

TURKEYS RULE AT THE "SOMEONE SPECIAL NEEDS YOU" THANKSGIVING PARTY

By Tony Senk

It's true! The most talented troupe of turkey trinket makers anywhere to be found toiled tirelessly right here in little ole' Colts Neck last month! And, those young crafters were at their creative best at the "Someone Special Needs You" Thanksgiving party, held at the Colts Neck Reformed Church.

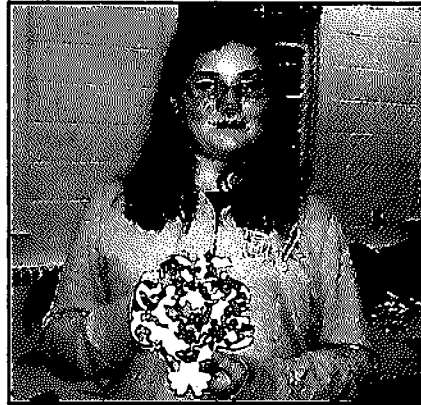
The craft tables at Fellowship Hall were teeming with the trappings of Thanksgiving. With the assistance of their buddies, the special needs kids used sparkles, stencils, tissue paper, glue, and crayons to create original holiday ornaments that were absolutely and positively one-of-a-kind!

Before the kids started crafting their holiday decorations, they took a look at Taylor Veralli's absolutely perfect turkey trinket, which she crafted by making creative use of colorful pieces of tissue paper.

Taylor's mom, Karen, organized the Thanksgiving bash for the kids, donating the items needed for the kids to make their turkey and holiday decorations.



Mitchell Kates and Angelo Scanelli are all smiles as they make turkey decorations, proud enough to hang anywhere! Mitchell and Angelo were among the very busy and very determined crafters who had turkey on their minds at the "Someone Special Needs You" Thanksgiving party last month.



Taylor Veralli holds the top turkey trinket at the "Someone Special Needs You" Thanksgiving party. Her very own creation, the brightly-colored gobbler will, no doubt, be proudly displayed in a prominent spot in the Veralli home — and will stay there throughout the holiday season!

After adding their unique touch to holiday decorating, the special needs kids and their buddies played bingo — and winners won prizes ranging from coloring books to craft sets!

The special needs kids and their buddies left Fellowship Hall, giving one another their usual good-bye hugs — and with "gobble-gobble" and "Happy Thanksgiving" on their lips.

Many of them were already looking forward to the next Someone Special Needs You Party — with good reason: It's a biggie! It's the annual Christmas party, to

be held on Tuesday, December 12. It's a night that is always full of fun and surprises, and games and gifts. And, it's a pretty good bet that — sometime during the party — that big guy in the bright red suit will find his way to Fellowship Hall!

SSNY parties start at 6:30 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, behind the Colts Neck Reformed Church on Route 537.

continued on page 76

SOMEONE SPECIAL continued from page 74

SSNY was started by parents and local community leaders as a way to provide social activities for children with special needs. At SSNY parties, volunteer "buddies" team up with special needs kids and, together, they complete an hour of activities. Parents and volunteers are always present.



Marin Bernstein and Grant Wood are intent on making the best turkey decorations ever at the "Someone Special Needs You" Thanksgiving party last month.

SSNY needs donations to meet immediate needs and the organization's long-term goals. SSNY is looking for cash donations, or in-kind donations, and there are many ways to donate.

SSNY is listed on E-bay as a 501(c) non-profit organization. An individual on E-bay can donate either all or part of their sale to SSNY. Or, they can call SSNY and make arrangements to drop off their in-kind donations. SSNY will list it on E-bay, sell it, and pass on a tax-deductible receipt. In the past, folks have donated various small items, and one generous individual even donated a car!

To learn more about how a child can benefit from services provided by SSNY or to volunteer or donate to the organization, contact Vince Scanelli, P.O. Box 94, Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722. Vince can also be reached at (732) 431-4033, extension 222. Or, call Pam Wood at (732) 946-7511, or Associate Minister Chris Vande Bunte at the church office at (732) 462-4555. The SSNY website is www.ssnny.org.



Olivia Meer keeps a close eye on Krissy Cantlin, as the two worked on their Thanksgiving crafts at the "Someone Special Needs You" party last month at the Colts Neck Reformed Church.



Giana Scanelli and Ethan Lenza were two of the youngest crafters at the "Someone Special Needs You" Thanksgiving party last month!