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Lin continues tradition of giving back

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Jeff Lin has operated his restaurant — First Wok — in downtown Farmington for the past four years. Lin considers those who walk through the front door of his restaurant not just customers, but friends as well. To express his thanks, Lin held a Customer

Appreciation Day this past Saturday, not only to express gratitude to his customers but to help out area school children have a successful start to the school year.

Kristy Swinarski is a social worker in the Farmington School District. She shared that Lin told her that he wanted to make a donation to the district by giving 20 percent of his proceeds from Customer Appreciation Day. On Tuesday, Lin presented a check in the amount of \$430 to Swinarski.

Before the presentation, Lin explained it was the generosity shown to him by members of the community that inspired him to do the same. And through this donation, Lin hopes to inspire other Farmington area businesses to do the same.

It was the kindness shown to Lin and his daughter, Megan, that has been the inspiration to reach out to others, or “pay it forward” as Swinarski said. When he first moved to Farmington, two local churches reached out to Lin.

“Members from two local churches helped us out when we moved here. For last year’s Customer Appreciation, I gave a donation to those churches,” he explained.

Swinarski said her family moved to the Farmington area around the same time as Lin.

“I am always so impressed with Jeff and the recognition he gives of the help he received,” she said.

For Lin, it’s reaching out to a community that reached out to him when he was new in town and working to start a business.

“It’s a way for me to say ‘thanks’ to the community and to all the customers, too,” he explained.

As he looks at his daughter, he says it’s about so much more as well. He remembers the kindness expressed when they arrived and he’s proud to be able to “help these kids and put a smile on their face”.

