



Pupils at Longacre Elementary wrap and pile gifts on a table during the holiday season. Pictured (l-r) are: Mari Izumi, Garlin Gilchrist, Aaron Scheldies, Lindsey Misch, Matthew O'Connell, John Britt, Jonathan Ratliff. SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer



Anita Schwartz and her daughter, Krissy, wrap gifts in the basement of the Farmington Hills Police Department. The wrapping party was part of the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association "Cops for Christmas" program, which sponsored 10 families this year.

## The needy were not forgotten

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eral families in need. Jenny Tosolan said she saw the "Helping Hands" feature in a Detroit newspaper and wanted to help. One family included a divorced mother, who is blind, and her 9-year-old daughter; and another included a family of five children ranging in age from two months to six years.

"The parents have just been so supportive," said Gilbert. "They've been very, very generous." The student project was linked to the classroom's word of the month, which was "acceptance," Gilbert added.

Over at the Farmington Hills Police station, members of the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association, which represents the more than 70 officers in the city, were busy with their annual drive. The police department supported the officers by allowing them use of patrol vehicles and storage space, and allowed the off-duty officers to deliver their holiday goods to needy families in uniform on Monday.

THIS IS the second year of the "Cops for

Christmas" program, which provides food and gifts for 10 families including 12 adults and 18 children who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas, said officer Jeff Anderson, who chairs the FIPOA public relations committee. Time was donated shopping for food, gifts and toys, wrapping everything and delivering it.

"It's just been a super, super thing," Anderson said. "We want to give something back to the community because the community has been there to support us. This is just one way."

"We feel we are very fortunate people in these times to have jobs," Anderson added.

North Farmington High School students really got into the act this year, doing a variety of things to help the needy, said principal Debbie Clarke. "There's just a lot that they've done this year."

Children at the St. Vincent and Sara Fisher Center in Farmington Hills will be the recipients of more than 300 stuffed animals collected by Jim O'Leary's students at North Farmington.

"I just think Christmas is for kids," said O'Leary, who started the program three years

ago when he was having a down year. "There's a lot of need for the kids that don't have as much. Sophomore Shannon O'Brien said she was pleased to be part of the stuffed menagerie collection effort. "I think it's nice," she said. "It will make the kids feel good that we can help."

ALSO AT North:

• Mary Keen's National Honor Society group collected 5,300 cans of food plus many bags of used clothing, and adopted three families for the holiday season. A special school dance raised money to purchase items for the family.

• The student council under the direction of Bill Brinker answered Santa Claus letters sent to the post office and collected toys which are given free to families which need them.

• Students in the North Farmington Environmental Club, with staff sponsors Bev Nelson and Bob Pruneau, went to the Pontiac Rescue Mission and worked in the soup kitchen, and the school's Varsity Club assisted the Farmington Area Goodfellows in loading trucks and delivering packages this year.

## Leaders say Farmington will feel GM downsizing

By Sue Buck and Casey Hane staff writers

The recent downsizing announced by General Motors will have a big effect on the Farmington area, but in subtle ways, say community leaders.

The job cuts, announced in recent weeks, will force many families into one-income situations, could flood an already stagnant housing market with more houses for sale and may make consumers even more cautious about spending.

Local officials expect to see the effect here.

"I think we will feel it," said Susan Rennels, a Farmington school trustee and branch manager at First Federal of Michigan in Farmington Hills. "Although on the outside it doesn't show, on the inside there are some very bad situations already."

"Even for those who may still have their jobs — it makes people very cautious," she said.

Rennels said she also is concerned about the effect on Farmington-area children, who feel family stress directly and may act it out at school.

GM OFFICIALS announced earlier this month they expect to close 21 plants in the next several years, idling many blue collar workers in the largest downsizing in the automaker's history. They also plan to cut their white collar workforce through retirement incentives and attrition.

Bruce Barrett, assistant superintendent for finance for the Farmington Public Schools, called the GM move a "watershed" and a "high profile action" that is important to note, but said other companies, large and small, have already cut back in recent months and that the district and everyone in the state is feeling that effect.

"Countless other businesses have gone through the same thing," he



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— William Hartsock  
Farmington Mayor

said. "I think a lot of it goes on that's hidden that never hits the media."

"In terms of its effects, we've already felt it (general business cutbacks) in many ways. Times have been tough for business people in general."

Barrett said time would tell just what effect the GM cuts would have on the school district, which is already tightening its purse strings because of state cutbacks and the down economy.

William Costick, Hills city manager, predicted a "spillover on the city and what people can pay."

"It will have a domino effect," Costick said. The recession has already caused less retail business.

"We must be cautious about where we spend money so that we don't create extra burden," Costick said. "This is not a time for expanding government programs."

JON GRANT, future Hills mayor, said that some specifics related to the GM layoffs still aren't known. "Attrition is different than layoffs," Grant said.

Farmington Mayor William Hartsock, a partner in the regional investment firm of Roney & Co., said today's consumer attitudes makes the effect of the GM announcement worse.

"Even those people who are working — it has a lot of impact psychologically," he said. "That's really played a large part in this recession. (President George) Bush going out and buying \$29 worth of underwear at Jockey — it's laughable."

Hartsock said the GM downsizing and similar moves in other big companies will continue that consumer psychological concern that has caused such an effect in this recessionary time. And that could hit Farmington hard, especially businesses such as smaller stores that rely on discretionary spending to survive.

"It's all part of the same picture. Either they're being laid off, or they're going to cut back on spending," he said. "The bottom line is there is no such thing as a secure job. Not in the same way we once knew it."

field said, "he's spent \$28 (in) million taxpayer dollars, no one is in jail."

"From the outset, Walsh never brought indictments on any of the issues relating to the legality of the Iran-Contra affair itself, and I've got to believe he's known from the outset that he would get precious few convictions on any serious charges."

**Broomfield asks to end Iran Contra**

Congressman William S. Broomfield (R-MI), ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Lawrence Walsh, special prosecutor in the Iran-Contra affair, "should give the nation a long overdue Christmas present by offering his resignation and closing the independent counsel's office."

"In the five years since Walsh started this investigation," Broom-

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