

# Artists gain outlet for old-fashion crafts



Joyce Garfield (left) and Dorry Hammond, (right) shop that gives an outlet to craftsmen. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY  
Tucked away in the corner of the Happiness Is gift shop, Eleven Mile and Middle Belt, Farmington Hills, Joyce Garfield and Dorry Hammond surround themselves with the works of area craftsmen and artists in their Idle Hour Artists shop.

The shop serves as proof that area artists are far from being idle. Within two months the duo has either found or been contacted by area craftsmen looking for an outlet.

"There isn't an outlet for these people. And how many afghans can you use at home?" asked Mrs. Garfield.

For the Garfield-Hammond partnership, Idle Hour Artists was a matter of recognizing that need combined with a determination to beat the winter blahs.

Both women knew others interested in crafts but lacking an outlet. For Mrs. Hammond, the need for an artist's outlet hit close to home. Her daughter, Beth, 12, is one of their artists. She makes styrofoam and leather ostrich puppets for the shop.

Some of the artists are at the other end of the age spectrum from Beth.

SENIOR CITIZENS who have practiced a craft for years are discovering that the old hobby has new money-making uses.

"They're so excited when they're stuff sells," said Mrs. Hammond.

"When they hear something of their's was sold, they say 'you've got

to be kidding me,'" she said.

Another facet of selling their own work that amuses the senior craftsmen is the contract—it uses the word artist.

"They love it," said Mrs. Hammond, with a grin.

A case in point is Mrs. Dorothy Coate, of Farmington Hills, who's decoupage purses and placards are popular items at the shop.

Another senior supplies the tiny corner of a shop with old fashioned stuffed dolls. Isabella Hall, of Troy, shapes her dolls with friendly smiles framed by yarn hair. Sitting in a corner under a store shelf, they're dressed in old-fashioned frocks with pinafores.

Idle Hours Artists' corner also provides room for Jan Hughes' spice wreaths. Made of various spices, they promise to lend their homey aroma to a kitchen if their owners place them near a stove.

Larger pieces, like leaded mirrors or stained glass lamps and windows vie for attention in the shop. The mirrors are made by Linda Marx and Judy Fleck, of Farmington Hills. Sharon Carleccio, of Farmington Hills supplies the colorful leaded hand mirrors and boxes.

LOCAL ARTISTS such as Frank Lohan and Mariam Connolly provide their sketches to the store.

Watching over the operation, Mrs. Hammond and Mrs. Garfield are delighted with their new business roles. They do their own books nightly and watch the stock change daily.

"Our husbands think it's hysterical," said Mrs. Garfield.

Both women have children in junior high and grade school. They arrange their shifts at the helm of the business so each can spend time with her family.

"We're not sacrificing family time," Mrs. Hammond said.

Family time has been eeked out in spite of the Christmas rush and the problems of finding room for their booming stock. Their section of the back room boasts straw elves and Santa mugs as well as a large stained glass window.

Happiness Is owners Judy and Andy Donatello warned their new neighbors of the Christmas rush but the two women seem to be maintaining their sense of humor.

"I'm having so much fun," said Mrs. Hammond. "I see people here that I haven't seen in four or five years."

Since the shop began as an alternative to passing the winter months on school and subdivision committees, the duo charge 25 per cent commission on each item in contrast to some other shops that charge up to 45 per cent.

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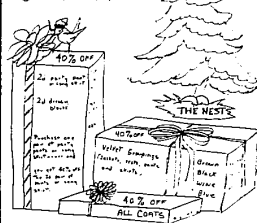
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## Student acts in kids' theatre

Kathy Mattmueller played a leading role in "The Trouble with Christmas Presents," a recent Children's Theatre production at Cottey College of Nevada, Mo.

Miss Mattmueller is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mattmueller of Farmington.

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