

# A basket full of fantasy

By Mona Grigg  
special writer

**W**HAT DO you do when you have two kids in college and you still haven't finished paying off the expenses from the oldest two?

Well, if you're David Kennedy, you hold a family meeting and try and come up with a project that will bring in some extra money.

After a lot of trial and error, that was how the Plymouth family's order book business, "The Book Basket" came about.

"Since we're all readers, we tried to come up with something we would be interested in. We thought about combining books with comparable themes and then one of us came up with the idea to put into baskets," Kennedy said.

Kennedy's wife Joan, their three sons, a daughter and daughter-in-law participated for awhile. "The books looked pretty lonely in the empty basket," Kennedy said, "so we lined it with fabric, then we added silk flowers and candy — and whatever else we could think of that went along with the books' motif."

The Romance Basket holds three or four best-selling paperback titles, a silk rose, Mon Cheri and Cherry Cordial candies, topped off with a lace doily, red tissue and a bow.

The Western Basket is lined with a colorful bandana, holds three or four books ("usually some Louis L. Amour"), beef jerky and Jolly Rancher candies.

The Kennedys assemble the baskets themselves

*'The books looked pretty lonely in the empty basket, so we lined it with fabric, then added silk flowers and candy ...'*

—David Kennedy

(the baskets are "top quality, not the cheap imports," Kennedy said) and ship them by commercial carrier. They make the book selections, though for a few dollars more, you can add books or ask for specific titles.

"They make up special baskets, too. 'We're just getting into children's baskets,' Kennedy said, "and we can do almost anything where they're concerned. Specific authors or genres — we want to be careful with them, they have their own likes and dislikes."

Gift baskets are priced at \$29.50, gift card included. There is an extra charge for overnight delivery, additions or changes. Order by calling 1-800-853-4441 or write to: The Book Basket, P.O. Box 616, Plymouth 48170-0616.



Their new enterprise is actually a lot of fun, Joan and David Kennedy agree. But they don't do all the work themselves. It's a family affair — their three sons and a daughter-in-law are all involved.

Staff photo  
by Bill Bresler

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Steve Leibhan, Vice President - Sales Manager of Chamberlain, REALTORS Lathrup Village Office is a firm believer in the educational advancement involved in real estate. Steve, a graduate of Michigan State University with Graduate Studies from the University of Michigan, was a teacher within the Livonia Public School System before entering real estate. He also has received his Graduate REALTORS Institute Designation, and Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager Designation.

Steve, wife Janice, and sons Benjamin - age 8, Evan - age 3, live in the Farmington Hills area.

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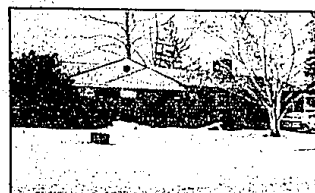
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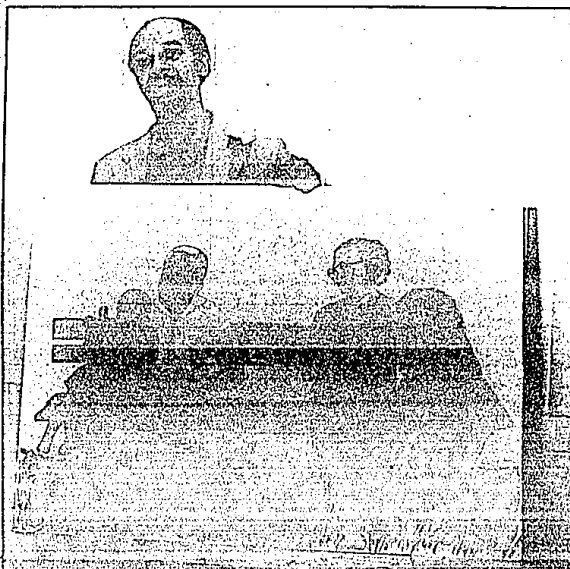
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## Kids of Detroit

Works by Detroit artist Ron Scarborough were a highlight of the opening recently of Van Dyke Center, a 10-story, 150-unit senior citizen facility in Detroit, sponsored by Amurcon Management Services of Southfield. Scarborough, a native Detroit who grew up in the neighborhood where VanDyke is located, unveiled his "Kids of Detroit." Scarborough is noted for his technique of "crosshatch," an exciting process whereby very fine lines are applied in pattern to achieve the desired effect. Amurcon commissioned the painting for its subsidized senior citizens building.



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