

The True Meaning of Christmas Part Two

By: Dorothy Johnson

While some of us were lucky enough to have the means and finances for a college education and hold good jobs throughout our lives, many people in Washington County consider themselves lucky to have year-round jobs. Such is the case with the 78 workers (including the manager) at Creative Apparel at Indian Township. These employees were sorry to see their sister company, which makes clothing for the military, close in Eastport. Perhaps they were even a bit worried as the word got out that the Eastport division did not have enough orders to keep it going. To date, the Princeton workers have heard nothing negative about their division and consider themselves fortunate.

Some of these employees are the only people employed in their families and struggle to make ends meet now that the furnaces are running day and night and Christmas is approaching. Still they think

about those less fortunate and have given of their own resources to help others.

For the past two weeks the employees at Creative Apparel have been bringing in items for a Chinese raffle. They brought in Avon products, items from the local stores, homemade baby sets, purses and mincemeat. They purchased gift certificates from groceries stores and restaurants. Randy Renaud, whose Mom works there, and Bill Francis of Knock-on-Wood contributed items to the cause. By Friday they were ready for their Chinese raffle.

After buying their envelopes and putting their numbers in containers for the items they fancied, they took their lunch time to gather in the work room and cheered on the lucky winners. A few employees stayed at their machines and kept on with their jobs but they, too, kept their eyes on the prizes and their own numbers.

It was a very festive occasion. More importantly, it was

a very lucrative occasion because the employees of Creative Apparel with their Chinese raffle and a 50-50 draw raised \$1056 for the Calais Lions' Club's Santa's Helper program. The Calais Lions and Lionesses raise money to help those in need at the Christmas season. Families in need have to fill out applications to get into the program but they can do the best they can to fill the needs in this area of the county.

This is not the first time the employees of Creative Apparel have joined forces to help others. In the past they have brought in donations for the food pantry, held benefit luncheons and taken collections to help families with tragedies. Perhaps it is only the people who have had true need who are able to give their hard earned resources to meet another's true need. The employees of Creative Apparel in Indian Township demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas all year.