

Kids learn about hunger through 'Empty Bowls'

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For a group of Clarenceville students, dinner Wednesday night was a real eye-opening experience.

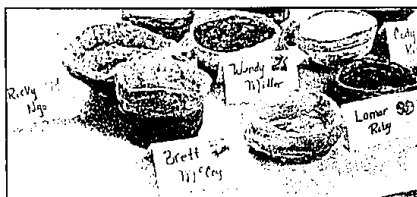
Fourth graders and their families stood in line for nothing more than a bowl of soup and piece of bread, as part of their "Empty Bowls" community service project. Led by health teacher Christine Jahns, the project's goal is to build awareness in children that there are people for whom a bowl of soup is considered a feast.

"The children were going to have a soup dinner and eat out of their bowls, but we haven't had any success with that," Jahns said.

Styrofoam bowls were used when the ceramic versions proved not to be soup-worthy. Teachers also created bowls that were auctioned off to raise funds, so the kids could each keep their own creations.

Empty Bowls involved Jahns, who has been teaching health for two years, and art teacher Mary Alice Allen in a cooperative venture. Students spent several weeks making and decorating their bowls.

Suggested by one of the school's para-professionals, the idea was originally to involve



Handmade: Bowls made by the students at Grandview were on display in the lobby.

fifth graders, who are required to do a community service project in their last year at Grandview.

"We already had a project for them, so I just saved the idea," Jahns said.

This year, fifth graders made 3,600 bread and cheese sandwiches at Lighthouse Soup Kitchen. When this year's fourth graders take on their project, they'll have a better understanding, teachers said.

"Next year when they go to the soup kitchen, they'll want to help out more," said fourth grade teacher Cindi Tolstedt.

Ten-year-old Paige Davis had a good idea why she was in Grandview's gymnasium

Wednesday evening.

"(Miss Jahns) taught us it was for the people who didn't have food," she said, "and we would give food to them."

While she painted her bowl red, white and blue, Joe Boettcher chose cinnamon and blue, which he felt would look good together. "I thought white would be best for the middle," he said of the bowl's interior.

Though a little shy, he also understood the evening's purpose: "To help needy people."

A representative from Gleaners, an organization that collects and distributes food to organizations that directly serve the poor, spoke to the children about where their



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBFIELD

Service with a smile: Health teacher Christine Jahns serves soup to Kathleen Parent and her daughter Teresa Parent who is in 4th grade at Grandview.

donations were headed. A total of \$1,040 was raised during the evening.

Jahns said Principal Ellen Davis was extremely supportive of the project. Leon's Restaurant of Clarenceville donated

the soup, the school's parent group donated paper supplies and Breadsmith of Livonia donated bread. Parent Ron Devon provided entertainment and kept the kids dancing with a mix of upbeat popular music.

While everyone had a good time, that wasn't all that made the evening special.

"I felt good because we were giving food to people who didn't have it," Davis said, "because it's helping people."

MOVERS & SHAKERS

GMA DIRECTOR

Bob Josifovski, former director of transaction services for Price-waterhouse Coopers, recently joined GMA Capital, LLC in Farmington Hills as director.

FOOD VICE CHAIR

Ronnie Jamil, co-owner of Mug & Jug Liquor stores in Farmington and Berkley, was recently elected vice-chair of membership for the Associated Food Dealers of Michigan.

DELTA DENTAL RELOCATES

Delta Dental Plan of Michigan has relocated into a new 60,000 square foot building at 27500 Sunbury, just off 12 Mile in Farmington Hills. The company is leasing the three-story office building until December 2002 when Delta Dental's purchase of the property is finalized.

NEW PR BUSINESS

Berl Falbaum is one of four Detroit area business and public relations executives who have come together to form a unique consulting company to meet the current needs of senior executives with reduced staffs due to a rapidly changing economy. Falbaum, president of Falbaum & Associates, Inc., in Farmington Hills was vice president of public relations for Perry Drugs. He specializes in investor relations, media training and crisis communications and issues management.

NEW AT HENRY FORD

Robert Levine, Ph.D., of Farmington Hills, was recently appointed research director of Henry Ford Health System's Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine. Levine is

internationally known for his research on premature nerve cell death in the brain and Parkinson's disease.

Kyrras Conrad, R.N., M.A., C.N.M.T., has joined the staff of Henry Ford Health System's Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine. She has national certification from the St. John Neuromuscular Pain Relief Institute and received a master's degree in holistic health counseling and education from Vermont College of Norwich University.

Jethro Joseph of Farmington Hills has been appointed to the Health Alliance Plan Board of Directors. He is a senior manager of Diversity Supplier Development at DaimlerChrysler Corp.

Once on this Island



St. Fabian presents: Under the direction of Tim Spriggs, music director and teacher at St. Fabian Catholic School in Farmington Hills, the St. Fabian Student Theater debuted last year with its production of Annie Jr. which performed to three sold out audiences. This year's musical selection was Once on this Island Jr., and the student theater group performed again this year to three sold out audiences, May 17-19.

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