

The Source

Sterling Heights Edition

Car Benevolence Program aids single moms

By **MATT DECEMBER**
Source Staff Writer

Two single mothers in Macomb County received early Christmas gifts on Dec. 14 when Collex Collision Experts and the Traffic Safety Association of Macomb County presented each of them with a new car.

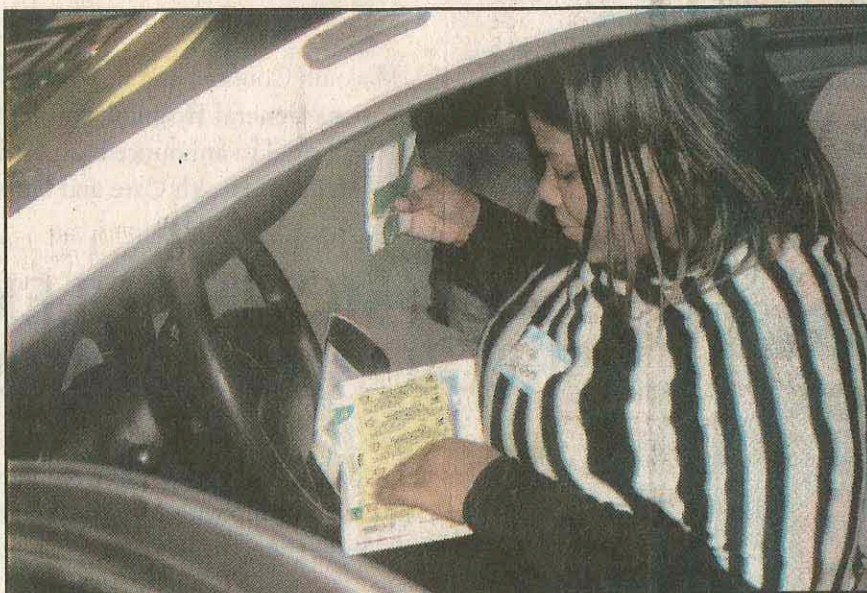
Collex Collision in Clinton Township volunteered to fix up two 2002 Kia Rios and donate them to Gina Jackson of Sterling Heights and Lindsey Damschroeder of Washington just in time for the holiday season.

"Words can't really explain how I feel," said Jackson.

Collex, the Traffic Safety Association of Macomb County and more than 40 local businesses and families donated more than \$18,000 worth of gifts and services as part of the Car Benevolence Program.

"This shows that there is a lot of heart in Macomb County," said Gail Peterson, executive director of the Traffic Safety Association.

The Traffic Safety Association worked with local social service



Gina Jackson of Sterling Heights sits in her new 2002 Kia Rio as she looks through donated gift cards.

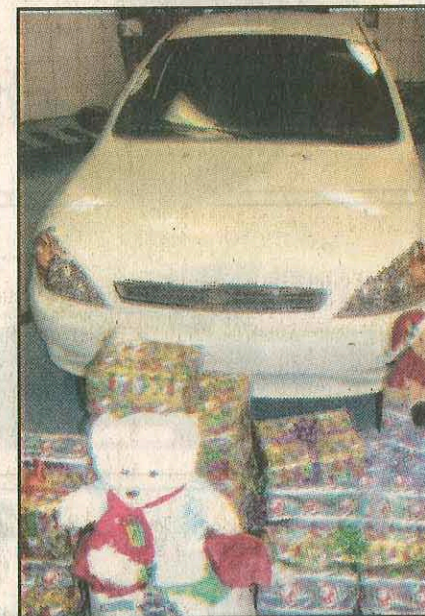
agencies to come up with a list of 50 women in Macomb County who could use help. The list was narrowed down to 10 women and finally narrowed down to Jackson and Damschroeder. Jackson, a single mother, has a 4-

month-old son named Manuel. Jackson is a certified nurse's aid who worked up until her son was born. Manuel has a hole in his heart and also suffers seizures and stomach problems. He requires frequent visits to doctor appointments each week and will need surgery in the future.

"I'm happy I can take my son to his doctor appointments and that I don't have to ask or beg people to drive me there," said Jackson, who hopes to return to work in nursing after her son's health improves. "I just wanted to say thank you to all the people who helped me and my son."

Damschroeder, a single mother, has a 9-month-old son named Jeffrey. She currently works at a laundry center in Washington. Due to a lack of transportation, Damschroeder is forced to walk to and from work or to stay late to wait for a ride. She is currently attending class at Macomb Community College to obtain a degree in the medical field.

"It will be nice having a heated car," she said. "It's a blessing. It was very



Source photos/Matt December

Collex Collision, along with more than 40 local businesses and families, donated more than \$18,000 worth of gifts and services to two single Macomb County mothers.

generous of all those people."

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