



Work on a new sidewalk in front of the Debert Elementary School was being carried out in August. (Harrington Photo)



Showing off his bright new coat of the feathers, this goldfinch was merrily chirping out a song letting everyone know that spring has arrived. (Harrington Photo)

African Aids Angel

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friends made over 80 angels. Many of these were sold at the Bass River Heritage Days.

"Most sold for a minimum donation of \$5 to \$7 dollars but one person paid \$100 for three angels," said Alicia with a smile.

Alicia is the daughter of Wendy Cox and Donald Cooke and Merissa is the daughter of Donna and Scott MacNeill.

Judy Starritt is very pleased with the support she has received from the community of Bass River. "We made \$284.50 at Heritage Days. I enjoyed talking with people who knew my sister-in-law Sylvia and many people were eager to buy an angel that was made using a piece of her jewelry. Sylvia had a very generous heart and she would be happy to know that her earrings and necklaces are helping others."

The total raised from the Bass River area has surpassed \$500 and Judy was recently able to mail off another \$1000 donation to the Africa Aid Angels.

Judy says she greatly appreciates the enthusiasm of the younger girls who have been helping. "Alicia and Merissa have been so dedicated to this cause. They have even been teaching some of their friends to make the angels, as well. These girls have been thinking of ways to help others for the past four summers."

Alicia and Merissa have used their summer vacation to help raise money for the SPCA, too. "We started giving massages about 4 years ago, then we sold painted rocks, hand made jewelry and calendars," says Merissa. "Last year we donated over \$160 to the SPCA."

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The African Aid Angels have certainly kept the girls busy this summer. Once the angles are completed a unique name is chosen. The angels are given a traditional African name in memory of a child who has died of Aids. The names are printed on cards and attached to the angels.

The African Aids Angels currently supports 4 projects in South Africa: St. Nicholas Orphanage Village near Lusaka, Zambia; St. Mary's Hospital in Mariannhill, South Africa assisting pregnant women; An AIDS widow's support group in Malawi and an orphanage run by the Daughters of St. Francis in Annerley, South Africa. The donations have provided funding for food, medicine, seeds, books, school fees, and other essentials. For more information visit the website at AfricanAidsAngels.googlepages.com

Anyone who is interested in making a donation for one of these angels may contact Alicia Cooke at 647-2720.



Alicia Cooke (left) and Merissa MacNeill are collecting beach treasures as they walk along the beach at King's Rest in Bass River. They will use these items to make a unique African Aids Angel, which will have the appearance of a beach warrior. (Harrington Photo)



Merissa MacNeill, Judy Starritt and Alicia Cooke are putting their creative minds together as they begin work on another unique African Aids Angel. The angels are given out as a thank you gift for a donation in support of AIDS projects in South Africa. (Harrington Photo)



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