

# Reaching out to help feed the needy

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

FROM A small Pontiac warehouse operation comes manna from heaven for Oakland County's needy.

More than 200,000 county residents live at or below the poverty level and need food assistance, according to James Macy, executive director of the Food Bank of Oakland County. The food bank acts as a cooperative for 50-60 county agencies that distribute mostly donated food products to 35,000 people each month.

Food needs intensify with the approach of the holiday season. "Financial pressures are much greater," Macy said. "Perhaps more than others, poor people need to celebrate the gift of life."

Agencies throughout the county bring trucks to the Pontiac warehouse each Tuesday to load up food, soap, paper goods and other available items for the people they serve.

Because the food bank represents the only agency network in Oakland County, other items, such as clothing and furniture, are sometimes distributed by the food bank, Macy said.

THE FOOD bank's two-person staff solicits and receives items from food processors, wholesalers, retailers, farmers and area churches and clubs.

The staff also obtains grants and private money to run the food bank and purchase additional food. The staff acts as a government liaison

for the food bank's support agencies. Private donations are a large part of the food bank's budget, which totaled \$300,000 this year. The Hudson Foundation, the General Motors Care and Share program and rock musician Bruce Springsteen have all donated substantial sums, Macy said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program, coordinated through Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, recently awarded the food bank \$40,000 of \$136,718 budgeted for Oakland County and \$20 million budgeted nationally.

The FEMA program was started in 1982, according to Paul Phelps, the program's vice chairman. It is used for hot meals, packaged foods, shelter, and rent or mortgage assistance. An additional \$70 million is scheduled for release in the next few months, Phelps said.

ABOUT SEVEN-MILLION pounds of food has been distributed since the cooperative food bank's inception in 1983. One pound of food equals one meal, Macy said.

Auto workers never called back to their jobs, aged citizens and children of single parents are some of the groups the food bank's agencies serve.

Macy has strong feelings about problems behind the nation's food shortage.

"We came out of the recession on the backs of those in need," he said. "We perceive our nation's greatest threat to be outside (the country); the greatest danger is letting this many people live in desperation."

MACY is concerned with the "demon" of the federal food stamp program. "There is no way any private organization can meet that type of need. When you don't plan for everybody, there are folks that just don't make it."

In Oakland County, Macy said, "We're dealing with finite numbers of hungry people, unlike other areas of the country where the problems seem endless."

Because of this, and the generosity in Oakland County, the food bank is able to do special projects, Macy said.

The food bank is currently coordinating with the county health department's screening program for small children. When a parent brings a child in for screening, the food bank will offer a bag of food, giving the family an incentive to keep the child healthy.



Sam Hatcher (left), a church volunteer from Pontiac, and Takesaki Suzuki, a church volunteer from Detroit, load a church-bound truck with food for distribution to the needy.

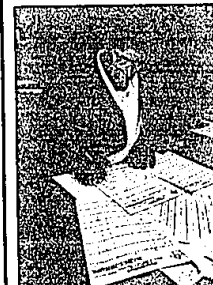
THE FOOD bank had a recent program where fresh meals were offered to the agencies. The bank was able to buy meat from a wholesaler at 25 cents on the dollar for quick distribution. "Hopefully, we can do more of that," Macy said.

Area businesses are promoting the food bank throughout the holiday season: Little Caesars is collecting non-perishable food at 175 restaurants. WLLZ-FM disc jockey Bob Bauer scheduled several live broadcasts from a mobile home beside a 30-foot-long truck at Grand River and Seven Mile in Detroit, asking listeners to fill the truck with non-perishable food. And Harmony House is offering \$2 off a record album for those who bring in a can of food, Macy said.



AT LEFT: James Macy, executive director of the Food Bank of Oakland County.

Staff photos by  
Randy Bost



Cheryl Williams takes care of the paperwork as food is distributed at the Pontiac-based Food Bank.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week:

### BOUND OVER

Two Farmington Hills women are scheduled to stand trial on charges of breaking into a house on Arden Park Drive in the 11 Mile-Middlebelt area and stealing a videocassette recorder Nov. 19.

After they waived the right to a preliminary examination in 47th District Court Nov. 27, Judge Michael Hand bound over for trial Jacqueline Ann Goodson, 18, and Sheryl Lynn Lessor, 21.

Arraigned Nov. 21, the women stood mute to single counts of breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling. Conviction of the felony could bring a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison. The women were released on \$5,000 personal bond pending arraignment in Oakland County Circuit Court.

No trial date has been set. Farmington Hills officers responded to Arden Park Drive to investigate a suspicious car parked in front of a house Nov. 19. Surveillance officers watched as two women, one carrying a large object, appeared in front of the house. The women drove away in the car under surveillance, Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said.

After stopping the car, officers determined the object the woman had been carrying was a VCR stolen from the house on Arden Park Drive, Dwyer said.

### SUSPECTS NABBED

A team effort by local police resulted in the apprehension of three Detroit men for the break-in at Just Jewelers, 23165 Power, Farmington, early Thursday.

Arraigned Thursday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, Charles Christopher Tarrant, 19, and Rudy Vincent Dum, 17, stood mute to single counts of breaking and entering of a building with intent to commit larceny. Tyrone Power Smith, 30, stood mute to single counts of breaking and entering of a building with intent to commit larceny and of possession of a burglary tool.

