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## **Homeless Children Get Opportunity to “Shop” for Gifts for Mom**

Students helping Salvation Army during the holidays

*(Bradenton, FL—December 16, 2010)*

### **Mommy Gifts**

SkillsUSA students from Manatee Technical Institute's Business Technology programs came up with the idea of "mommy gifts"—gifts for homeless children living at the Salvation Army to give their moms.

The students collected donated gifts from fellow students and teachers--gifts that a mom might like. They brought them to the Salvation Army, and the children got to "shop" (photo) for a gift they would like to give their mom. The students wrapped the gifts for the children (photo). They also brought each child a poem written especially for moms from a child's perspective and printed on nice paper. The students had each child place their handprint beside the poem (photo) for a personalized gift to mom.

### **Angel Tree Project**

Earlier in the year, the students entered the names of all the underprivileged children in a database for the Salvation Army for the Angel Tree project. On Monday, the students will be assisting the Salvation Army again as they help to wrap all the donated gifts.

### **About Manatee Technical Institute**

Manatee Technical Institute is fully accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a postsecondary career and technical education center under the School District of Manatee County offering over 40 career preparation programs. The mission of Manatee Technical Institute is to meet and exceed our community's training and educational expectations. MTI is a 2007 Tampa Bay Business of the Year, and its students have won more SkillsUSA medals than any other school in the nation for the past seven years.

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