



Ellie Grella, at rear, is pictured with some of the youngsters and parents at the hospital in Guatemala.



Show is Ella Grella (center) with some dolls she will take to Guatemala; with Marlene Herring (left) and Diane Howser.

# Club assists nurse with work in Guatemala

When RN Ella Grella of Solvay-Geddes-Camillus Kiwanis makes her week-long child-serving trip to Guatemala this spring she will be fulfilling a dual-purpose pledge.

This will be her seventh time to shift from her regular nursing duties at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse to help treat children in Guatemala hospitals and clinics. The program is coordinated by Helping Hands Medical Missions, a Catholic church program. Nurse participants pay their own way for round-trip airfare and certain other expenses.

Ellie's daily schedules will probably be something like helping with as many

as 10 surgeries a day in the hospital or clinic help where 300 to 400 youngsters may need eye care, inoculation or other attention.

This fits an interesting parallel with Kiwanis, where basic themes have always been concerned with "Children Of The World."

On this trip to Guatemala, she will be taking a big batch of Kiwanis Therapy Dolls. She has taken some before and child patients are thrilled with the cloth dolls in hospital gowns they can call their own. Most get decorated with eyes and mouths or other markings by the children. Often a doctor or nurse will

show on the doll where a child will be treated and help to calm any qualms about hospitalization the child may have.

A majority of the dolls which have been provided to Kiwanis and the Syracuse and Guatemala hospitals have come through the efforts of Barbara Redmond of Holland Patent, a member of Solvay-Geddes-Camillus Kiwanis.

She got her skillful seamstress daughter, Kathy Schaller, and Kathy's sewing club interested in making the dolls with hospital gowns, and they have found ready homes throughout Kiwanis projects.

## Minisink Valley Completes Governor's Project

As part of the New York District Kiwanis Governor's Project, on Dec. 21 the Kiwanis Club of Minisink Valley donated a complete Dr. Seuss series to Mrs. Cardinale's first grade classroom at Minisink Valley Elementary School.

The project consists of collecting and distributing books to children to promote literacy and early childhood reading.

MVES feels very lucky that one of our classrooms has been chosen to be the recipients of these books. The children are thrilled with their new books and are happily reading all of the old time favorites, "Green Eggs and Ham", "Cat in the Hat", "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" to name just a few.

## Jefferson Breakfast Committed to Literacy

More than 20 years ago the Jefferson Breakfast Club of Watertown was challenged to help promote literacy. The group stepped up to the plate, contacted the Flower Memorial Library and the Story Line was launched.

The program involved reading a book at the library into a recorder attached to the phone. Children would call the Story Line and listen to the recorded book.

When technology was updated the book was recorded over the phone and again children would call and listen to the recorded book.

As you can imagine when the library contacted our club about 10 years ago to sponsor a new program for literacy we

were excited. In nine months we had almost 25,000 full books read on the "TumbleBook" program we sponsor. Can you imagine a reading program in three different languages, English, French and Spanish, where books are read to you or you can read them, with videos, games and puzzles all for free?

Book marks have been shared with our local schools, local and area libraries, literacy programs around the area and our neighbors from Canada.

With the help of the St. Lawrence Division, a reading nook was built at the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park in Watertown to help support literacy. The area contains books donated by the division.

## K-Kids Raise Funds for Juvenile Diabetes

The Sea Cliff Elementary School K-Kids, led by Faculty Advisor Mark Mihopulos, had a Walk for the Cure for Juvenile Diabetes on Feb. 26.

A representative from JDRF, Bob Parant, who has Type 1 Diabetes, spoke bringing an awareness to the K-Kids and other participants who were present, and followed up with a Q & A period. Members had fun jogging around the gym at Sea Cliff Elementary School holding colorful posters they created during their meetings which displayed facts about Type I Diabetes.

Bob Parant thanked the K-Kids for their successful fund raising work