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Holiday Greetings

11-year-old girl trying to warm soldiers' hearts this holiday

*By Josh Halasy,
Staff Writer*

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Van Buren Township resident Destiny Eadie is only 11-years-old, but has a heart bigger than the White House Christmas tree.

The South Middle School sixth-grader has set a goal to send 2,000 Christmas cards to U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

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Her mother, Shada, said, "Destiny has always had a heart that is absolutely enormous, so this Christmas card idea is no surprise".

The idea for sending all of these cards actually started last year. The web site www.ansoldier.com is where soldiers post what

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they want or need to be sent from home, and many post that a simple card makes them happier than anything.

Destiny's father, Mike, had a co-worker whose son was in Iraq, so she wanted to send him a Christmas card. That is when she got the idea to send as many cards as she could so he could distribute them to his fellow soldiers. In the three weeks before Thanksgiving, she managed to get 578 cards signed and mailed out.

This year Destiny started in October so she would have more time, and therefore set a goal of getting 2,000 cards mailed out. Teachers at her old school, Tyler Middle School, are having students make cards, and some area businesses are helping the cause as well. Ikea in Canton, where Destiny's brother Steven works, donated forty boxes of cards and is having their employees sign them. Paula's Home Cooking Restaurant in Belleville and the Sumpter Seniors are also helping out.

While most 11-year-olds spend their weekends playing with friends, Destiny spends hers at the local high school collecting cards, spending approximately 20 hours a week with this Christmas card project.

The Charter Township of Van Buren is also helping the cause by donating their craft room of the township hall free of charge to Destiny on Saturday, November 18.

Think of it as Santa's workshop, only Destiny will be Santa, area residents will be the elves, Christmas cards, not toys, will be everywhere, and it will be in Van Buren Township, Michigan, not the North Pole.

Everyone is encouraged to stop by and either sign a card or bring one of their own. Any questions or to contribute please email Destiny at cardsfromdestiny@yahoo.com or write to Destiny Eadie, PO Box 324, Belleville.

On Saturday, Destiny participated in the Holiday Arts and Crafts Show at Belleville High School. There 236 cards signed at the event that will go to help Destiny's noble cause.

Shada says they were grateful to the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for allowing Destiny to set up a table at the show.

"People were very generous to donate money to help her send her

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packages," Shada says.

When the cards are mailed out around Thanksgiving, Destiny will be very humble, not wanting any celebration if the 2,000 card goal is met, and certainly wanting no praise for her effort.

Shada is so proud of her daughter. "Destiny doesn't do it for herself. She gets joy from seeing others happy, and she doesn't need anything else."

Other organizations that have helped Destiny include Savage, Tyler, and Edgemont schools, the Belleville Chamber of Commerce and the Charter Township of Van Buren.

Josh Halasy is an intern writer for the View/Courier. He can be reached through editor@bellevilleview.com.



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