

COMMUNITY LIFE

Everyday angels of mercy touch our lives

■ A random survey of random acts of kindness brought out interesting stories. The unexpected nice acts from strangers who don't expect anything in return can make your day.

By DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

We randomly asked shoppers and employees at the Orchard-12 strip mall at Orchard Lake and Twelve Mile about random acts of kindness, and surprisingly, it was the smallest gestures that made the biggest impact.

Many of the people we talked to said simple things from strangers — like holding their door open, making eye contact or smiling — could make their day. Almost everyone had a story or two.

"The nicest act of kindness I see is when people open the door to help," according to Kerry Kotila, of West Bloomfield Township.

And a stranger had just extended that courtesy while she walked into Photo-Time. She also appreciates a friendly smile and hello from strangers.

Lynn Leber, a Photo-Time employee, told a story about a driver who made a lasting impression.

Leber was driving on Orchard Lake near Telegraph toward Pontiac recently when another motorist was trying to merge into the lane in which she was driving. Leber gave

him an opening, but he didn't make the turn. He threw his hands up in the air, Leber said, and pantomimed the words "thank you."

"It's a stupid little thing," Leber said. "But, it made my day. I was surprised he did that. I think the little things can be a lot nicer than the bigger."

And Donald Payne, who owns Family Buggy restaurants, said: "The things I think about that we don't get enough of is the eye-to-eye

contact to give you that greeting that says you care. It's one of the little things that show you care."

His business cards, which he passes out freely, are redeemable for an unlimited number of hugs.

Sylvia Wasson of Farmington Hills said she was in the Bahamas recently and started talking to a stranger who was going through a divorce and was depressed. It turned out to be a two-hour conversation. Wasson, who said it was late that got the two women together, plans to remain in contact with the woman.

Other people we talked to on our random search for kind acts told us about how angels of mercy, who remained nameless to them, came to their rescue.

Lori Walton of Mutual Financial in Farmington said she was surprised one day when she went to her car and found a note. Apparently, she had a flat tire, someone fixed it and left a note without a name.

It seems the phenomenon is contagious, too. Someone does something good for you and you can't help but turn around and do the same for another stranger.

"Many years ago I picked up someone who was stranded on the service drive," according to Howard Simon, of Daly and Simon Real Estate Appraisals in Farmington Hills.

The motorist had car trouble when Simon offered to drive him to a gas station.

"It made me feel good," said Simon adding that he was in a similar situation years ago. He broke down on an expressway in New Mexico and someone stopped to help him.

Both Rodriguez, who works at Source One Mortgage in Farmington, said she was at the hydroplane races in Detroit recently when her husband complimented a man on his hat. This stranger, who she was later told invented the formula for Squirt, took off the hat inscribed "7.3 Turbo Diesel F250 Ford" and gave it to her husband. Rodriguez said the nice act definitely made their afternoon.

Sharon Bullin, who works at Rags to Riches, said she'll always remember a kindhearted state trooper who changed her tire on the service drive of an expressway.

"I never got his name to say 'thank you,'" Bullin said. "But they don't have to do that."

See ANGELS, 14A

Random acts of kindness are rampant

It's easy to dwell on the bad among us when we read so many stories about rape, murder and destruction.

More often than not, though, our lives are touched by people who bring a moment of happiness and their kind deeds are etched in our memories. Most people have stories about how they got out of bad situations with the help of strangers.

Yesterday, for instance, a friend told me she was caught on the expressway with a flat tire. Someone stopped, changed the tire and turned a stressful experience into a good memory. She doesn't know his name and he didn't seem to care about any kind of recognition or special thanks.

Recently, my husband went into an auto parts store and started talking to an employee. The man said the part my husband needed to replace was tricky to get in and offered to help. He came to our house, worked for a few hours and refused to be paid.

Recently, I was in a hospital room, worried and scared. I'll never forget the many people, all strangers, who poured in with hugs, inspirational stories, prayers and good wishes. Although, I don't remember all their names, I will always remember their kindness.

So often strangers give a little of themselves without any strings or conditions and we often

See COLUMN, 14A

GRAND OPENING!

AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE FOR PAINT AND DECORATING™

SAVE ON PAINT

Visit our new location in
FARMINGTON HILLS
24040 Orchard Lake Rd.
476-5448

PROJECT HELPERS



ENJOY THE MANY GREAT BENEFITS OF VISITING YOUR NEW NEIGHBORHOOD SHERWIN-WILLIAMS:

- ✓ IT'S THE ONLY PLACE YOU CAN BUY SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINT
- ✓ QUALITY PRODUCTS
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL ADVICE
- ✓ CONVENIENT LOCATION
- ✓ WE MATCH ANY COLOR & TINT. THE PAINT AT NO EXTRA CHARGE.



EXCLUSIVE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS BRAND Superior quality products available only at Sherwin-Williams stores.



ALL THE MATERIALS YOU NEED The largest assortment of brushes, rollers & many other decorating materials.



AMERICA'S #1 WALLPAPER RETAILER A great selection of Custom wallpaper and in-stock patterns.



\$12.99 GAL.
Reg. \$17.49



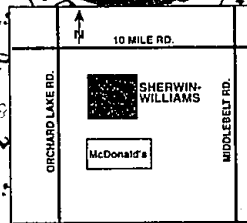
\$13.99 GAL.
Reg. \$18.99



\$14.99 GAL.
Reg. \$19.49



REVOLUTIONARY BREAKTHROUGH IN STAIN-RESISTANT PAINT
• EverClean™ Interior flat latex paint
• Washable and durable
STAINS DON'T STAND A CHANCE!



The bearer of this coupon is entitled to a
20% DISCOUNT
off the regular price of any product sold at retail Sherwin-Williams stores.
This offer is valid on all items except in conjunction with any other offers. Coupon is void where prohibited.
COUPON EXPIRES 6/30/95

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
CBS0A ACRYLIC LATEX CAULK
NEW 15-Year Warranty
Improved adhesion
\$1.19
Reg. \$1.59

WERNER
6' ALUMINUM STEPLADDER
• Type II 225 Lb. Commercial duty rating
• Tool-Tra Trap™ for tools, quart can & small parts
• Spill-Proof™ paint shelf with rag rail & tool holders
• Bottom & top steps braced (1836-61)
\$49.99
Reg. \$65.95

WAGNER
CORDLESS PAINTER™ 919
• Fast and easy way to paint with roller or pad
• Control paint flow with the touch of a button
\$84.99
Reg. \$99.99

DECK CARE

LIQUID DECK WASH
• Easy no scrub formula for exterior wood surfaces
\$5.99 GAL.
Reg. \$6.99

CLEAR WOOD SEAL
• Can use immediately on previously painted wood
• Seals out water
• Fights cracking & splitting
\$9.99 GAL.
Reg. \$12.99 (1 qt. bottle)

ASK SHERWIN-WILLIAMS®

SALE ENDS JUNE 24TH

©1995 The Sherwin-Williams Company. Not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Sherwin-Williams reserves the right to correct errors at point of purchase.