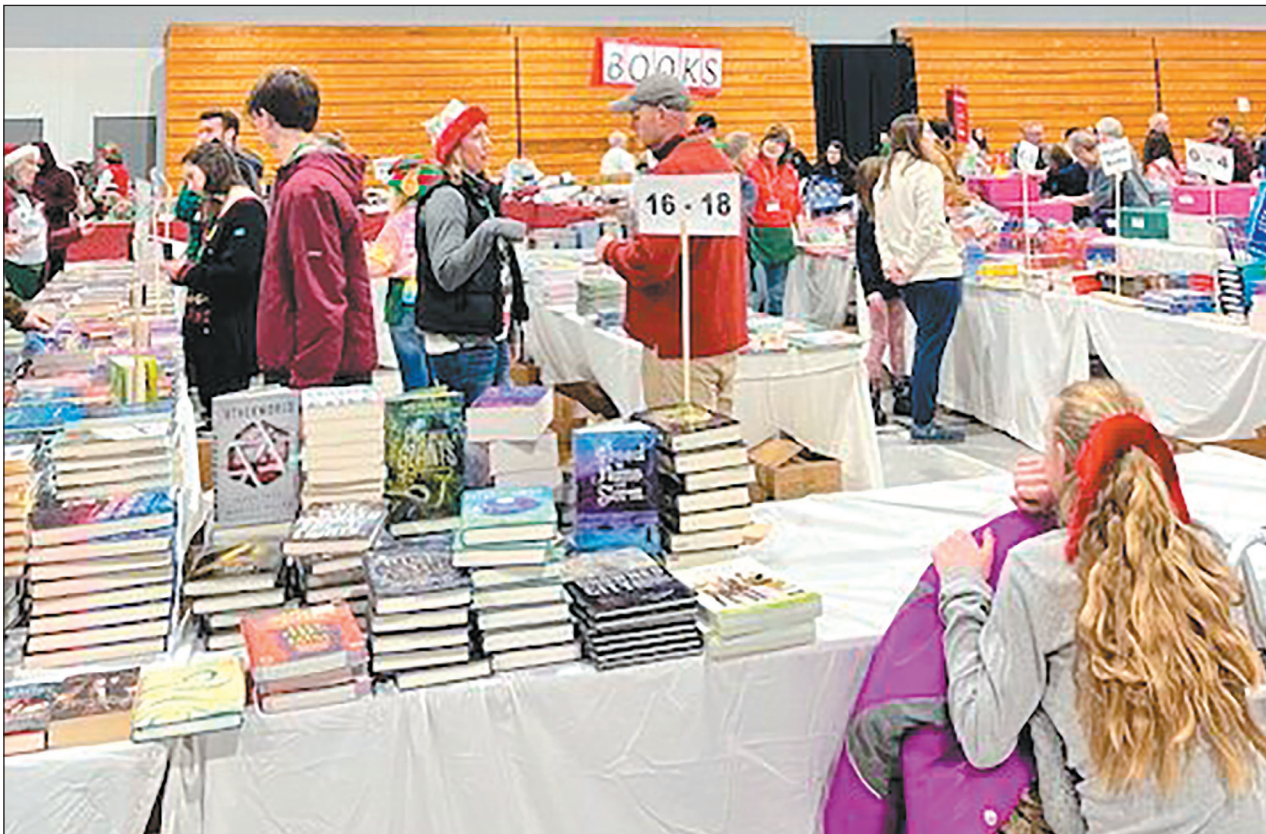


NON-PROFIT Spotlight



Project Christmas helps celebrate holiday for 34 years

CADILLAC — For 34 years Project Christmas has been making families' holidays brighter. Project Christmas works year-round to bring Christmas to children and families who find it financially difficult to afford Christmas. At the event held every December, families receive an age-appropriate gift for each child up to age 18. The gifts can include new books, stuffed animals, pajamas, socks and underwear, hats and mittens, food, personal care products, paper and cleaning products, a household gift and gift wrapping. Project Christmas has served more than 800 families each year for the last 34 years.

Serving that many families could not happen without the support of the community and area businesses. Both financial and volunteer support are critical for a successful event.

The board is currently made up of: Chairperson: vacant, Vice Chairperson: Ken Lizotte, Secretary: Carol Corwin, Treasurer: Julie Harmon, Members at Large: Maria Johnson, Laurie Erickson, Ann Bush, Lt. Elizabeth Bock, vacant, Community Partners: Lt. Gregory Bock, The Salvation Army, Nicole Bosscher, MDHHS and



Rose LaRoche, Friends Ministry. Project Christmas is looking to recruit volunteers to help year-round. There are two board member seats open — chairperson and member at large. There are also openings on the planning committee that include greeters, publicity and drop boxes. Project Christmas is looking to reach out to those in the community that can bring specialized skills and original ideas to the organization. Volunteers are needed year-round to serve on the board and planning committee. Each gift area has a chair and support volunteers, which is further supported by an organization such as a church, community organization or business. Many of the volunteers are getting to a point where it is difficult to continue their volunteer work and there are several volunteer openings that need to be filled. Project Christmas is holding a Volunteer Appreciation Open House at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30, at the

United Methodist Church located at 1020 E. Division St. (M-55) in Cadillac. Past and present volunteers along with potential future volunteers are encouraged to attend. Because volunteers need organizational support, churches, community organization and businesses are also invited to attend. If you are unable to volunteer but would like to donate, monetary gifts may be made anytime either on our website at www.projectchristmaswexmiss.org, the link on our Facebook page or by mail to P. O. Box 554, Cadillac, MI, 49601. Merchandise donations may be made in the collection boxes that are found in churches and businesses throughout Wexford and Missaukee counties. Collection boxes are placed the first week of November. The organization's long-term goal is not only to continue the legacy of our founders but to move the organization forward by adopting new ways to better cater to our clients, donors and volunteers.

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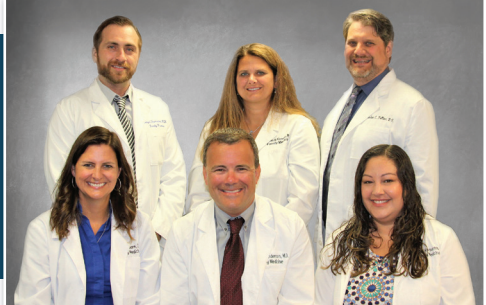
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