

The Community Page



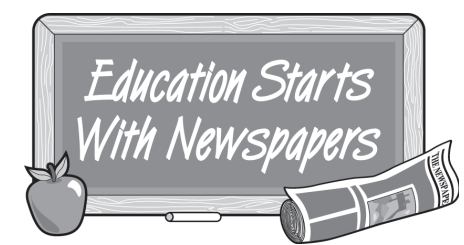
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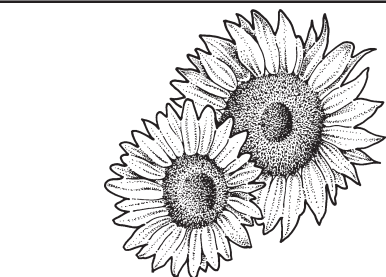


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Kelley Livengood gave money to Richard Allaman, a volunteer for the Goodland Knight's of Columbus, at Wal-Mart on Saturday. Photos by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Knights of Columbus help retarded children

Group raises over \$2,000

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

The Knights of Columbus gave out Tootsie Rolls and collected over \$2,000 for people with mental retardation during an annual fund-raiser Saturday and Sunday.

Brent Wood, the Goodland chapter's grand knight, said this year about 20 cases of Tootsie Rolls — that's 6,000 chocolate candies — were given out by volunteers. On Saturday, they handed them out at Wal-Mart and on Main Avenue and on Sunday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

The candies had special markings describing the Knights and what they do. People had an opportunity to donate money to the group, he said, of which 20 percent will go to help the state Special Olympics held in Hays in the spring, and the rest to help the mentally retarded in Goodland.

"We give out the candies, and if people want to give us money, that's great," Wood said. "If they don't, that's fine, too."

Besides the 20 cases for Goodland, the Knights ordered seven cases for Sharon Springs and 12 for St. Francis.

"We are giving out a lot of candy to a lot of people in the area," Wood said.

The Knights are a fraternal organization for Catholics, Wood said. They focus on church and the family, he said, and try to work on projects which help people. The Goodland branch has participated in the candy give-away for many years, Wood said, and has brought in over \$3,000 in each of the past three years.

This year's final figures haven't been tallied



Kathy Winters of Burlington (above) accepted two Tootsie Rolls and donated some money Saturday at Wal-Mart. Jerald Anderson (below, left) volunteered to help retarded children during the fund-raiser.

yet, Wood said. Some of the money came in late, he said, and a few volunteers are still collecting at businesses on Main, which were closed this weekend. It's possible over \$3,000 was brought in, Wood said.

It was a little harder raising money this year, he said, because there aren't as many businesses. The knights used to collect at Gibson's across K-27 from Wal-Mart, and at Alco on Main.

"We tried not to let it faze us," Wood said. "We went out and did what we do."

There were several members volunteering at Wal-Mart from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in two shifts, and a few who went up and down Main.

Ken Clouse went out to the Total gas station south of I-70 and collected money,

Wood said, and to two auctions which took place this weekend.

There was no question what the volunteers were doing.

"We are very distinctive," Wood said. "We wear bright yellow wearing aprons that say, 'Help the retarded children.' You can't miss us."

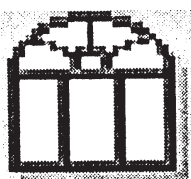
The money that stays in Goodland has gone to the Goodland High School activity fund in past years, Wood said, to be used to help people with mental disabilities. Another beneficiary has been the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas.

"The state organization has to make sure the money will go to a group which helps the mentally retarded," Wood said. "That's what the money is collected for."

Knights around Kansas raised money. Gov. Bill Graves declared Friday through Sunday, "Helping People with Mental Retardation Days," and Goodland Mayor Tom Rohr followed suit and declared it in the city.



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