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Neighborhood raises money for shelter

June 12, 2002

Charity begins at home, actually at several homes, in the Montgomery Square neighborhood.

Two weeks ago, about 15 neighbors each donated \$10 to the Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville to participate in a community yard sale.

Monica Gross, 11, daughter of Montgomery Square residents **Bob Gross** and **Nancy Friedman**, thought of making the yard sale a fund-raising event. The Herbert Hoover Middle School student said she visited the Stepping Stones Shelter two years ago with her Girl Scout troop.

The Stepping Stones Shelter houses six families and currently is home to 19 people, executive director **Tina McKendree** said. Shelter staff members plan to use Montgomery Square's \$150 donation to buy sandals or sneakers for the 13 children at the shelter, Tina said.

Other groups have donated towels or swimsuits for the children to use during the summer, but many children still did not have appropriate shoes, Tina said.

The Montgomery Square event was the first time that Tina had heard of a yard sale fund-raising event. The project was particularly interesting because of Monica's involvement, Tina said.

"It's nice when you see the kids thinking about other people and wanting to give back," she said.

Race for the stars?

Potomac resident **Susan Pereles** would like to remind residents to buy tickets to "A Night of Stars... A Race of Dreams," a June 29 cocktail reception in Potomac to benefit autism research.

Eunice and Sargent Shriver, parents of broadcast journalist **Maria Shriver** and state Del. **Mark Shriver** (D-Dist. 15) will host the reception, which is expected to draw several hundred guests. Actor **Anthony Edwards**, known for his role as Dr. Mark Greene on the NBC television series ER, will attend the event.

Tickets to the reception are \$175 per person and can be purchased by contacting Potomac resident Beth Eisman at 301-983-0588.

A related event, the Cure Autism Now Run 2002, will be July 4 in Potomac Village. Participation fees for the 5K event are \$20 if postmarked by June 27, \$18 if a participant registers online at www.cureautismnow.org by July 1, and \$25 if a participant registers July 3 or July 4. Children age 14 and younger can participate for \$12.

Nothing like the real thing