



GUY WARRON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gifted lady: Elaine Stewart had the presence of mind to stop and pick up some wrapped gifts she saw in the street.

Save from page 1A

Motorists even allowed Dreher to retrieve most of the parcels in the Halsted-Grand River intersection, which is known as the "dysfunction junction" because of its heavy traffic.

But, some were left behind. Dreher returned, but couldn't find them.

"I thought they were gone," Dreher said.

Dreher said she felt sick. The gifts were intended for a 4-year-old Farmington Hills girl named

I thought it was absolutely fantastic she'd go back there and put up a sign with her phone number.

Richard Tupper, Goodfellows chairman

Courtney, a member of one of 290 needy families who were helped by Farmington Area Goodfellows this season.

Then a friend called and told her about Stewart's sign.

"I thought it was absolutely

fantastic she'd go back there and put up a sign with her phone number," said Goodfellows chairman Richard Tupper, a Farmington councilman. "It was a display of outgoing honesty."

Stewart received a call the morning of Dec. 24. As a gesture of thanks, she was asked to deliver the presents to the girl.

Stewart was happy to oblige. She told the girl they fell out of Santa's sleigh.

The girl's mom allowed her to open one of the gifts, saving the rest for Christmas morning. The tyke's face lighted up when she found she received a teddy bear.

"It made my holiday," Stewart said. "... It was just as good for me as anyone else."

Torch from page 1A

Miller started as a patrol officer and then moved into investigations. In 1973 he investigated the high-profile murder case of 11-year-old Kaitlyn Curly and the Thornton drug/murder case.

Murphy joined the township department in 1970, and after five years as a patrol officer, he handled the bulk of juvenile investigations. Both officers moved up the ranks and in 1985, then-Lt. Murphy went to work in police administration under his long-time friend, Inspector Miller.

And the relationship has worked. The two have been a part of the community's growth and the department's response to it.

Miller was in charge of much of the planning for the police complex that features a state-of-the-art communications system. In addition, Miller and Murphy have been part of the department's technological leap that includes in-car cameras, in-car computers and will soon include a computer imaging capability that will allow the Hills department to exchange pictures of suspects and other information instantly.

The two friends will continue to see a lot of each other. Miller's older daughter Cathy manages a credit union in Plymouth and his younger daughter Lori is a senior at Wayne State University. Miller

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and his wife Gail live in Northville.

Murphy, who has two grown sons, Kevin and Jeff, said attempts to matchmake his kids and Miller's were short lived.

"I wanted my kids to get some one with money," Murphy quipped.

Miller said he hasn't made too many plans for retirement. He'll spend some time in warmer climates and some time working at the San Marino Golf Course.

"My goal is to spend as much time retired as I worked full time (35 years)," Miller said.

\$100,000 donation floors shelter workers

BY RALPH R. ECHTENAW
STAFF WRITER

The Pontiac Rescue Mission received a donation of \$100,000 Tuesday, Dec. 27, from an Oakland County resident who requested anonymity.

"It has made our day, our month and our year," said development director John Greenwood.

Founded in 1942, the mission provides shelter to crack cocaine

addicts, winos, the jobless, the homeless, the victims of child abuse, spouse abuse, rape, etc.

"Eighty-five percent of homeless people are on drugs or alcohol," said mission director Kent Clark. "They will sell anything they have to get their drug of choice."

The mission, located in the former Pontiac Post Office, attempts to wean its residents of their ad-

dictions and convert them into productive members of society.

Residents receive clean bunks, bathrooms, help finding work and access to religious services.

With space for more than 150 residents, the mission averaged 90 percent occupancy in 1994, Greenwood said. The 1994 budget is about \$920,000.

The governments of Pontiac and Oakland County contribute

about \$22,000 a year between them.

Last October, Clark announced a "critical financial need" of an additional \$143,000, so Tuesday's unexpected donation was welcome. "I had no idea that they (the donor) were going to do this at all," Clark said.

In the future, Clark has plans to build a shelter dedicated to women with children.

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(USPS #87-840)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48209-0913. Second-class postage paid at Detroit, MI. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Farmington 805 E. Maple, Birmingham MI 48209-0913. Telephone 844-1120.

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