

From Santa Claus face to Batman cape

# Shoppers go wild at annual Merry Mart sale

By PATRICIA LACROIX

"Boy, these were going like hot cakes. I think I got the last one."  
"I think I'm going to get this for Mandy's room. Isn't it cute?"  
"We all have to keep moving or else we'll get trampled."  
These were among the comments overheard at the Merry Mart Sale at the Raleigh House in Southfield last week. The sale was sponsored by the

Christ Child Society, which uses the money raised to support their charitable activities for needy children.  
The doors opened at 10 a.m., and five minutes later, the large room was swarmed with people buzzing around the loaded tables.  
They came in their designer originals, chalcis prints with matching shoes, high heels, stylish hats and fur stoles — the society is well-known for its wealthy membership — but they also came in blue jeans and painter's pants. Whatever their attire, they all came with one idea in mind—to buy.

There were plenty of items for them to choose from, and most of the items were handmade by members of the society. The Christmas decorations table was circled six deep during most of the show. One of the most popular items was a Santa Claus face that could be hung from a door, his beard and mustache made from crumpled plastic wrap.

But if you didn't need Christmas decorations, there was plenty else to choose from:  
Batman capes for Halloween. Cable knit sweaters for children at \$35 each. Dried flower arrangements. Clear plastic recipe boxes with 400 recipes inside, favorites of members of the society. Knit and crocheted hats, mittens, scarves and decorations.

And food.  
Jellies and jams, cookies, brownies, cheese cakes, regular cakes and trendy french dressing for salads.

Ten minutes after the doors opened, some of the tables were empty.  
JAN SCHACK, who left the show with three bags full of merchandise, said most of the things were items she had ordered at a pre-sale show held this summer.

"But then, I bought some more stuff today. Everything is so cute," she laughed.

Pam Gillette said she was busy buying Christmas decorations for her house. Included in her two bags was one of the Santa Claus door hangers, since she says her children will "just love it."

She also bought a decorative ceiling fan for dusting away cobwebs.  
Phyllis Hughes, chairwoman of the

Merry Mart project this year, estimated that the society would clear \$30,000 from the sale.

The money will be used to support the Christ Child House and School.

The Christ Child House is located at Joy and Greenfield in Detroit. It was established as an emergency care center for children between the ages of three and ten. The children are generally referred through the courts and various social agencies and usually

come from broken homes.

A professional social worker and a staff of trained child care workers concern themselves not only with the physical well-being of the child, but also the emotional development.

A variety of new experiences encountered in the home bring the children into new activities and interests. There are currently 18 children in the home.

The school is located on Lahser in

Southfield. It is accredited through the Archdiocese of Detroit for the education of children with learning disabilities.

Through the years, two teachers with special education degrees have been employed to help children

between six and fourteen years old. The classrooms have a capacity of 12 children. It is designed to help educable, mentally impaired children.

## Racquetball class starts

Persons courting an interest in racquetball can take beginning lessons at the Racquetball Courts of Farmington, 3420 West Nine Mile, Farmington.

Classes will begin the week of October 31. Fee is \$21.

Sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the racquetball courts, the lessons will be geared for the beginner and will consist of four one-hour classes on a weekly basis. There will be a maximum of four students in each class. The lessons will be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at 10-11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon.

Racquets and balls are furnished by the courts if needed. The participants can make arrangements for child care during weekdays with the racquetball courts.

Registration will be taken on a first come first serve basis at the Parks and Rec office, 31555 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. For further information, call the office at 474-6115.

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