

CITIZEN ON ASSIGNMENT

Kateri Tekakwitha raises \$500 for needy



Shoppers Sue Mullen and Pam Wrench at the Mary Kaye table, staffed by consultant Beverly Kruegar

BY MARILYN SOEIRO
CITIZEN ON ASSIGNMENT

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to Christmas shop by firelight, coffee in hand, in a school gym? Well, that's exactly what people did last Thursday night at Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School. And the fact that proceeds went to local Christmas Charities made it all the more festive.

The event began as a desire to bring the school, church, and community together in a social way and, in the process, to raise money for needy families.

With the full co-operation of principal James Mitchell, organizers Ann Marie Longo and Marilyn Soeiro brought together a number of direct sales companies, which allowed shoppers to get their favourite products at one time.

More than 200 parents, neighbours and staff searched each table to find that special present, stocking stuffer or personal gift.

Each vendor put up \$30 for a table and offered 10 per cent of their sales to the school's Christmas charities.

Parents from the school donated goodies for a bake table, manned by the schools' senior students, with proceeds going to Pathways, an organization that assists homeless teens.

Certainly, a focal point of the evening was the fireplace, drawing people to sit and visit. The electric fireplace, complete with hearth and mantle, came courtesy of parent Louisa Funk, who is known for her recycling and decorating talents.

Visitors were met by courteous Grade 8 hosts, with offers of Christmas cookies and a warm cup of coffee

(compliments of Gord's No Frills in Markham). The gym was dressed in red and green streamers and balloons, and the children helped decorate the gym with their artwork.

The school thanks Gord's No Frills

for donating to the coffee table and St. Patrick's Church for lending its large tables.

More than \$500 was raised. What a terrific example of joining forces to help those less fortunate.

Citizen on Assignment

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8

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