

## People in the news

# Attorney, wife donate \$10,000 to families

By Mike Gooldy

Many needy families in Northwest Indiana, especially those with children, will be better off this holiday season because of the generosity of a Valparaiso couple.

This month, Kenneth J. Allen and his wife, Nina, made a donation of \$10,000 to be distributed directly to the needy in Lake and Porter Counties.

"When my wife and I decided to make this gift, we wanted it to be distributed as effectively as possible," said Allen, who runs a personal injury law practice in the area. "Our goal was to assure that 100% of the gift went directly to needy families at Christmas, rather than have a portion of it go to some charitable organization's overhead or operating expenses."

Initially, they tried to find families with special needs on their own, but found the task overwhelming because there were so many worthy potential recipients, Allen said. They sought out specialists in the field who could help

Crown Point; Rev. James Pope, Pastor of St. Stephens M.B. Church, Gary; Jim Adams of the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Nativity of Our Savior Catholic Church, Portage; and Joanne Maynard, First Contact, Valparaiso.

The Michigan City Shelter for the Homeless, which includes families with children, received a \$1,000 donation. The other \$9,000 will be distributed directly to needy families by the panel, Allen said.

"Our only precondition was that 100% of the money must go directly to needy families," Allen said. My wife and I are extremely grateful to the panel for contributing their time and expertise to help realize this goal."



photo provided

Valparaiso attorney Kenneth J. Allen and his wife, Nina, present a \$10,000 donation to a group of clergy and others to distribute to needy families in Lake and Porter Counties. With the Allens (from left) are Rev. Clinton Roberts, Joanne Maynard, Rev. James Pope and Jim Adams.