



November 30, 2008

Livonia-based 'elf' helps write letters from Santa

After Santa makes his list - and checks it twice - he relies on elves like Kristy Robinett of Livonia, to write letters to boys and girls whose parents request it.

Robinett, of Livonia, is a member of the Professional Association of Santa's Elves, an association of Santa-Letter writers.

Moms, dads and grandparents provide details so that each child can get a personal letter recognizing their work in school, chores at home and special accomplishments. Santa also offers encouragement in areas that need improvement, such as potty-training.

The letters are \$12, and can be ordered at www.sentbysanta.net. Requests should be made by Dec. 10 to ensure delivery before Christmas.

But parents aren't the only ones who want Santa to step in.

In the 14 years she's been an "elf," Robinett has written on behalf of a girlfriend who knew that her boyfriend was cheating on her and wanted Santa to call him out on it. Another letter contained a wedding proposal.

Some help explain to children that even though mom or dad is laid off and times are tough, "Santa is watching over you," said Robinett, 38, who uses her background in psychology and love of writing to make the letters positive and uplifting.

Letters bear Santa's signature and a North Pole postmark stamp.

Robinett donates a portion of each letter to a different nonprofit each year. This year, the charity is Camp Casey, based in Birmingham, which provides horseback riding retreats for kids battling cancer.

- By Rebecca Jones
