

Students go to lengths for cords

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

Students at Farmington High School who embarked on community service initiatives earned the right to wear silver honor cords at graduation.

They went to all lengths and distances.

Julie Goettlicher traveled to Peru with Restoration, her cousin's church youth group in Colorado last summer.

"During the day, we went to schools and brought clothes and food," Goettlicher said.

There were 18 kids and seven chaperones, who held church services that were highly successful. "We did crusades at night where we had people from the whole area come in," she said. "We had over 7,000 show up one night."

Children showed up with cut-up faces and sad eyes, she

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added. Their faces showed wear from weather and poor hygiene.

Goettlicher dressed up as a clown and handed out 300 stickers. "I was mobbed," she said. "They were gone in three minutes."

The honor cord program is an opportunity for students to get out in the community, she said. "Community service gives people gratification, as well. It helps others."

Students who earned 50 hours or more of community service in their junior and senior year were

entitled to wear the honor cords. The program was organized for the first time this year by Lisa Sievert, a social studies teacher.

"This is separate from the National Honor Society," Sievert said. "This is the first year we've had it and we didn't expect to have so many. You can get honored for community service and it's not tied to your grades."

North Farmington High School has had a similar program for several years, Sievert said. Busch's and a moms' group donated food for a recent morning reception at the school honoring those who participated.

The students had latitude in their community service choices. Ava Jackson, a senior, found it easy to accumulate more than 100 hours because her father is a minister at Fellowship of Love Church in Detroit.

She works with a youth group, participates in choir, goes on field trips, does computer work and performs secretarial duties.

The FHS program helps dispel the myth that youth never do anything good, Jackson said.

"But, we do good things for society," she said.

Other cord recipients, all seniors, are: Ben Achtenberg, Yvette Banks, Shanna Barkume, Kate Bouschet, Randin Brown, Chris Bruce, Kristina Casadei, Emily Danbrook, Melissa Ellis, Tom English, Trisha Froman, Courtney Greyson, Kelsey Gulabert, Cnsey Haapaniemi, Ji-Min Hong, Sean McGee, Julie Miltello, David Mondoux, Elizabeth Nellums, Alexandra Nickless, Omar Odeh, Nancy Okonkwo, Kinney Patel, Shrini Patel, Shelly Patrick, Jessica Patrus, Teresa Pilon, Bryan Proven, Linzi Roberts, Megan Schmidt, Nick Schoeps, Maggie Simowski, Leah Taber, Chaisty Taylor, Sheetal Trivedi, Kate Williams and Rebecca York.



Almost alums: Mercy High School seniors pose for a photo just before graduation ceremonies. Angie Trudeau is student council vice-president, Roniesha Copeland is salutatorian and student council president and Sailaja Paidipaty is valedictorian of the class of 2002.

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Salutatorian: Roniesha Copeland of Southfield is Mercy High School's Salutatorian for the 2001-2002 school year. She has been accepted to Howard University, Northwestern University, Stanford University and the University of Michigan but is hasn't decided where she will go.



Valedictorian: Sailaja Paidipaty of Farmington Hills is Mercy High School's valedictorian for the 2001-2002 school year. She plans to attend Yale University and major in biology. She is the daughter of Butchi and Kamala Paidipaty.



Meadow Brook hosts Mercy graduation

Emceed by 2002 Teacher of the Year W. Thomas Schusterbauer, Mercy High School graduation ceremonies were held Thursday, May 30 at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester.

More than 220 senior girls were honored in the school's 57th commencement, including more than 150 National Honor Society, Michigan Competitive Scholar, National Merit finalist and other award winners.

Salutatorian Roniesha Copeland, Salutatorian, delivered the class address and Valedictorian Sailaja Paidipaty bid the class farewell. Interim president Sr. Nancy Thompson conferred diplomas.

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