Innocent pleas were entered in their behalf. Schaeffer set bond at \$20,000 for each pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. The maximum penalty upon conviction of breaking and entering or of possession of a burglary tool is 10 years in prison or an unspecified fine, according to the

Farmington Department of Public Safety.

Following the smash-and-grab, which occurred about 8 a.m., Farmington Hills officers stopped the suspect vehicle on Grand River, near Seven Mile, in Detroit. When Farmington officers arrived, the suspects were arrested and the car impounded, according to police reports.

"A substantial amount of physical evidence" was obtained at the burglary scene by Farmington officers Carl Swanderak and Joe Schornack, aiding greatly in obtaining warrants, public safety officials said.

The suspects' shoe soles were matched to prints found at the crime scene; the shoes were confiscated as evidence. Nothing was reported stolen during the smash-and-grab, but an estimated \$250 in damage was reported to the store's front door and display case, public safety officials said.

### ATTIC FIRE

Farmington Hills firefighters extinguished a small fire in the attic of a one-story house on Middlebelt Dec. 4. The fire was caused by heating system ductwork laying against a wood stove chimney, according to the Farmington Hills Fire Department report.

### PURSE SNATCHED

A purse snatching was reported at Pontiac Business Institute, 34901 Grand River, Thursday afternoon according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report. The thief entered the school office, inquiring for directions. He then grabbed the purse, valued at \$30 and containing \$80, from a desk. He fled the area in a car.

### PROPERTY DAMAGED

A window in a house under construction on Rockwell was shot out with BBs sometime Dec. 2-3, causing about \$300 in damage, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Three teen-agers are suspected of tossing building bricks against four trim panels at a house on Whittington Dec. 4. Damage was estimated at \$60. A neighbor who saw the three brick throwers — believed to be about 13 to 15 years of age — chased them into a nearby wooded lot before losing sight of them. The next day, three windows in a nearby house were broken out by a neighbor. Damage was estimated at \$150. The homeowner saw two teen-agers in the area run into the nearby wooded area following the incident, according to a Farmington Hills

police report.

A BB gun was used to break a window in a house under construction on Rockwell sometime Dec. 2-3. Damage was estimated at \$300. A BB gun also was used to shoot out a window in a car parked on Lytle sometime Dec. 4-5. Damage was estimated at \$120, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

A plastic light globe on a fixture along the main driveway at St. Alexander's Church, 27835 Silverstone, was smashed Dec. 4, according to a Farmington Hills police report. Damage was estimated at \$260.

### THEFTS REPORTED

Several theft reports were filed with local police agencies:

A radar detector valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a car parked at Farmer John's Greenhouse, 28950 Hagerty, Dec. 3.

Construction materials valued at about \$3,500 were reported stolen from a site on Research Drive sometime Nov. 27-30. Items taken included plywood sheets, an aluminum extension ladder, metal clamps, an arc welder, a telephone and a first-aid kit.

A radar detector was reported stolen from a car parked in the Gateway Apartments lot sometime Dec. 4-5.

A radar detector and jewelry were reported stolen from a house on Gilegary Circle Dec. 4. The property was valued at \$8,600.

Cash was reported taken from the Levine Clinic, 31390 Northwestern, sometime Dec. 4-5. Two other businesses in the same office complex also reported break-ins, but it was not immediately known if anything was stolen.

A radar detector valued at \$180 was reported stolen from a car parked at Tally Hall, 31005 Orchard Lake, Dec. 5.

## on the agenda

Farmington Hills City Council  
31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9

Farmington Hills City Council will hear an annual report of the city's Economic Development Corporation's activities in the past year. Council will consider renewing the city attorney's contract. Also to be considered are appointments to boards and commissions, as well as a cost hearing for the purchase of a park for Meadowbrook Hills and Woods subdivision.

Council will hear a status report on the historic Harger House. To be considered is the transfer of money from the city's general fund balance to the 47th District Court budget for the purchase of computer equipment. Council will consider adoption of resolutions requesting the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to widen Northwestern Highway and extend it from 14 Mile to Maple Road in West Bloomfield Township. Council will also consider soliciting proposals for a telecommunications system. A resolution will be considered authorizing Village Lane and Wellington Drive water

main payback. Council is expected to adopt an amendment to the snow and ice removal ordinance.

Farmington Public Schools  
Administrative Offices  
325000 Shawwassee, Farmington  
7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10

At this special meeting, Farmington Board of Education will consider the format that will be followed in the selection of a new district superintendent.

Farmington Community Library  
Farmington Hills library branch  
32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills  
5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12

Assistant Library Director Gerald Furi will present Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees with the director's annual financial report for 1984-85. Trustees are expected to discuss Sunday service, the library's recent participation in the Business Expo at Cobo Hall. Trustees will also consider acceptance of a gift from the Farmington Historical Society for the Michigan History Collection.

LEAVES,

PAISLEY AND BOWS



A romantic approach to leg fashions. For day or evening wear, our all-over design pantyhose complement the beautiful patterns, fabrics and colors of the holiday season. Each pair, carefully cut by hand and seamed in back. From left to right we show: Leaves, black or ivory, sizes 1-2; Paisley, black or white, 1-2-3; Bows, white, sizes 1-2. Pair, \$15.

**Jacobson's**

CONVENIENT HOLIDAY HOURS:  
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY UNTIL 6  
Shop Saturday until 5