

Goodfellows continue drive for local needy

Goodfellows need help

Again this year, the Farmington Area Goodfellows need your support to help provide a holiday lift to needy children and less-fortunate elderly residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills. With the money donated, the Goodfellows deliver baskets of joy typically containing canned foods and knitwear. Each includes gift certificates redeemable for fresh food and winter clothing. Toys, games, dolls and children's clothing are included when appropriate.

Family makeup dictates the size and content of each basket. Potential recipients must document need. Special dietary requests are honored when practical.

Cash donations come back to the community. About the only things the Goodfellows have to buy are stamps to mail solicitation letters and boxes to make into baskets. Volunteers are the Goodfellows' backbone.

Please fill out the coupon below and mail it, along with your donation, to: Farmington Area Goodfellows, c/o Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 33201 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

Name
Address
City and ZIP
Donation (check, money order, other)

Farmington Area Goodfellows continue to collect canned foods, boys' shirts and girls' dresses as the countdown continues to Dec. 17, when specially packed holiday baskets will be delivered to needy families and seniors.

Friday, the Goodfellows raised \$15,653 in their annual newspaper sale, down \$6,000 from last year. The Farmington Hills Fire Department raised \$8,027 of the total.

The Goodfellows' fund-raising goal is \$30,000. Last year, the Goodfellows delivered holiday baskets to 177 area families, which included 430 children and 141 seniors.

HOW MANY families will be helped this year hasn't been determined.

"We're pooling resources this year with Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Alexander's Catholic Church and the Salvation Army," said Dick Tupper, Goodfellows' general chairman. "Names won't be known until Dec. 10."

Tupper speculated that the number of families needing help because of layoffs will be down because of an improved economy.

"But there are families with serious injuries or illness. Their needs, regardless of the economy, are very real. These types of families won't be any less this year — and there

could be more," he said.

Tupper expects the Goodfellows to reach out to 15 percent more seniors this year because of increased contacts among the elderly.

EACH BASKET of joy typically contains canned foods and knitwear made by local seniors. Last year, each also included gift certificates redeemable for fresh food and winter clothing. Toys, games, dolls and children's clothing are included when appropriate.

Family makeup dictates the size and content of the each basket. Potential recipients have to document need. Special dietary requests are honored when practical.

To donate money or to help pack baskets, call the Goodfellows; 474-3410.

Packing is scheduled for evenings Dec. 5-14 in a Nelson/Ross Properties-donated storefront at the Village Commons on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

BEST KNOWN around the holiday season, the Goodfellows' spirited work isn't only made up of year-end activities. They offer limited emergency assistance throughout the year.

Virtually all cash donations come back to the community, minus the costs of the baskets and mail for solicitations.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills firefighter John Dresden sells Goodfellow papers on Grand River in Farmington Hills Friday. He is from Station 3 on Wheeler.

Lit up Tree takes center stage

The Farmington Jaycees invite everyone to celebrate the holiday season and light the Farmington Community Christmas Tree at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at the Warner Mansion, Grand River, west of Farmington Road, Farmington. The Farmington High School Choir will provide music. Enjoy hot chocolate, cookies and Christmas carols around the tree.

Area Goodfellows seek clothes, cash for needy

The holiday season is "a time to care — a time to share," and the Farmington Area Goodfellows are promoting this sentiment through the group's annual dress and shirt drive.

Organizers are seeking donations of money, or dresses and shirts by Dec. 10. A tax-deductible donation of \$8 will buy a boys shirt; \$17 will buy a dress for an elementary-age girl. Needs are greatest in sizes eight to 14, according to drive coordinator Shirley Richardson.

Donations of money should be sent to Richardson at Goodfellows Dress and Shirt Fund, 33926 Oakland, Farmington 48024.

Those interested in buying or making shirts or dresses for the drive should contact the following organizers to have the items picked up:

• Pat Ralliff, dress drive chairwoman, 478-0464 or 471-3110.
• Paula Blumberg, shirt drive chairwoman, 347-0984.

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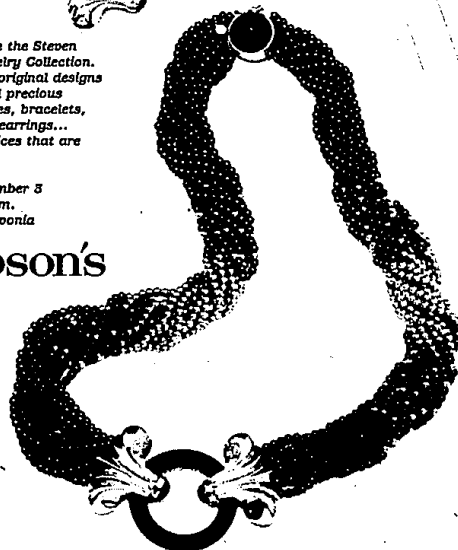
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#17 pncr

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