing

By Karen Krien  
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The Good Samaritan Society Home Care has a new director of nursing and staff.

Renée Coltharp, R.N., was hired Oct. 18, then spent a week in training for the directorship at the Society's headquarters in South Dakota. The first day in her office on U.S. 36 was Nov. 6.

"I'm here to make a difference," Ms. Coltharp said.

Along with her staff, she will be spending time working with patients.

I feel that working with the patients is important as I can't expect any more from my staff if I'm not working also, she said.

The staff, besides Ms. Coltharp, includes two registered nurses, one licensed practical nurse, three aides who double as homemakers and one homemaker. Dee Epperson helps keep the office running.

As the director, she is learning the computer program, which, she said, includes everything from the budget, to finance, to assessments. The good thing about the program, she said, is the availability of tech support and the assurance that the information will be correct when turned in to Medicare, Medicaid and insurance companies.

Her goals, besides staying within the budget, is to efficiently serve patients in the five counties including Wallace, Rawlins, Thomas, Sherman and Cheyenne. The home health includes helping patients with bathing, cooking, making sure they have balanced meals and they are eating it, setting up medicines and other services ordered by the

doctor. Often, patients come from the hospital to their homes and they need a little extra help, Ms. Coltharp said. Helping these people is just one of our services.

Our goal, she said, is to get patients back on their feet and functioning so they are able to stay in their homes but are also able to get out instead of sitting at home.

What many people don't know, she said, is we can also provide physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy to patients in their homes.

Ms. Coltharp waited until her two children were grown before going back to school where she earned her nursing degree from Butler Community College in 2007. She went on to paramedic school in Hutchinson, graduating December 2008. Before taking the position of director of home health, she worked in the Atchison County Hospital emergency room, the Goodland Regional Medical Center and Cheyenne County Hospital as needed. She was also a traveling nurse for a short time. She also worked in the Morton County Hospital.

I have worked with all ages, from pediatrics to the elderly, as well as worked in many different areas of medical services, Ms. Coltharp said. While I have enjoyed working in these services, I am very happy to be working with the elderly and plan to end my career here with the Good Samaritan Society's home care.

Those wanting more information about the Good Samaritan Society Home Care services may call 785-332-3588.

## Public Auction

Saturday, December 1, 2012 @ 10:00 A.M. CT

Auction Location: from Atwood Kansas, go 8 miles east on U.S. Hwy 36 to Rd. 29, then south 11 miles on Rd. 29 to Road G then 3/4 of a mile East on G, then 1 mile South East to Road F then 1.5 miles East on Road F, then 1.5 North on Road 32 to the Sale site.

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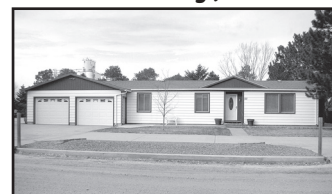


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