

# Northville Public Schools Community Service Directory



*Created: August, 2007*

Dear Friends:

Northville Public Schools has long been recognized for its commitment to excellence in education. Year in and year out our students ranks among the best educated and prepared in the state. Yet, as educators we also recognize more and more our responsibility to our students that extends beyond the classroom and into the world in which they live. As much as ensuring that our students succeed academically, it is our mission to make them true citizens of the world. Through real-life community service experiences we hope they see that they can make a difference in the world whether it is right here in Northville or halfway around the globe.

Every day in our schools students, teachers, staff and families come together to support worthy causes and help those in need. In almost every case, it is our dedicated school administrators, teachers and staff who initiate and lead these efforts out of the simple desire to help. They know that the compassion, understanding and sense of self that comes from helping others is a powerful lesson our students can't find in a textbook.

The following *Community Service Directory* is an attempt to capture the incredible depth and range of the community service taking place across the school district with the goal of honoring those who lead these efforts, celebrating the successes, and encouraging others to explore new opportunities. I trust as you read through these pages, that you will be as inspired and humbled as I am by the creativity and tenacity with which our school communities tackle the world's problems and care about others. Whether it is collecting and recycling paper at school, building a school in Afghanistan, or hosting a prom for senior citizens, the effort and commitment that goes into these initiatives is amazing.

In addition to enabling our students to see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the world, many of these community service initiatives have strong connections with our curriculum allowing students to apply academic learning and skills in real-life situations. Students packaging food for Kids Against Hunger hone their math skills as they carefully measure and weigh ingredients for the food packets. Through the district's relationship with the Japanese government and the Fulbright Memorial Fund students and educators have gained once-in-a-lifetime, hands-on experience as scientists and researchers, as well as a unique insight into the Japanese culture and educational system. Students practice their letter-writing skills as pen pals with students at their Bridgepointe partner schools, creating Valentines for senior citizens, and writing letters to American soldiers stationed overseas.

This first draft of the Northville Public Schools *Community Service Directory* reflects our best effort to capture all of the projects taking place across the district. Over the next several weeks, we will continue to add more projects and update information. If you know about a community service project not included in this directory, please contact Janet Naughton at [jmnaught@aol.com](mailto:jmnaught@aol.com).

The power of these community service experiences for our young people is immeasurable in what they are learning about themselves, about their community and about their world. And, we have only scratched the surface. I look forward to what the future brings.

Sincerely,

*Leonard R. Rezmierski*  
Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski  
Superintendent

# Northville Public Schools Community Service Directory 2007-08

## District-Wide Initiatives

### **Japanese exchange**

**How it Works:** In 2000, Northville Public Schools embarked on unique six-year relationship with the Japanese government that has provided an opportunity for educators and students from both countries to exchange ideas, work collaboratively and gain a greater understanding of each other's cultures. These initiative have included:

- **Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Program:** Beginning in 1999, Hillside Middle School teacher Gary Gandolfi developed a relationship with the Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Program (funded by the Japanese government through the Japan-United States Educational Commission) which has resulted in more than 20 Northville teachers and administrators participating in and developing projects with schools in Japan. The program has seen Northville educators travel to Japan, and Japanese educators visit Northville to participate in an ecology project on insects and soil quality. Each year, students from both countries communicate via the Internet the ongoing results of their research.
- **Fulbright Collaborative School Science Network:** In 2004, four Hillside students shared a unique summer experience in Japan a part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund's first-ever Collaborative School Science Network Program. Hillside was one of only two schools in the United States to pilot the summer student exchange. That summer, Hillside students and staff traveled to Komatsu, Japan, to study water quality and amphibians in various ecosystems and in the fall the Japanese students and teachers traveled to Northville to study the Rouge River watershed ecosystem. Fulbright replicated the pilot program with other schools in the U.S. and Japan between 2004-08 and the program has been featured at the National Science Teachers Association national conference.
- **Fulbright Memorial Fund Superintendent's Dialogue:** Northville superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski traveled to Japan in November 2006 to take part in the Fulbright Memorial Fund first-ever "Superintendent's Dialogue." The panel discussion featured superintendents from three U.S. and Japanese school districts.
- **International Educators to Japan Program:** Three Northville school principals have been invited over the past three summers to travel to Japan as part of the International Educators to Japan Program funded by the Japanese Business Society of Detroit and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). The program allows educators to study and learn about the Japanese educational system. Hillside Middle School principal Jim Cracraft, Meads Mill Middle School principal Dr. Susan Meyer, and Amerman Elementary School principal Dr. Stephen Anderson have participated in the program.

