

Hallmark holiday



The town of Taos, N.M., recently recognized OMI's Luella Kramer for her outstanding contributions to the community by naming Oct. 9 Luella Kramer Day. Kramer has become a cornerstone of the town's public life. Here's what she had to say about her special day and her contributions to Taos public life:

This day came as a major surprise. I didn't expect it at all. But it's nice to be acknowledged by my peers.

In 1976, I moved to Taos with my family. When I came to Taos, I didn't know anybody. I didn't work and had two small children at home, so I knew that the only way to meet people was to get out and do things in the community.

I joined the Holy Cross Hospital Auxiliary 25 years ago, and was named president of Auxiliary and Volunteer Services of the New Mexico Hospitals and Health Systems Association on Sept. 12. In 1999, Holy Cross selected me as auxiliary of the year. In addition to volunteering for the hospital, I volunteer at the public library and Taos Municipal Schools. I am also very involved with the Girl Scouts and coordinate all Girl Scout activities for troops in Taos, Penasco, Questa, and Red River.

My mother gets the credit for starting me out volunteering. My mother was always a big volunteer. She was a teacher and knew the importance of helping children and others in the community, so I guess that's where I got it from.

I was so honored that the town recognized me with a special day. My daughter said that she wanted to send me a Hallmark card for my day, but the card industry hasn't caught on to Luella Kramer Day, yet.

Luella Kramer

Luella Kramer
Office Specialist

The giant bowl of soup took over 3,000 cans of food to construct.

The CANstruct team: (top left to right) Hsi Chi, Drew Desher, Dinshaw Kanga, Don Grandy, Michael Longland, Jason DaSilva; (bottom left to right) Darryle Tang, Sophia Wong, Katherine Hong. Members not pictured, Wayne Wagner, Joseph Eratostene, Barbara Kolis-Hupa, Yanhong Du.



Helping hands

Armed with more than 3,000 cans of food, a team of 13 CH2M HILL employees in Toronto, Canada, set out to help battle hunger in the 2002 CANstruct competition.

The CANstruct event, which benefits the Daily Bread Food Bank, increases community awareness of homelessness and hunger. Entrants build, or "canstruct," creative and artistic renditions made solely of nonperishable foods.

With a can-do attitude, the CH2M HILL team designed and built a giant bowl of chicken vegetable soup supported by a pair of helping hands. And, while it took six hours to construct the giant display, prior to the event the team volunteered many more hours during lunch and after work relentlessly working on the design.

"Everyone who participated in the event walked away with a smile in their hearts, as well as on their faces. Not only for the great job we did, but also for the effort put forth to helping those in need," said Jason DaSilva, team captain. "It makes

me proud to be part of a company composed of people who are willing to offer this kind of support to their community."

What were the building blocks of the team's intricate design? The back wall of the display was created from chicken and tomato soup cans. The bowl is supported by apple juice cans and shaped with cereal boxes. The content of the soup was created with juice bottles placed upside down and accented by noodles made of salad dressing bottles. The floating vegetables are made from ketchup, peanut butter and Gatorade bottles. The hands holding the bowl were sculpted from bags of rice.

The food, valued over \$3,330 (CDN), was purchased by CH2M HILL and donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank.

Out of 11 entries, the CH2M HILL team walked away with an Honorable Mention award. Barely able to "cantain" their post-competition excitement, the team has already started planning for next year's competition.

