

Gift-giving

continued from page 1

Those interested in requesting a gift for a child or teen in need may fill out the form accompanying this story and send it to the address listed.

"It was a good decision to bring other people in for help," he said. "They have dedicated their lives to [helping those in need.]"

Last year the couple and their volunteers purchased and wrapped hundreds of gifts after receiving thousands of letters requesting gifts.

"The task was both arduous

and joyous, but in the end, we felt like we were not reaching as many families as we had hoped," Allen said. "So this year, we have entrusted the task of deciding who most deserves help to several local charities in Northwest Indiana."

He again fears the economy may make the need outweigh the means.

"It's so difficult when you try and do something like this ... you just scratch the surface of the need," Allen explained. "In a certain way it's saddening - or maddening - to see how much

need is among us. But if we can sprinkle a little bit of joy amongst the needy children, at least we've done something."

Allen said while many of his colleagues spend money on country clubs and "that kind of stuff," he and his wife believe it's necessary to remember the community that helped build their success and they're pleased to be able to help on such a personal level.

"It's much better to try and give back to the people who need it," he said.