

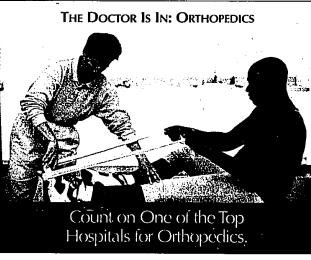
Here you are: Paws with a Cause assistance dog Gilda delivers a check for \$3,000 to the non-profit organization's Leann Kesler during a recent assembly at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington. Pictured are some of the students who contributed.

Partners from page A3

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Because Meijer carries a family philosophy, having been founded by Fred Meijer, the concept of helping kids and families is a natural one, as far as Massey is concerned. It is not coincidence that his name tag featured "Mike" in large letters while the letters of "Massey" are much-less prominently displayed. "Everybody here is on a first-name basis," he said. "Even when Fred visits here, it's 'Fred' and not 'Mr. Meijer." Because Meijer carries a fami-





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Sorrows students chip in for Paws dog

Going to the dogs is a good thing, as students from Our Lady of Sorrows School are finding out.

A number of students chipped in \$1 a piece to buy "dog licenses" for stuffed animals, to contribute toward helping Sorrows parent Yvonne Hengerseaugh receive an assistance dog from Paws with a Cause.

At a recent assembly, a check for \$53,000 was presented from the private Farmington Catholic school to Leann Kesler of Paws with a Cause. They also saw Paws dogs such as Gilda, Pepsi and Data show what they do to come to the aid of the humans they serve.

Gilda, a golden retriever, is Kesler's canine helper. At the assembly, Gilda zig-zagged around the gymnasium floor, picking up a purse, spice jar and

other items "dropped" by Kesler, who was diagnosed with a rare form of muscular dystrophy dur-ing her childhood.

"Retrieving is 75 percent of what Gilda does. She picks up what I drop," explained Kesler.

■ 'Retrieving is 75 percent of what Gilda does. She picks up

Leann Kesler

"She's very persistent and never rolls her eyes."
Kesler said that what the ani-mal has done for her is help her regain her independence. And that's one of the main reasons Hengerseaugh was looking for-ward to receiving her assistance dog, Tyme, on Monday, March 19.

19. "My dog is going to help me retrieve things, open doors and also give Melanie, my daughter,

a chance to not have to pick up things for me anymore," said Hengerseaugh, who is handli capped by polymyositis, an autoimmune disease of the muscles. After the assembly, sixth graders Lauren Phillips, Mandy Rabban, Liz Ratzloff, Alyssa Risk and Courtney Vanntwerp said seeing how Paws dogs de their stuff to help others was a wonderful experience.

Think what they do for the people is nice, and it can help them a lot."

Mandy said, "And if I was a person with a disability, I'd like one (a dog) like that."
Liz was thrilled to see the things that Gilda, hearing dog Popsi and black lab Data can do. "If they can train these dogs to do this to help people, that

"If they can train these dogs to do this to help people, that makes the world a better place." Leading the fund-raiser were student council advisers Rachel Damuth, Susan McNichols and Nora Miller.

