

## VEA Charitable Foundation

By Linda Kass

### *Giving a hand to the helpers in Fish Lake Valley*

The Dorcus Women's Club in Fish Lake Valley plays a pivotal role in the annual, Christmas event known as the Harvest Festival.

For the season just past, the club applied for a charitable grant from Valley Electric Association's Charitable Foundation to help fund the tradition of providing a gift for each of 302 local children, and a holiday meal for them and their families.

The whole town participates in this holiday celebration with approximately 250 people attending. The event is held every year at the Dyer Community Center.

Volunteers decorate the room in preparation for the festivities.

The meals are also prepared by volunteers, with the Dorcus Women's Club

providing the main course and attendees bringing side dishes and desserts pot luck style.

Volunteers also step up to shop for the gifts, wrappings, ribbons and gift tags. They set aside special days to travel to metropolitan

areas to get the best value for the donated funds.

They wrap each child's present and if a family is unable to attend the event, the volunteers will deliver the meals and the presents to them.

The event also serves as a fundraiser.

The volunteers visit local businesses in addition to traveling to businesses in nearby Tonopah, Nevada and Bishop, California to collect donated raffle items. The raffles are spirited affairs and provide much entertainment during the evening.

Some of the funds collected this year were donated by the Dorcus Women's Club to help with another traditional event.

For approximately 10 years, Vicki Serfoss has been spearheading a local event known as Angel Tree. The event is held on behalf of senior citizens who are 55 years or older and are alone with no family.

"Vicki feels very strongly that these folks should not be alone during the



**The Fish Lake Valley community celebrates the annual, December Angel Tree event.**

