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News

## TAYLOR: Shop with a hero program a success

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By The City of Taylor

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TAYLOR — With a growing number of needy families in the area, the Meijer store on Pardee Road provided more Christmas presents and food than ever before for dozens of children and their parents.

The seventh annual “Shop with a Hero” program, held this month, paired children with police officers and firefighters. They escorted the children around the store as the young shoppers selected toys, sporting goods, electronics, clothing and other items.

At the checkout counter, the firefighters and police officers presented \$140 worth of gift cards provided by Meijer to cover the cost of the purchases.

The children also were treated to a pizza party, a Christmas stocking full of candy and a visit and photo with Santa Claus. Meijer employees purchased each child a hat, coat, gloves and a wrapped gift presented by Santa. Families received a Christmas turkey dinner and a large plastic bin filled with food.

“We’re trying to provide Christmas for kids who might not get Christmas things this season,” store director Craig Smerigan said. “We think it’s important to give back to the community that has given to us. Every kid deserves to have Christmas. And, we couldn’t do it without the heroes. They make it even more worthwhile.”

Employee Wendy LaCroix, who organized the spree, said 41 children from 18 families participated. Twenty-two firefighters and police officers chaperoned.

This year, Meijer teamed with the Metro Charter Academy of Romulus, which contributed money. As a community service project, Metro students sold 428 tickets to a Detroit Pistons game to raise \$2,140. The money was used to purchase food baskets for each family and a \$20 gift card for each child.

Assistant Principal Nancy Kouba and Lori Nagy, Parent-Teacher Organization president, presented the gifts to Smerigan. He thanked the Metro students, police and firefighters, event organizers and volunteers who assisted in the day.

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