

Dollmakers

North Farmington High sewing project soothes small souls

BY SUE BUCK
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Students in Linda Lethemon's Fashion and Textile Technology class at North Farmington High School recently sewed and attached their love into 85 dolls designed to help kids facing medical problems.

The project at the high school was organized by Lethemon and Eleanor Smith, the doll chairman with the Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah.

"The kids are really excited about it," Lethemon said. "It's wonderful that we can transfer skills and do something great for the community. It adds a community service component to the project."

Though the teens won't get to see the prospective doll owners, they know the dolls will be appreciated.

"They can't get out on field trips," said Allison King, a sophomore. "They will feel better if they know someone is doing something."

Medical play dolls allow chil-

dren to describe where it hurts or show how an injury occurred. With the help of these dolls, medical staff can describe treatment procedures and allay children's fears.

Dolls can be used to show the location of insulin injections or how a catheter will be used, Smith said.

"We make dolls in four different skin tones and we make hospital gowns to go on the dolls," Smith said.

Children who receive the dolls can decorate and pretend to heal them, as well as depend on them for comfort while in the hospital and then later at home.

Students have enjoyed the work as they trace, cut-out, pin, sew, stuff, and dress the cuddly, soft rag dolls.

"It's cool. We are doing it as a class project to help other people," said Rachel Taubman, a sophomore.

Hadassah is the largest women's organization in the country, with more than 306,000 members. The Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah's Doll Pro-

ject made its first donation of 175 medical play dolls for sick and injured children to three area medical offices in 1996.

To date, Hadassah contributed 9,200 dolls for children who require in or out-patient treatment. They assist Children's Hospital of Michigan, Mott Children's Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Providence Hospital, Henry Ford Hospital, Oakwood Hospital, University of Michigan Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Center, Huron/Sinai Hospital, North Oakland General Hospital and St. John Hospital.

Dolls have also been hand-delivered to Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem, Israel.

Anyone is welcome to participate in doll making workshops held 9 a.m.-noon Thursday mornings at Hadassah House located at Orchard Lake Road north of Walnut Lake in West Bloomfield. For more information, call Smith at (248) 626-0762.

East to host Teen Drug Use forum

East Middle School PTSA and Farmington Public Schools will host a Parent Network Night 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, in the school's large group instruction room.

The topic will be Current

Trends in Teen Drug Use.

Ken Krygel, a drug and alcohol recognition expert and instructor at Macomb Community College Criminal Justice Training Center, will be the guest speaker. Krygel is a

retired Detroit police officer who "tells it like it is" when it comes to teens and substance abuse.

East Middle School is at 25000 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills (between 10 and 11 Mile). Call (248) 489-3329.

Orchard Ridge Theater stages 'The Good Doctor'

Oakland Community College's newly established Orchard Ridge Theater Company presents its first production, Neil Simon's comedy *The Good Doctor*, Nov. 28 through Dec. 1.

The Good Doctor is a series of

sketches adapted by Simon from the work of 19th century Russian playwright Anton Chekhov; the play is directed by theater company founder/director Carol King.

The production's 20-member

cast is made up of both students and community residents.

All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors.

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Stitchery: Above, Rebecca Hurwitz prepares to sew a Hadassah label on her doll. Pictured left, Allison King and Rachel Taubman work on their projects.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRENNER

Cooperative effort: Hadassah volunteer Candia Riollano helps students Shannon Sabbag and Anna Kalaj begin the sewing project.