**Learning connection:** Participating students and educators gain once-in-a-lifetime, hands-on experiences as scientists and researchers, as well as unique insight into the Japanese culture and educational system as visitors to Japan and hosts to Japanese guests.

**Contact:** Hillside teacher Gary Gandolfi ([gandolga@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:gandolga@northville.k12.mi.us)); Hillside teacher Dwight Sieggreen ([seiggrdw@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:seiggrdw@northville.k12.mi.us)); and Hillside principal Jim Cracraft ([cracraja@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:cracraja@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

### **Bridgepointe Partnerships**

**How it Works:** Through Bridgepointe, Northville's elementary, middle and high school students share relationships with four schools in southwest Detroit and one school in Hamtramck. Students and teachers from the partner schools learn from each other throughout the school year through celebrations, tutoring, learning activities and service projects. Northville students have come together with Detroit and Hamtramck students to package food for Kids Against Hunger, celebrate Cinco de Mayo and March is Reading Month, and exchange letters as pen pals. Northville students also help support students at their partner schools through drives to collect books, clothing and school supplies. Bridgepointe is a non-profit organization co-founded in 1997 by a Northville parent with the goal of bringing together school children from different backgrounds to learn and work. Today, some 20 suburban schools and community organizations share relationships with these inner-city schools.

**Learning connection:** Through the Bridgepointe partnerships suburban and city students are empowered to make a difference in their communities and the world. At the same time, students learn firsthand from each other about different cultures and heritages.

**Contact:** Bridgepointe founders Sue Simcox and Diane Powers, 248.596.1300. For more information about Bridgepointe visit [www.bridgepointenonprofit.org](http://www.bridgepointenonprofit.org).

### **Kids Against Hunger**

**How it Works:** Northville elementary and middle school students are partnering with students from their Bridgepointe partnership schools in Detroit and Hamtramck to help feed the hungry around the world through Kids Against Hunger. Through the international, volunteer-driven effort, 50 students from each of the schools come together at the packaging events to measure, prepare and package bags of nutritious rice-soy casserole mix. In a three-hour period they can package as many as 20,000 bags of food for distribution to communities worldwide where hunger and starvation are rampant. Each 13.8-ounce bag can feed six adults or 12 children. This past school year alone, Northville elementary and middle school students partnered with kids from Detroit and Hamtramck to package food for Kids Against Hunger. Funding for the food and supplies for the packaging events is provided by the Mothers' Club of Northville, the Conrad Charitable Foundation and the Plymouth Kiwanis Club. Volunteers from Bridgepointe help make arrangements for the packaging events and facilitate the partnerships between the Northville, Detroit and Hamtramck schools.

**Learning connection:** Students are empowered to make a difference in their communities and the world. At the same time, Northville students have the opportunity to interact with peers from Detroit whose experiences and lives may be different than their own. Students from both Northville and Detroit also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Bridgepointe founders Sue Simcox and Diane Powers, 248.596.1300. For more information about Bridgepointe visit [www.bridgepointenonprofit.org](http://www.bridgepointenonprofit.org). For more information about Kids Against Hunger, visit [www.feedingchildren.org](http://www.feedingchildren.org).

### **Bennett Elementary School Drive**

**How it Works:** Following a devastating fire at Bennett Elementary School in Detroit (one of Northville Public Schools Bridgepointe partnership schools) the day after Christmas, staff, families and students across the Northville school district rallied to help by sorting through storage areas for school equipment and supplies to donate. Individual schools also sponsored book, school supply and clothing drives for Bennett students and families.

**Learning connection:** Staff, students and families had the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Northville Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dave Bolitho ([bolithda@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:bolithda@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8441.

