

BINGO GURU SCORES BIG IN VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Jerry Libonati Staff Writer. South Florida Sun - Sentinel. Fort Lauderdale, Fla.: May 27, 2001. pg. 3

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Terry Hobmeier of Tamarac spends a lot of time helping out at Achievement Rehabilitation Center in Sunrise. The 71-year-old transplant from the Bronx considers herself an expert in the art and execution of bingo.

"I've been paying bingo since I was six years old," she said. "A lot of us had to wait for our parents to pick us up, and they occupied our time by letting us play bingo. Since it was during wartime, they gave as a prize a pound of sugar, or coffee, that's what we got."

All of that early bingo experience was put to use when Hobmeier began doing volunteer work for ARC in Sunrise, where she works on Monday mornings.

"I'd been to all the bingo games in town so I work in the office helping to organize the games. I tell them about all the bingo halls in Broward County, and what day they should have the bingo, and we plan different things to do. They take my suggestions and we work together."

The games are offered 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays through May and Tuesdays beginning in June at 10250 NW 53rd St., Sunrise. Monies earned benefit the charity, which helps autistic, deaf and retarded children and adults.

"It is really rewarding," Hobmeier said, "because I feel a part of helping people who need my help, especially with the bingo, and I'm so knowledgeable about that, but I also do secretarial work."

She was introduced to the organization when she read that they offered transportation to their games so she and a friend took a ride. Then she toured the facility.

"They have them playing with the other children in the playground inside the building where they have sponge carpeting so they don't hurt themselves," she said.

When Keith Muniz, marketing vice president at ARC, mentioned the need for help, Hobmeier jumped on the wagon.

"I like volunteering," she said. "It helps me as an individual, and I enjoy being needed."

Hobmeier has also assisted the American Red Cross, worked in a nursing home and collected food for the Humane Society.

She and husband George have lived in Broward for 31 years. They have two children: Robert of Sunrise and Cindy O'Neill of Plantation.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: (color) game player: When she's not calling the shots and planning for bingo games, Terry Hobmeier of Tamarac helps local charities.

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