



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured at the Santa VP packaging event: David Delach, Rick Delisle, Sheryl Goodwin Magiera, Cheri Neal, Brittany Delisle, Lauren Delisle, Donna Delisle

Santa VP's elves make Christmas merry

With the hustle and bustle of Christmas over and 2013 in gear, it is a joy to look in the rear view mirror to appreciate the Christmas elves that visited Zion.

Each year, Santa VP volunteers gather at 6:30 a.m. on a December Saturday morning and go to work bagging gifts for 850 families. Eighty of those families are designated from Zion by school social workers.

"It has been a ripple effect of cheer that Santa VP brings," said Zion Township Supervisor Cheri Neal.

School social workers are able to designate specific families that really need and appreciate the boost at Christmas time to show that the community cares about them.

Gifts, clothing, two huge food bags and books from Bernie's Books awaited them at Zion Township.

Julie Wendorf, retired Special Services Administrator of Zion Elementary School District works with Gail Gloudemans from Zion Township to confirm the "nice" list to turn over to Santa VP, and then with additional volunteer elves, await the families at Zion Township to hand over the packages for a Merry Christmas.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of the Santa VP team, coordinated by Rick Delisle, an area developer, who also has a heart for the residents of Zion.

Rick works with Dave Knop, Christian Erzinger and David Delach to make sure that Santa's sleigh, disguised as a U-Haul truck, arrives at the township each year.

This group will be honored at the Zion Township board meeting next Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m.