

HILLSDALE
**DAILY
NEWS**

SERVICE CLUB EVENT **Head Start students receive holiday cheer**
By Nancy Hastings on December 10, 2013

HILLSDALE – The Hillsdale Kiwanis Club hosted its yearly Christmas party for the children of Head Start Saturday morning. For club members, it's one of the biggest events on the calendar; exemplifying their commitment to children by first taking them shopping and then treating them to a party, where they meet Santa and munch on homemade cookies. More than 40 children signed up to attend the event which began at Walmart, where they bought items for their family members. Kiwanis members, along with volunteers from the Davis Middle School Builders Club, Hillsdale High School Key Club and some Head Start instructors, were assigned to supervise children who came with a list of family members for whom to buy.

Club members and other volunteers entertained the children with coloring projects as organizers finished tallying participants. They then loaded two buses for a shopping trip to the Jonesville Walmart. Diane Osbourne, whose husband, Tom, is a Kiwanian, said she loves coming every year to see the children get excited about doing something nice for their families and then see Santa for some presents of their own.



Key Club president Alex White helps Head Start students wrap presents purchased for family members following the Kiwanis Club's annual shopping excursion to Walmart. COURTESY PHOTO Two bus loads of Head Start Children and volunteers shoppers headed for Walmart Saturday for the annual Hillsdale Kiwanis Club shopping trip.

"The kids are usually well behaved because they know they will receive treats," Osbourne said. After returning to the Hillsdale First United Methodist Church basement, the volunteers helped the children wrap the purchases for their loved ones. Together, the volunteers helped wrap nearly 700 presents, according to club member Valarie White, who has chaired the party several years. Parents then joined the tots for refreshments and took pictures of their children as they visited with Santa and received gifts. Hillsdale Community Action Agency Children's Program Manager and Kiwanian Cindy Rowe said for many of the children, the gifts they received might be all they get for Christmas. And, taking them shopping is something their family members appreciate.



After shopping for family members, Head Start students were treated to a visit from Santa, who brought presents for them. Head Start children were helped by volunteer shoppers from the Hillsdale Kiwanis Club and Davis Middle School Builders Club on Saturday at Walmart. COURTESY PHOTOS