

Maybe I can have one of those

By Charlene Lozicki

Grandma and grandpa put up their Christmas tree and wondered what Eddie would think of it. Eddie came over the next morning as he did every Monday morning when his mother went to work. He checked out the house, and in the living room there was a Christmas tree with lights and ornaments — a dazzling sight for a three year old.

Eddie opened his mouth wide, pointed at the tree and said, "Maybe I could have one of those."

"Eddie, that's a Christmas tree."

"Maybe I could have one," he said.

Eddie spent some time checking out the tree and what made the lights go on and off. Grandma told Eddie his mom was going to have a Christmas tree in their house, too, in a few days, and if he wanted to, we could go to a store where they sell ornaments to decorate Christmas trees.

Off they went, Eddie talking all the way. "Why do people put trees in their house? Why do they have lights on trees? Is mine going to be just like yours?"

Eagerly on his mission, an elderly lady almost tripped over him, looked at him and said, "What a cutie pie."

Eddie looked at her and said, "I not cutie pie, I Eddie." And we both continued on our mission. We found trees with lots of ornaments on them. First, he found Sponge Bob for his brother, then he found a shiny red car for himself. He went to another tree and there he studied them very carefully and picked out a shiny silver ornament with lots of glitter.

"That's for mom. We can go now." He carried them to the cashier. With a very serious grin on his face, he explained to her what they were and who they were for. Very carefully these special purchases were put in a bag and Eddie, with a big smile on his face, carried them on the way out of the store, singing.

"I got Christmas decorations for my tree, one for me, one for my brother, and one for mom." I could feel the smiles on everyone as he danced and sang through the store. Everyone heard him coming, so he didn't trip anyone with his special Christmas package on his way home to mom.

Anyone can support our troops

(Submitted by Paula Beck)

It all began four years ago around Veteran's Day when Monica Bixeman of Fruitport was looking for a way to give back to our community. With the holidays quickly approaching, Monica formulated an idea to show support for our soldiers and to give a big "thank you" for all they do. She took her idea to her employer, Community Shores Bank. Being community oriented, Community Shores Bank encouraged Monica to construct a plan. Thus Support Our Troops was born.



For the fourth consecutive year, Community Shores Bank will be showing support for our men and women in uniform by collecting donations for care packages to be sent to the brave soldiers overseas.

Everyone can help. Whether you know of a soldier that would like to receive a package, or you would like to donate items to be included in the care packages, we welcome your support. If you know of a soldier that would benefit from receiving a care package, please call Community Shores Bank at (231) 780-1800.

Employees of Community Shores Bank will be showing their support by contributing money through jean days to help raise money for shipping and also by bringing in donations. Examples of items to donate are: beef jerky, peanuts, trail mix, cheese and crackers packets, cereal bars, peanut butter, protein bars, coffee singles and drink mix packets, gum, peppermint candies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, stick deodorant, Chapstick®, AA and AAA batteries in original packages, etc.

Mindy Freeland's fourth grade class at Shettler Elementary School will also be showing their support by writing personal letters to our service men and women to be included in each care package.

You, too, can show your support. If you know of a soldier serving overseas, or would like to donate, please visit one of our offices. To find an office near you, please go to www.communityshores.com.

Thank you for your support. Together we can make a difference.

Muskegon County H1N1 information centers

(Submitted by Muskegon County Public Health)

Muskegon County emphasizes that provider offices and pharmacies do not have the flu vaccine yet, and the public should not call providers until they hear word from health authorities that the vaccine is officially on its way to Muskegon County.

For the latest information on the vaccine and locations:

• Public Health – Muskegon County
www.muskegonhealth.net

• Call 2-1-1 or www.call-211.org

If using a cell or pay phone, call 231-733-1155 or toll free at 877-211-5253.

• Michigan Department of Community Health

www.michigan.gov/flu

• Center for Disease Control and Prevention

www.flu.gov

• H1N1 flu hotline

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

Fruitport Area News • December 2009 • Page 9

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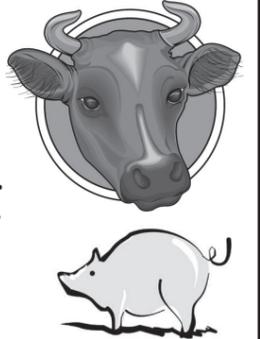
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