

Lakewood Rotary Shares the Power of Flowers

If you have ever been to the Colorado Garden and Home Show, you may wonder what happens to those thousands of delightful flowers that are on display. Lakewood Rotary, along other area Rotary Clubs, works to give those blooms a second life and to bring some colorful floral cheer to area nursing home residents.

Each year, as soon as the Show ends on Sunday evening, Rotarians gather to box up the blooms, filling some 7-10,000 cartons. These are loaded onto trucks which are driven to Coors field



Shirley Organ, Lakewood Rotarian, helped box and deliver hundreds of blooms to nursing home residents.

where they are kept overnight. Lakewood Rotary members and spouses who boxed up flowers this year included Fred and Dorothy Thies, Lou Hassoun, Jim Cluck, Bud Bryan, Wayne Smith, Mary Anne and Harvey Fleet, and Shirley Organ.

Then, early Monday morning, the Rotarians arrive at Coors field and load up their trucks, vans, and trailers and head out to the nursing homes. Lakewood Rotary picked up 110 boxes with 880 blooming flower pots. Those who picked up the flowers were Wayne Smith, Fred Thies, Bud Bryan, Robin Lucy, Dale Pfleiger, Eric Young, and Shirley Organ.

The flowers were driven to 20th and Wadsworth to meet another crew of Lakewood Rotarians who then delivered the boxes of blooms to nine nursing homes and one hospice in the Lakewood area. This new crew consisted of Virgil Holtgrewe, Lou Hassoun, Robin Lucy, Shirley Organ, Joe Woodson, Jim Cluck and his grandson Nathan, Rick Claggett, Mary Anne Fleet, Dennis Lovaas, Eric Young, and Bud Bryan. The project was finished at 2:45 pm.

The Lakewood nursing home residents were very excited to see the blooms arrive and the boxes unpacked. One 86 year old woman said she couldn't remember the last time she got flowers! Lakewood

Rotary delivered to Cornerstone Care Center, Glen Ayre Health Center, Cambridge Care Center, Cedars Health Center, Allison Care Center, Western Hills Care Center, Evergreen Terrace, Brighton Gardens, Villa Manor, as well as the Hospice of St. John.

Afterwards, the empty cardboard boxes were returned to Coors Field where they were placed in an empty semi to be recycled. Altogether, Rotarians delivered flowers to 60 Front Range nursing homes. The flowers were valued at \$500,000!