

Grandview students find many ways to volunteer

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Grandview Elementary fifth graders will always be welcomed at the Woodhaven Retirement Community.

Twenty-eight youngsters made quite an impression with residents and staff during two visits to the Livonia senior residential facility. On a recent Tuesday, children dropped in for a second time.

"It was the best group of kids I've had here," said Dee Grondzielleski, Woodhaven activities director.

"They weren't afraid to go to the area where we have

Alzheimer's and dementia cases. There was no snickering like you have with some kids. They were very kind and considerate."

Their visit was part of a schoolwide project to help develop healthy attributes in children through volunteering.

Health teacher Christine Jahns led the effort, which also involved the fifth graders helping at the Michigan Humane Society and at a church soup kitchen. They also raised money for MHS and St. Christine's

Soup Kitchen and Pantry in Detroit.

Grandview is part of the Clarenceville district, which includes portions of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford.

To get started, Jahns had each of Grandview's three fifth-grade classes come up with organizations or causes they would like to help.

One class wanted to adopt a rain forest, but a few students objected and said helping people should be their first priority.

Jodi Graham's class picked a soup kitchen. The relief center allowed just nine volunteer helpers at a time.

To include every student, separate groups visited over three days.

Students also raised \$80 for St. Christine's soup kitchen through a school bake sale. The 10 and 11 year olds saw children their own age in need.

Many realized how fortunate they are compared to others. "Now when I go to the store

and want to ask my mom if I could have a new toy, I think about all of the little children who might not even have a book to read," wrote Aria Degiglio in an essay, which was required as part of the project.

Though too young to volunteer at the Westland shelter, students helped in another way: They made bend animals and jewelry, which they sold during the holidays.

Students donated \$116 to MHS during their visit to the

Westland shelter.

Sue Bielski's fifth graders made two treks to Woodhaven. Each student interviewed a senior and returned with a written biography on their subjects.

During their recent visit, fifth graders also presented each senior with a flower.

Actions of two girls a few weeks before perhaps spoke volumes for the project's success, though. The pair went to the senior center on their own during Easter.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREAZER

HIT: The accident victim was helped onto a stretcher by Farmington Public Safety Personnel.

Car collides with wheelchair

A man who was knocked out of his wheelchair by a car at Grand River and Whitaker suffered abrasions and was taken to Botsford Hospital Monday afternoon.

Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said Wednesday he didn't know the man's condition. There was no damage to the wheelchair or the car, Goss said.

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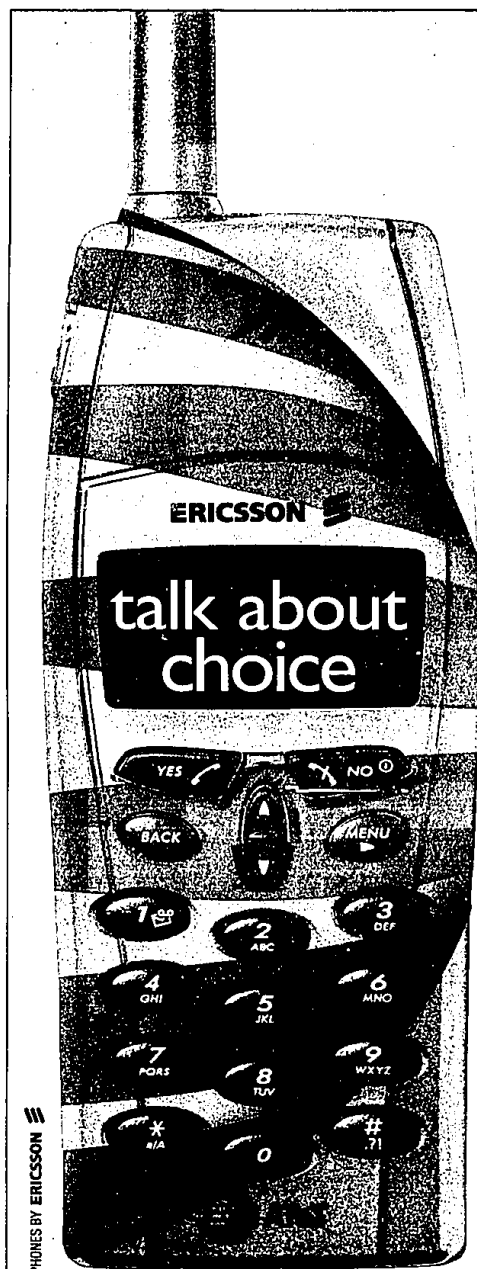
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