



PHOTOS BY LIZETT PAJUELO

Children at the Sharon Day Care Center, above and below, chose new, warm winter clothes, provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut.

## Holiday gifts for children, parents

By Lizett Pajuelo

SHARON — Children at the Sharon Day Care Center had a winter clothing party at the center on Friday, Dec. 11.

Lead teacher Amanda Milton and Day Care Center Director Carrie Olsen organized and settled the excited youngsters so they could choose from among the choices.

The donations came with help from the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut's Year-End Critical Needs grant, funded through the Marion Williams and Alice Edward Fund and the Draper Foundation Fund.

A few mothers of the youngsters were on hand as well and helped eight youngsters choose snow pants, snow boots, jackets, hats and slippers to keep them cozy throughout the winter.

When the children walked into the room, they saw laid out on the floor a selection of outfits that included Hello Kitty and Ninja Turtle slippers, and cute winter hats with animal characters. They were thrilled when they realized that they could select some of the items for themselves.

Winter is around the corner and kids love playing in the snow and being active outdoors, but sometimes it is difficult for



parents to cover the expenses for new winter attire.

"We want to help alleviate that stress for parents," Olsen said.

Some of the children who attend Sharon Day Care come from low-income or large families, and end up getting hand-me-down clothes rather than new outfits. Olsen said that, for children in large families, it's nice to get something new without the ir parents struggling to cover the cost.

Lindsy Pepi, a volunteer from the Maplebrook School in Amenia, was there to help the kids gather their new clothes and write their names on their items so there wouldn't be any mix-ups about who got what.

After receiving their new attire and hugging their teachers in gratitude, the girls and boys returned to their spry selves, playing with their slippers and showing off their hats and jackets.