

Goodfellows give Christmas to kids

Christmas was merrier for 400 children from 150 families in the area due to efforts of the Farmington Goodfellows, who collected more than \$8,500 plus numerous toys, clothing and food for distribution.

"We had a tremendous turnout of people to aid our drive this year," said chairman Dick Tupper. "Food baskets, dolls and other toys, and clothes were packed and sent out last week. We'll keep delivering until we run out of goods."

The recipients' names were turned into the Goodfellows through various means, like church or agency referrals or phone calls from neighbors or friends of those in need.

"It's not as much as we collected last year, but the economy is good this year, so the program is not needed as much," Tupper said.

The primary fundraiser favored by the Goodfellows is an annual paper drive, but money also comes via other means.

"My company, Real Estate One, donated \$500 to the Goodfellows instead of sending out Christmas cards," said Jim Stevens, a Goodfellow. "Sometimes people donate an item in quantity, like Monte Nagler, who owns the Midas Muffler Shop in town and gave us 300 services."

Schools also pitch into the effort with canned food drives or all-out efforts to supply a family with a variety of goods.

The all-school canned goods drive at North Farmington High netted 711 cans, boxes and jars of food for that school's best effort in several years.

Cash contributions from 16 school

clubs and organizations totaled \$53.80. Financial support came from the varsity club, bowling league, band and orchestra, cheerleaders, faculty, national honor society, French club, German club, radio club, senior board, business classes, student council, junior board, choir, athletics and psychology classes.

North Farmington was assigned two single-parent families in the Farmington area. One family had six children, the other had five. Winter coats were purchased for the children along with slacks, tops, mittens, sweaters and other items necessary for new outfits.

A large amount of grocery staples, fresh produce, turkey and ham were added to some of the canned goods for each family. New toys, games and clothing were included.

Each mother received \$50 for supplemental expenses. The remainder of the money went to the Farmington emergency fund, a drive sponsored by the school system which supplies students in need with necessary items, like clothing or money. It is supported by the PTA.

North Farmington's drive, which began immediately after Thanksgiving, was coordinated by Doug MacQueen. Faculty assistants were Mary Keen, Ed Wright and Bill Brinker.

The goods collected by school groups are not included in the final tabulation of the Farmington Goodfellows.

The local Goodfellows group was established 25 years ago, with the philosophy that every child deserves a Christmas.



Who said it's a dog's life?

Stinger, a four-year-old golden retriever may be in sunny California, but he's making sure he remembers the water-winter-wonderland. Stinger's owned by former Farmington resident, Tom Donahue. The dog's pretty admirer is Michigan Rose Bowl Queen Catherine Gilmour, 17. Obviously, everyone's sure that Michigan is number one.

Postal employees credit weather for easy delivery

Good weather and early deadlines are the two factors that have made Christmas mail delivery run smooth this year, according to Farmington Postmaster Ken Harris.

The mail load is up more than six percent year, with 185,000 pieces additional delivered Dec. 2-20. Harris reports that incoming parcel post has also increased over last year.

"The weather has a lot to do with it. Last year, we had two big snowfalls in one week: Six inches Dec. 5 then another six on Dec. 8. That left 12 inches of snow on the ground which caused problems," he said.

The post office at 3320 Slocum survived the Christmas onslaught without hiring temporary help. Harris said casual employees are hired if there is a need, but this year the branch was at full staff.

Proof that residents are mailing earlier is evident. Last year, the peak mail day was Dec. 17 when 214,000 pieces of mail went through the office. This year the peak day was Dec. 15 when mail volume reached a high of 258,000 pieces.

"We let the people know about the earlier deadlines and apparently they moved earlier this season. The building here is as clean as can be. We maintain the same service standards as the rest of the year," he said.

The Farmington office seldom receives packages so mangled that they are undeliverable, Harris said.

"Usually they are caught at the bulk

mail center in Allen Park. They try and determine what it is and who it is intended for. Often they'll re-wrap the gift. If it's totally beyond recognition it is sent to the dead letter office in Chicago," he said.

Letters addressed to Santa Claus at the North Pole are an every day occurrence this time of year.

"We get a batch of them every day. It's hard to estimate the number. They're sent to the sectional center in Royal Oak where responses are sent through various non-profit groups."

Harris attributes the increased mail load to the larger population of the area in general. A postal annex on Grand River is the starting point each day for carriers on 59 routes.

"This is my fourth year here and the smoothest Christmas I've experienced. The super weather and the fact that people mailed early are the reasons everything has gone so well."

Gets a degree

Richard T. Saunders, of 3550 Valley Creek, Farmington Hills, was awarded an education degree from Wayne State University at winter commencement Dec. 12.

The new Dr. Saunders was the recipient of a doctorate degree in Education from the WSU College of Education. Employed as an administrator at Schoolcraft College, he earned his earlier degrees from WSU.

Taiwanese kids' first year here translates well

(Continued from page 4A)

Mandarin Chinese, to another of the world's toughest tongues—English.

Some courses are giving each of the children trouble, but the problem seems to lie more with words than concepts.

"Sue is having some trouble in geography because words like 'coastline' don't mean anything to her," said Karen Bunting, a reading teacher who instructs Su's two classes a day and has become Su's favorite teacher.

"But, personally, I would like to see them retain their culture and their language. Those are valuable things," added Ms. Bunting.

"Wan is always in a rush to get things finished," said teacher Irene Schewe. "He's sometimes a little sloppy in his handwriting because he's in such a hurry."

"I wish I had other students as

motivated (as Su Lin)," said Joanne Mettett.

Last year, no one at Lathers had a firm grasp on the family situation of the Silts. Nothing on that front has changed.

"I'm still not sure if they live with their mother, or an aunt, or just who," said Deschamps.

Su says her mother is now visiting in Taiwan. She doesn't know when she'll be back.

But, for the moment at least, the children themselves have other things to interest them than their teachers' various reactions to them.

"It never snows in Taiwan," said Su Lin when asked about differences between the countries. "I like the snow."

"Wait until you get used to it and you'll hate it like the rest of us," Cambridge vice-principal Ron Grant told her.

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Girls win

Intermediate gymnasts from the Farmington Gym-J's won a first place team trophy in competition in South Bend, Indiana recently.

Eight teams vied for trophies in the annual gymnastics invitational and 187 girls competed.

Farmington's Kristin LaFontaine won a first place all-around medal and first place on the bars. Lias Kherdile won second place on vault and Mary Kay Marshall won first place on floor and vault.

Eight of the girls placed in the top ten individual scoring bracket and went on to finals in the evening. Paula Broderick clinched first place on the balance beam in the finals.

Anne Marie Jacobsen won first place on vault and Jennifer Frazer of Farmington took first place on balance beam, bars and all around.

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