



Home for the Holiday Ornaments for CASA

Four inches of clay shaped into a house, glazed, and topped with a Christmas bow is no ordinary ornament. Each of these precious keepsakes represents an abused or neglected child that CASA of Collin County helped last year.

The ornament also represents the talent of Plano East Senior High art students. Members of the National Art Honor Society at Plano East are making 700 Home for the Holiday ornaments for CASA to sell this season.

Art department team leader Debbie Moore is spearheading the project. "This is our second year [to participate in the project]. Last year we helped glaze and decorate the houses. This year we are using a design submitted by one of our

advanced placement (AP) art students," Moore said.

Aralyn McGregor, now a freshman at the University of North Texas, won a contest that Moore held last spring for the ornament's design.

Moore continues, "We are rolling the slabs, pressing the house design into the clay, cutting out the houses, glazing the houses and firing them."

All 700 of them. But perhaps this large task is no challenge for Moore, who has 20 years of teaching experience to her name. Currently, Moore teaches AP 2-D design art and international baccalaureate art. She is also a sponsor of the National

Art Honor Society (NAHS) and helps the organization plug into community service

projects like this one.

"I believe our students have a gift that allows them to excel in the visual arts, and what better way

to give back to

society than through art," Moore said.

"The opportunity to help abused and neglected children as they must deal with a very emotional court process is a very rewarding project."



A student puts the finishing touches on a Home for the Holiday ornament.

CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates, trains volunteers to serve as guardians for abused and neglected children.

Sheila Brown, president of the board of directors, said that the ornaments are another way to inform people about CASA. This is Brown's second year as president and sixth year on the board, but her direct involvement with children goes back much further.

"I taught first grade for 32 years," said Brown. "Children have always been a focus of mine. Certainly, the welfare of children is important."

Brown speaks highly of Moore as they work together on the

Profile photos/Mike Newman



(From left) Brittany Woods, David Moya, art department team leader Debbie Moore, Helen Stewart, and Nathan Misutka stamp the ornament's pattern into the clay.

Home for the Holiday ornaments. "She's been amazing," said Brown. "She has taken this project on and has done so much to help out. We would call her one of our angels with skin."

Why is the holiday ornament designed as a home?

Moore said, "The holiday imagery of a 'homey cottage' represents love

in so many ways. The CASA volunteers' love for children and their desire to provide a caring home for young ones is beautifully symbolized through a holiday house Christmas ornament."



Denise Tang (left) and Eva Kendrick cut ornaments from a slab of clay.

For a \$15 limited edition ornament, call CASA at 972-529-2272.

33rd annual Plano Christmas Parade

Wake up before 9 a.m. on Dec. 3 to watch the Plano Christmas Parade wind through the city. Colorful floats, marching bands, cheerleaders, drill teams, the ROTC, and many other organizations will

line the streets of Plano to celebrate the "Sights and Sounds of Christmas."

The parade will begin at Williams High School on 18th Street and Avenue P. From there, it will travel west on 18th

to Avenue K, turn south on Avenue K to 15th Street, and veer west on 15th Street to Avenue G. Then, the parade will head north on Avenue G and end at the Cox parking lot on 16th Street. Parade awards will be given in six categories: Best Overall Float, Plano Santas Award, Grand Marshall Award, Chairperson Special Award, Best Use of Theme and Best Walking Unit.

From 6:30 - 11 a.m. it's "All U Can Eat Pancakes" at Williams High School. The First United Methodist Men will dish out pancakes, sausages, hot cocoa, orange juice, and milk. The breakfast is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

Proceeds from the parade will go to Plano Santas to help more than 600 families celebrate Christmas in their homes. Sponsors include NBC TV5, Comcast Cable TV14A, and DART. Contact Peggy@planochristmasparade2005.com or call 972-424-4714.

Neiman Marcus Adolphus Children's Parade

"Unwrap the Joy" of the season at the 18th annual Neiman Marcus Adolphus Children's Parade benefiting Children's Medical Center of Dallas. The nationally televised parade will march through downtown Dallas Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. Proceeds will support the Child Life program, which provides services like music therapy, teen support groups, and medical camps to families seeking treatment at Children's.

Also known as "Miracle on Commerce Street," the Adolphus Children's Parade draws more than 350,000 people downtown each year.

This year, a record-breaking number of giant inflatables will dance down Commerce Street, including Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Curious George, and Hello Kitty. Dazzling dancers, high-stepping equestrians, festive elves, and spirited snowmen will also make an appearance.

"Everyone can remember the excitement of opening gifts during the holidays

and the special time spent with family and friends. It's a joy unlike any other," said parade director Karen Ranker. "We look forward to bringing that same magic to everyone this holiday season."

There wouldn't be magic without Santa and Mrs. Claus. And what's a parade without music? The world famous Hardin Simmons University Cowboy marching band will set the beat and sound the trumpets. After the parade, 94.9 KLTY will host a concert at City Hall Plaza.

WFAA-TV Channel 8 will be the official television sponsor and has carried the broadcast for the past 16 years. The parade's potential

viewing audience is 116 million households, as it is viewed on more than 352 television stations in 159 markets coast-to-coast (more than 88 percent of the United States).

For the first time, the parade will sell its collectible pins and posters on www.childrensparade.com. Tickets for bleacher seating on Commerce Street and City Hall Plaza are \$15. Call 214-456-8360 or for more information, call 214-456-8383.



Santa and his helpers wave to parade-goers.

Photo/Children's Medical Center Dallas



HOLIDAY GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR

Usher in the holidays with Collin County Community College District and its 14th annual Holiday Gift and Craft Fair on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Items for sale will include pottery, baked goods, candles, soaps, crocheted baby items, jewelry, cards, water paintings, and pecans. The fair will be held in Collin's Spring Creek Campus Atrium. For more information, call Karen Knapp at 972-881-5606.