



Three-point land: Josh Crawford tossed up shots from half-court as a prelude to Rick Boggs' appearance at Our Lady of Sorrows School.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMBERT



All net: Crawford is all smiles as the ball falls through the rim.

Boggs from page A1

of three weeks, Boggs said.

Reaction generated from the AirTouch spot stings with a bit of backhanded irony. Many doubted the man featured in the commercial is actually blind.

A few even complained that it's insensitive for an actor to portray a blind person.

Boggs called them personally to set the record straight.

"A lot of people have seen that commercial," Boggs said. "A lot of people have seen that commercial and they'll say, 'That person is not really blind. Blind people can't shoot baskets.'"

"I really did."

Our Lady of Sorrows' teachers and students found the difficulty in converting free-throws while being blindfolded.

Principal Roberta Clemak and student Mike LaDuke tried their shooting touch without being able to see. AirTouch offered \$500 to the school as part of a "Free-Throw Challenge."

Clemak went 0-for-6 with her underhanded, Rick Barry-style attempts. LaDuke hit his second shot, which led to cheers from schoolmates.

Audience members got the message.

"I thought it was awesome," said seventh-grader Lauren Schlueter. "I learned stuff can really happen if you put your mind to it and have a good attitude."

Added another seventh grader, Chris Bridenstine: "I could apply it to my life. The basketball shooting — he was better than people, who can see, with blind-folds on."

When the participants were shooting, the audience of first through eighth graders shushed others for quiet. That impressed their visitor.

"You guys are really smart and all of you are enthusiastic," Boggs said. "I'm going to have a great day."



Good from the line: Our Lady of Sorrows Principal Roberta Clemak, tossing the basketball under-handed, makes baskets with her eyes open.



Trying to relate: Rick Boggs asked the kids who among the student population was 5 years old. He lost his eyesight at 5. Ariana Church is 5.



On the money: Student Mike LaDuke, above, hits a free throw blindfolded to win \$500 for Sorrows. At right, Boggs and new wife Priscila were married three weeks ago. His leader dog is named Ico.



Goodfellows help bring holiday cheer to needy

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Area Goodfellows' annual drive has gone from a one-day newspaper sale to a letter-in-the-mail blitz.

That has allowed the organization to make good on its promise no child or senior citizen goes without a Christmas. For a third year, the Goodfellows are asking people to make donations by mail.

Letters should be arriving in Farmington area post boxes, explaining the group's mission.

"We think we've gotten far more exposure by mail than we did by newspaper sale," said Farmington Goodfellows President and General Chairman Richard Tupper. "We should have been doing it a long time ago, but it's hard to break tradition."

The goal this year is to raise \$50,000. The solicitation coincides with the non-profit organization's canned food and shirt and dress drives.

Bonaventure Skating Center, Haled Road, north of Grand River, is having its annual Goodfellow fund-raiser 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3. Admission of \$2 will be donated to the Farmington non-profit organization.

Skate rental is \$2.

That money helped Goodfellows serve 115 seniors and 232 families, which included 530 children. Sixteen adults with developmentally disabilities also received aid.

Some 22,500 canned goods and 1,020 toys were collected.

Farmington Area Goodfellows is an outgrowth of the Farmington Exchange Club, which coordinated efforts to help needy families around the holidays for more than 50 years. A separate Goodfellow group formed in 1973.

Until three years ago, the Goodfellow's main fund-raiser was a newspaper sale. That was discontinued when it was deemed too risky for newspaper sellers to be in traffic.

The flow of people needing help depends on the economy, Tupper said.

"Well it's going to be less — perhaps 5 percent — than what we had last year," the former longtime Farmington city councilman said. "The economy is doing pretty good and the marginal families seemed to be making it OK."



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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
23000 Thomas, Suite 102,
Farmington 48336

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