

Remedy

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So, after leaving the hospital, where she had an operation to relieve pressure on a nerve in her fractured wrist, Zavis went to work on what became "Give A Little Love."

For the program, people are invited to bring new or "gently used" toys, games, books and video games, for children any age from newborn to 18. With many of Country Day's families living in affluent Oakland County, there is enough to spare.

"Country Day parents know they're some of the luckiest parents around," Zavis said. "It's important for our kids to realize there are some kids out there that don't have a tenth of what they have."

One of those parents, Geris Cavalleri, of Commerce Township, said her family was donating 100 books, to be divided between the four hospitals.

West Bloomfield parent Lori Abel bought crayons and packages of watercolor paints and — together with children Amy and Brian — decided to donate used "Barney the Dinosaur" video tapes, Little Tykes toys and puzzles.

And Sharon Catalano of West Bloomfield, who is Cassandra Zavis' kindergarten teacher at the lower school campus of Country Day, said all youngsters have been asked to be as charitable. After all, they might find themselves in a hospital someday.

"I explained to the children that sometimes there's nothing for kids to do at the hospital," Ca-



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Give A Little Love: Country Day School students Cassandra Zavis (front left) and Celeste Gilyard, both 6, are among those donating their toys to be distributed this week to hospitals. The program was spearheaded by Janet Zavis (back left) of Farmington Hills; standing next to her is West Bloomfield's Sharon Catalano, a teacher at Country Day's lower school campus.

telano said. "And it really hit home, that it's not fun to be at the hospital with nothing to do."

Zavis and Pat Hochstein, spokesperson for Country Day, said the project is in keeping with the school philosophy to help others.

"We do emphasize community service," Hochstein said. "Because we feel 'values' education is very important, educating for character. So learning to serve the community is part of it."

Meanwhile, Abel said the program helps children see charity in a different light. "It's toys and books, it's their stuff."

According to Hochstein, Country Day hopes to repeat the project, possibly involve other area schools, and continue to fill a great need by providing toys to

additional hospitals.

Need is definitely there at the Providence Cranio Facial Institute, where children — often with facial deformities — have to deal with medical and emotional hardships, Foreman said.

"We have many children here, both local and from around the world, with tremendous anxiety and tremendous hardships," Foreman said. "That there is a group of people to take the time, effort and money to provide some joy for them, either by a toy or something else, is really a sign of caring. And that will heal many wounds."

For more information, call Zavis at 1-810-788-7851.

SMART funds to help seniors

The cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Northville, and Northville Township, have been awarded \$11,500 in specialized services expansion funds from the Michigan Department of Transportation through SMART.

The money will be used to provide subsidized rides on weekends for residents 60 and

older and eligible disabled persons.

The taxi cab and life-equipped van service is provided 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. The charge is \$2 for the first three miles traveled and \$1.50 per mile thereafter. To get service, call Northwest Cab Company at 474-3333 and mention you want Dial-A-Ride. Those wanting lift-equipped service should call the day be-

fore the service is needed.

Catch-A-Ride offers transportation to St. Joseph and University of Michigan hospitals at \$4 one way, to Plymouth Township Day Care for \$2 one way from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 1-800-242-6120 24 hours in advance.

For more information on these programs call 1-313-421-2000, Ext. 221.

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