

Rah! Rah!

By Michael Groden

The assignment: Take over 60 very healthy, boisterous, young people 60 miles down Route 90, sit in a steady drizzle, in a cavernous arena (sometimes called Rich Stadium), and make them enjoy themselves.

Results: mission accomplished.

Young residents at St. Joseph's Villa took a special Christmas trip this past Sunday. Through the generosity of the Rochester Colonial Manufacturing Corporation, headed by Sam Gionta and his brother Vince, the young residents took an all-expenses paid trip to Orchard Park to watch the Buffalo Bills squeak by the stubborn Los Angeles Rams, 10-7.

The trip, as far as this reporter could discern, involved two buses, nearly 20 staffers, duffel bags filled with sandwiches and soda, gallons of hot chocolate and an unlimited supply of patience.

St. Joseph's Villa houses special people, people who are "emotionally disturbed," the child with serious behavior

problems, the neglected, abused child, and the child engaging in pre-delinquent and delinquent behavior," according to a Villa brochure.

Not many of those traits appeared last Sunday — the kids were having too much fun.

The football excursion was the brain child of Rochester Colonial vice president Vince Gionta and sales manager Vincent Flow. Christmas contributions from Rochester Colonial, a large manufacturer of aluminum home improvement products, has become an annual tradition with the firm. Sam Gionta said the idea for the outing developed out of his firm's desire to do something "very special" for children at Christmas time.

The Villa, directed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, was responsible for organizing the trip, and only had three days to prepare.

Heading homeward after the sudden death overtime event, the happy, somewhat sleepy faces of the children showed that all the preparations were successful.



Bill Pearson, a Villa employee, views the field.



Home town rooting.



Vince joins Villa residents for the game...



Brenda Quackenbush, a Villa resident, gets some candy canes from Sam Gionta and his brother Vince.



... As does brother Sam.



Boarding the bus for home.