



The East Middle School choir performs holiday music for residents of the American House Retirement Residence on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Students help bridge generation gap



Student Jenny Brockhuss with Santa, who was invited by the American House residents.

MUSIC STUDENTS from East Middle School brought a little holiday cheer to the American House Retirement Residence last week. American House is a former elementary school transformed into an independent retirement facility on Middlebelt Road. It's just south of the middle school in Farmington Hills.

Directed by vocal music teacher Larry LaRue, the group of more than 100 students did a medley of songs from their recent school concert, plus some holiday songs of the season.

As an added treat for the students, American House invited Santa to join in the festivities — he sang with the group, then handed out Christmas goodies.

Student performers included the eighth-grade choir and the seventh-grade vocal music class.

The 60-room American House, which opened last August, is near capacity, manager Barbara Lipkowitz reported.



Tavio Salmi, an American House resident, watches the student performers.



School choir members Amy Parnin (center), Joey Kennedy (left) and Kris Prieskorn.

Staff photos by Randy Borst



photos by BOB SKLAR/staff photographer

Salvation Army volunteer Jeanne Schurr (left) of Northville helps a parent find suitable gifts at the Toy Shop.

Reaching out

Toys made available to needy

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The Farmington Hills Salvation Army gave area kids and families a holiday gift Friday.



Midge Crampton — run by corps employees and church volunteers — is designed to give needy families toys to put under the Christmas tree.

"It's a fun time," said Mrs. Captain Midge Crampton of the Farmington Hills corps. "We get the joy of

giving it away." Families apply by Nov. 1 each year, allowing the Salvation Army to process their applications and assigns a family to a center closest to their house. Families are given a toy for each child.

THE SALVATION Army has enjoyed a good year for toy donations, she said. Some Toy Shop items are donated by local merchants, individuals, groups and churches while the Salvation Army purchases others.

This year, Hudson's donated boxes of Santa Bears so parents could take one home for each child.

"We try to see that those special needs are met, both physical and spiritual," she added.

from people who want to adopt a family," said Fran Bellino, an employee at the Hills Salvation Army office.

The K mart Corp. store at Halsted and Grand River is working through the Hills center to help 800 needy children in the area. One local church donated \$300 to a family who needed a furnace and work on their house.

The Salvation Army Christian church members also help the needy in other ways during the holidays. They recently held their twice-a-year League of Mercy Sunday in which more than 1,000 residents of area nursing homes were visited.

The Salvation Army is recognized throughout the community for its "red kettle drive," held from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve at six locations in the Farmington area.

HUDSON'S OVAL ROOM CLEARANCE™

Northland, Eastland, Oakland, Twelve Oaks and Fairlane.