

# Thinking inside the box: Pie makes great gift — to community

KYRIE  
O'CONNOR  
*Commentary*



In a way, it all started when Bobby Jucker's wife, Janice, reminded him that it would be good to keep things local to help the community.

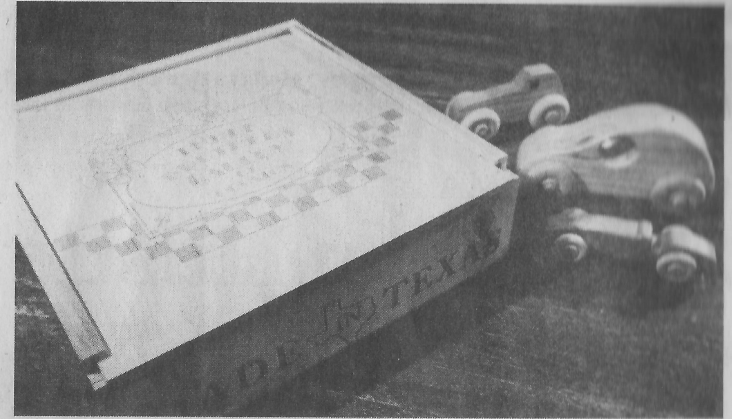
What it turned into was something a little bigger, better and more meaningful than they had imagined.

The Juckers, who own Three Brothers Bakery, were seeking a vendor to make traditional wooden pie boxes, which

could then be untraditionally laser-etched with personalized messages.

Bobby Jucker met with members of the Woodworkers Club of Houston, a group that gets together to fashion sweet little wooden toys for local underprivileged kids.

The group agreed to make the boxes, with a portion of the proceeds from sales to go back to *O'Connor continues on E6*



Marie D. De Jesús

**The Woodworkers Club of Houston makes pie boxes for Three Brothers Bakery and uses proceeds from their sale to build toys for kids.**

## O'Connor: Bakery can't keep wooden pie boxes in stock

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the woodworkers.

The club uses scrap lumber — from 2-by-4s or 2-by-6s — but it needs money to buy the axles, wheels, sandpaper and wax for the little cars and trains and such.

Last year, the group made some 5,000 toys in about 2,000 volunteer hours.

"I said, 'I'm going to make toys with them,'" Bobby says, and so he has. "It's been a neat experience. We passed out toys last week."

It's not the first time Three Brothers has made a mutually beneficial partnership with a local organization. Celebration Company, which works with adults with

disabilities, puts together the bakery's paper boxes. That project got off to a slow start — putting together boxes isn't exciting — but it took off when everyone figured out that if the assemblers could autograph the boxes, they got a lot of pride out of it.

If you buy a wooden pie box, it's \$12.95 plus the cost of the pie. You'll probably pick the 10-inch pecan pie — Bobby says *Country Living* magazine just named Three Brothers' pecan as the best mail-order pecan pie in the country — but you could go rogue and pick the apple, cherry or chocolate-fudge pecan. Or go wild and get one of each. They make great gifts.

"We can't keep the boxes in stock," Bobby says. "Maybe it's because word got out that we were doing this for the kids. Or maybe they just look nice."

The Woodworkers Club is always looking for volunteers, too. It's just a day every two or three weeks. And now that Bobby's involved, they need more help than ever. "They don't get as much done when I come. I bring goodies," he says.

The pie boxes will be made throughout the year, and so will the toys.

It works for everybody. "A toy can make a kid pretty happy," Bobby says.

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Marie D. De Jesús

**Three Brothers Bakery owner Bobby Jucker says the pie boxes are popular. "Maybe it's because word got out that we were doing this for the kids. Or maybe they just look nice."**