

# Doll project exceeds \$250,000 mark

BY STACY JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

They bring comfort to sick kids and joy to those who make them.

Volunteers from all around the area, including West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Farmington Hills and Southfield, are busy snipping and sewing soft little handiworks of love.

In its sixth year, the Hadassah Doll Project has provided 28,000 dolls to more than a dozen area hospitals. The dolls are used for emotional support for kids in the hospital and as an educational tool, said Eleanor Smith of West Bloomfield, a project coordinator.

"They try to use the dolls for teaching and for comforting," said Smith. "Even for X-rays, (the children) are hysterical, and it kind of calms them down."

Aside from being a comfort, the dolls are used to show children about getting shots, IVs or even chemotherapy, said Smith. The kids can also personalize the faceless dolls with markers, and some children have even added hair and accessories to their dolls.

The doll project wouldn't be a suc-

cess without the volunteers, who meet weekly or monthly to cut the patterns, sew the pieces together, stuff them and make the little hospital gowns for the dolls.

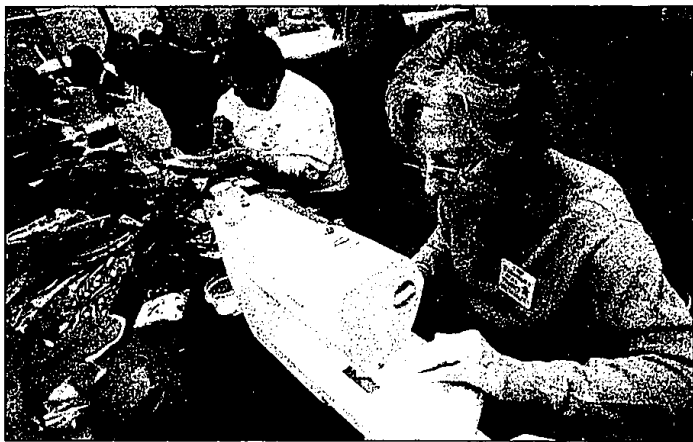
"It's a wonderful project," said Smith. "To see these faithful, faithful people coming week after week. We have people coming from all over the area to work on this project. It really serves a need, and it keeps our seniors very busy."

The project, sponsored by the Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah, started six years ago after local chapter members learned of a similar project while attending a national Hadassah convention.

Volunteers come from area community centers, senior citizen apartment complexes and programs, YMCAs and schools.

While some volunteers sew or stuff the dolls at home, most meet every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hadassah House, on Orchard Lake Road, north of Walnut Lake Road, in West Bloomfield.

"We have people from all walks of life working on this project," Smith



Bertli Liffman, of Southfield, spends Thursday mornings at the Hadassah House sewing dolls for children in hospitals.

said. "It's really all-encompassing." Smith delivers the dolls every four-six weeks to hospitals in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Pontiac and Dearborn.

"I keep in touch with the hospitals, and I know what they need and when they need it."

Those interested in volunteering

may call Eleanor Smith at (248) 626-0762.

sjenkins@oehomecomm.net | (248) 901-2558

# Have a holly, jolly Christmas season at The Longacre House

A Brunch at The Longacre House held Dec. 8 will feature the culinary stylings of Chef Russell Chessin, offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu offerings will include typical breakfast fare, with a cooked-to-order egg station, honey-baked ham and baked

fresh fish as entrees. Ticket prices are \$19.95 for adults and \$9.95 for children under age 12.

Parents and children alike will appreciate Lunch with Santa, with sittings at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. The ticket price of \$12 per

person includes a typical "kid-fare" lunch, storytelling, a make-it-and-take-it craft and goodie bag, as well as a visit with St. Nick.

Seating is limited, so parents are encouraged to sign up their children early.

Also, volunteers are needed

to help organize and host the event.

The holiday season ends with a classic "New Year's Eve at The Longacre," from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31. A five-course gourmet dinner will be the highlight of the evening; the sit-down dinner

will include a choice of appetizers, soup and salad, three entree choices - The Longacre prime rib, baked salmon en croute or Bohmeian-Almond cornish hen, topped off by the chef's special caramel nut apple pie.

Guests will receive two drink

tickets, after which a cash bar is offered. At every table, there will be a bottle of champagne for the midnight toast.

For more information about any of these events or to purchase tickets, call The Longacre House, (248) 477-8404.

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