### **Northville Civic Concern Drive**

**How it Works:** Northville Public Schools students and staff reach out to those in need in their own community through Northville Civic Concern drives that take place throughout the school year. Each of the school district's 11 schools sponsors a month during the school year to conduct a drive to collect non-perishable food, household items, toiletries, baby products and cash donations to ensure the Civic Concern shelves are always well stocked. Students also hold sweet sales to collect money, adopt families during the holidays, collect used sports equipment and clothing, and donate winter coats, mittens and scarves to support Civic Concern. Northville Civic Concern is an all-volunteer organization whose purpose is to help those in need in the Northville community. It is funded primarily through contributions from Northville community residents, businesses, schools and community organizations.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drives help students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:** Marlene Kuntz, 248.344.1033. For more information about Northville Civic Concern visit [www.ci.northville.mi.us/Community/CivicOrganizations.htm](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us/Community/CivicOrganizations.htm).

## **Northville Public Schools Community Service Directory 2007-08**

### **Amerman Elementary School**

#### **Bridgepointe Partnership: Roberto Clemente Elementary School**

**How it Works:** Amerman students had the opportunity to help and learn alongside their Bridgepointe partners from Roberto Clemente Elementary School in Detroit in numerous ways during the 2007-08 school year.

- Amerman students collected more than 1,300 new and gently used books for Roberto Clemente students to read in their classrooms and take home.
- Over the winter, Amerman and Roberto Clemente students came together to package more than 20,000 bags of food to help feed the hungry around the world through the Kids Against Hunger program.
- In May, Rose McDougall's fifth grade class enjoyed an exciting day celebrating Cinco de Mayo with Roberto Clemente students, many of who are of Hispanic heritage. The Roberto Clemente students shared traditional Hispanic dances and students from both schools shared a lunch of Mexican cuisine.

**Learning connection:** Through Bridgepointe, Amerman and Roberto Clemente schoolchildren are empowered to make a difference in their communities and in the world. At the same time, Moraine students had the opportunity to interact with peers from Detroit whose experiences and lives may be different than their own. They also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Amerman fifth grade teacher Rose McDougall ([mcdougro@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mcdougro@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8405.

#### **Northville Civic Concern**

**How it Works:** Amerman students and staff reached out to those in need in their own community through several Northville Civic Concern drives.

- Fourth graders ran their annual Sweet Shop Sale raising \$1,300 for Civic Concern. Student created their own treats at home, set their price and sold their goodies to fellow Amerman students.
- The Amerman PTA sponsored a Civic Concern Giving Tree during the holiday season from which students and families could select items — from household goods, to food, to toys — to purchase for a needy child or family in the community.
- During December, Amerman students and families conducted a school-wide food drive, collecting more than 1,000 non-perishable food and household items to help stock the Civic Concern shelves.
- Also during the holidays, Amerman first graders collected mittens and hats, which they delivered in person to the Community Financial “Wooly Tree” at the credit union’s downtown Northville location. The first graders entertained credit union employees and customers singing several popular holiday songs during the visit. The

“Wooly Tree” donations were delivered to Civic Concern by the Community Financial staff.

**Learning connection:** In addition to seeing themselves as contributors who can make a difference in their community, students experience firsthand the economic practices of supply and demand as they set — and then adjust — their prices for the Sweet Shop Sale in response to the competition and the marketplace.

**Contact:** Amerman fourth grade teacher Richard Tabor ([taborri@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:taborri@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8405.

### **Kids4AfghanKids**

**How it Works:** Kids4AfghanKids is a non-profit organization created by Amerman third grade teacher Khris Nedam in the late-1990s to re-establish educational facilities in Afghanistan. Through the initiative, Northville elementary school students have raised enough money to construct a six-room school (for both boys and girls), a medical clinic, an orphanage, a bakery and kitchen, a guesthouse and a community well for the residents of Wonkhai Valley, a remote mountainous area three hours southwest of Kabul, Afghanistan. In November 2006, a second school was added dedicated to educating women and girls and a stable for horses, cows and sheep was donated. The Kids4AfghanKids project now has supporters and contributors throughout the United States and at several schools in Europe. During the 2007-08 school year, Nedam was honored with two national awards for her innovative efforts to help students better understand their world and become world-class citizens. Nedam received the 2007 National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Award for Global Understanding and was one of six honorees for the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy’s first-ever National Award for Citizen Diplomacy.

**Learning connection:** Students in Nedam’s classroom actively research and investigate different cultures through guest speakers, the Internet and cross-country collaboration. They are participants in the world community, not just observers.

