

Goodfellows groups prepare for holidays

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and Theresa Wherrett

Goodfellows organizations throughout Wayne County are gearing up to meet their annual goal of No Child Without a Christmas, and the communities of Wayne and Westland are no different.

Bob Dunn, president of the Wayne Goodfellows, said the group would host two more fundraisers to build up their balance for next year. The first would be a City of Wayne employees and friends benefit at Jake's Again Tavern on Wayne Road. That takes place from 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 4. The day after that, Ironworkers Local 831 and the Unistrut Corp. will be at The Village Bar on Michigan Avenue. That event will continue from 5-10 p.m., Dunn said.

"What we do is go into the bar and take over," Dunn said. "We get merchants to donate prizes, and we have raffles. All the money we raise we use for next year." Last year, the Wayne Goodfellows generated more than \$11,000 to help needy families in the community.

The organization gave up their annual newspaper sales about 17 years ago, when a volunteer was struck by a car and severely injured. The city council made the organization come up with other fundraising ideas after that, Dunn said.

The City of Wayne fundraiser event will feature a wide variety of raffles, prizes and an auction, according to Dunn. Unistrut will bring in a karaoke machine by country artist Tony Philips, beginning at 10 p.m. They will also have raffles at the Dec. 5 event.

The overall goal of the group is to provide Christmas cheer to needy families in the form of baskets containing food and pre-

sents for children.

"Last year we assisted more than 150 families and subsidized other organizations that help provide the necessities in life for people in our community," Dunn said.

The Westland Goodfellows is accepting both donations and applications for assistance to provide toys for children. Applications can be picked up at Westland City Hall (36601 Ford Road), Westland Chamber of Commerce (36900 Ford Road) and the Dorsey Center (32715 Dorsey Road). They must be submitted by 3 p.m. Dec. 15.

If approved, volunteers will drop off toys for the children on Saturday, Dec. 20.

For those wishing to donate, there are several avenues to help, according to Westland Goodfellows Treasurer Larry Futrell. On the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, volunteers will be selling Goodfellows newspapers, with proceeds donated to the Goodfellows funds. On Dec. 1, Toarmina's Pizza will donate half the cost of every pizza sold at all Westland Toarmina's locations to the Goodfellows. Also, local businesses will carry paper ornaments that can be purchased for \$1, \$5 or \$10. All money will go to the Goodfellows.

Funds received from these activities will be used to purchase toys for needy children. Last year, Futrell said that about 350 children were helped.

Anyone wishing to help pack the toys for delivery is welcome. Packing night is scheduled for Dec. 19.

For more information, call 734-722-5400.

To volunteer with the Wayne Goodfellows, contact Tim Reynolds at the fire department at (734) 722-1111 or Dunn at (734) 776-2876.