

# It takes a Village volunteer

*Marietta resident is a pillar at Brethren Village*

Lois Witman has a heart for volunteering.

And as a member of Florin Church of the Brethren, the 70-year-old Marietta resident has had plenty of chances to do just that.

She cleans the church's transitional house in Mount Joy and has been part of the food committee

for the Church of the Brethren's disaster relief auction at Lebanon Fairgrounds for the past 27 years.

Witman also has been the church's go-to person on the Brethren Village auxiliary for a number of years. She was the auxiliary vice president for four years and is in her last year of a four-year term as president of the auxiliary.

She also was a member of Elizabethtown College's auxiliary for 25 years, but gave it up in 2000 when she became the Brethren Village auxiliary president.

With the help of other members of the auxiliary, Witman has decorated 50 to 55 Christmas trees and hung 70 to 80 door wreaths each year for the past 20 years.

Throughout the year, the Brethren Village auxiliary raises money from a membership drive, a Christmas cookie sale, an Easter candy sale, an Evening of Melody concert in June and a chicken barbecue. The auxiliary also runs the gift shop, village store, coffee shop and thrift shop in



Lori Van Ingen  
Senior citizens

the Village Center.

The auxiliary raises about \$125,000 a year, Witman said.

"I enjoy working here," Witman said. "This year is challenging."

Witman volunteers about 50 hours a month, according to volunteer coordinator Jaris Woller.

Besides the time she puts in for the auxiliary, Witman also volunteers at the retirement community in other capacities. Last week, she volunteered at the ice cream social; she works at the annual Octoberfest; and she regularly volunteers in the sewing room.

Witman said her next big job is to get help for the annual chicken barbecue. She ticked off all the things she'll need: servers, hostesses, someone to dip ice cream, people to pick up trash, and donations for the bake sale.

The 46th annual chicken barbecue and auction will be held Aug. 7, rain or shine. A devotional service at 9 a.m. will be held under the auction tent.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the auxiliary will host a bake sale in East Fairview Cottage; handmade crafts sale in fellowship hall, lower level of Village Center; vintage items, books and plant sales in the assembly hall, lower level of Health Care Center; and resident workshop craft sales and an antique engine exhibit, both by the pavilion.

From 9:45 to 11 a.m., there will be a spelling bee for anyone over age 12 under the auction tent.

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Lois Witman, president of the Brethren Village auxiliary, stands in front of the village store, which the auxiliary runs.

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