

Saturday, December 22, 2007

Roseville

School workers aid homeless with a busload of warm gifts

Charles E. Ramirez / The Detroit News

ROSEVILLE -- Faye Maraman, 49, of Roseville wanted to do something to help the homeless this holiday. The Roseville Community Schools bus driver came up with the idea for collecting hats, coats, gloves, blankets and other items for the county's homeless.

After getting the approval from the school district's administration, Maraman and her fellow school bus drivers started collecting the items from the district's staff, parents and students.

"I don't know how much stuff we've collected, but the goal was to stuff a bus," Maraman said. "I think we did it."

About 1 p.m. Friday, Maraman and driver Karen Coleman, 44, of Roseville delivered an assortment of items to the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team.



Roseville school bus driver Karen Coleman helps unload donated items for MCREST. "It's so wonderful that the school district saw a need and came to help," says Jimetta Lewis of MCREST.



George Gilbert, 49, of Roseville helps unload a school bus full of donated items -- including outdoor winter accessories and blankets -- for the homeless at Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter in Roseville. (Madalyn Ruggiero / Special to The Detroit News)

It took more than 20 minutes to unload the bus.

The organization, which is based in Roseville, provides shelter for the homeless in various churches throughout the county as well as various support services.

Jimetta Lewis, MCREST's executive director, said she was overwhelmed by the gesture.

"I'm choking back tears," she said. "It's so wonderful that the school district saw a need and came to help."