

Children celebrate holidays by giving

By COLIN SELBO

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LINDENHURST – Santa Claus had a message for the children at the Lindenhurst Early Childhood Center on Dec. 14.

His message was a bit different than what children normally hear in the weeks before Christmas. Instead of asking the children what gifts they wanted to find Christmas morning, Santa praised the children for the gifts they were giving to others.

“Santa is here today to tell you how happy I am that you kids are packing food,” Claus said while dressed in a red suit with two elves by his side. “I’m proud that you’re doing this for people who don’t have food.”

A visit from Santa is a way to reinforce the message of giving during the holiday season to the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children who attend the center, facility director Frank Davis said. The children packed 400 boxes with canned food, pasta, toiletries, paper towels and other items.

“You guys do so much, so [Santa] really likes you guys,” Davis told a group of 4-year-olds. “He’s here just to say thank you.”

Packing the boxes was part of the annual “Gift of Giving” campaign at the center. In addition to the boxes of food, 30 van-loads of clothes have been donated and 130 wish lists for foster children have



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Michael Domoratskiy, 4, packs food with Cindi Nava on Dec. 14 as part of the “Gift of Giving” campaign at the Lindenhurst Early Childhood Center.

been filled, Davis said.

Community groups like the Round Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Round Lake Area Public Library and Lake Villa Timber Wolves, and local businesses such as Natural Care Chiropractic in Lindenhurst, Cardinal Fitness in Round Lake, Quality Catering in Lake Villa and Uline in Waukegan contributed to the efforts.

Giving repeatedly is critical to help-

ing children learn the message of sharing with others, Davis said.

“They aren’t going to get it the first time,” he said. “By the third year, they are telling you what it’s about.”

Jayden Boomer, 5, said he and his classmates were packing the food so they could deliver to children who don’t have any.

“They don’t have food and we have tons of food,” Boomer said.



Shirley Michaels brought hundreds of Beanie Babies to LECC!