**Contact:** Khris Nedam ([nedamkh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:nedamkh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8405. For more information about Kids4AfghanKids visit [www.kids4afghankids.com](http://www.kids4afghankids.com)

### **October is Math Month Penny Drive to Support Relay for Life**

**How it Works:** Amerman students collected in more than 130,000 pennies — or \$1,300 — during the school’s October is Math Month celebration to support the Northville Relay for Life (a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society). Pennies were collected throughout the month in large plastic containers placed in the hallways, and students kept track of which students and classrooms brought in the most pennies. At the end of the drive, the pennies were delivered to Community Financial in downtown Northville, which verified the penny count and issued the check to the American Cancer Society on behalf of Amerman.

**Learning connection:** Supporting Relay for Life makes students — many who have family or friends who have been touched by cancer — feel they are making a difference in the battle against the disease. Students also practice their math skills counting pennies and calculating and charting totals by student and classroom.

**Contact:** Amerman principal Dr. Stephen Anderson ([andersst@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:andersst@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8405.

### **Northville Relay for Life Sponsor**

**How it Works:** Amerman students and families collected more than \$2,000 to become a sponsor for the 2008 Northville Relay for Life event to raise money for the American Cancer Society. In addition to the October is Math Month Penny Drive, students and families sold American Cancer Society wristbands and key chains. Amerman staff and families also formed a Relay for Life Team that participated in the May weekend event at Ford Field in downtown Northville. Each year, more than 4,800 Relays take place in communities across the country to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer. Inspired by a parent who is one of the organizers of the Northville event, Amerman has been a sponsor and participant in Relay for Life for more than five years.

**Learning connection:** Supporting Relay for Life makes students — many who have family or friends who have been touched by cancer — feel they are making a difference in the battle against the disease.

**Contact:** Amerman principal Dr. Stephen Anderson ([andersst@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:andersst@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8405. For more information about Relay for Life visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org).

### **Friends of the Rouge Education Project**

**How it Works:** Amerman fifth graders have been part of the Rouge Education Project for more than 10 years. Students study the many qualities of the river including its physical and chemical characteristics. They learn water quality testing procedures in the classroom and then take their skills and knowledge to a tributary of the Rouge, located between Mill Race Village and Ford Field in downtown Northville, to test the actual quality of the water. They also draw and label sketches of their study area and write lab reports that include their findings and what the results might mean for the health of the river. The test data and measurements are sent to the Friends of the Rouge, which tracks and compares this student-gathered data over time. Friends of the Rouge is a local non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River through education and citizen involvement. Some 100 elementary, middle and high schools located in communities along the Rouge River watershed (encompassing western Washtenaw, Wayne and Oakland counties) participate in the Rouge Education Project each year.

**Learning connection:** The Rouge Education Project enhances the Northville Public Schools fifth grade science curriculum, which focuses in large part on the study of matter, including the properties of water, and at the same time encourages students to respect natural habitats and be caretakers of the earth.

**Contact:** Amerman fifth grade teachers Wendy LaValle ([lavallwe@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:lavallwe@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Robin Long ([longro@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:longro@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8405. For more information about Friends of the Rouge visit [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org).

### **Valentines for Seniors**

**How it Works:** Each February, Amerman second graders craft special Valentines for local senior citizens living in the Allen Terrace independent living apartment community and the Star Manor of Northville nursing home. The students hand-deliver the

Valentines and visit with the seniors during special Valentine's Day celebrations at Allen Terrace and Star Manor.

**Learning connection:** In addition to interacting with and learning from individuals of a different generation, Amerman second graders practice their letter writing skills.

**Contact:** Amerman second grade teacher Mrs. Ramey ([rameylo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:rameylo@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8405.

**Northville Public Schools  
Community Service Directory  
2007-08**

**Moraine Elementary School**

**Bridgepointe Partnership: Roberto Clemente Elementary School**

**How it Works:** Moraine students had the opportunity to help and learn alongside their Bridgepointe partners from Roberto Clemente Elementary School in Detroit in numerous ways during the 2007-08 school year.

- Moraine students kicked off the year by collecting 1,500 gently used books for Roberto Clemente students to read in their classrooms and take home. Flyers for the book drive went home with Moraine students as school was wrapping up in June 2007 so families could set books aside as they cleaned and sorted over the summer.
- In February, Moraine fifth graders and Roberto Clemente students came together to package more than 20,000 bags of food to help feed the hungry around the world through the Kids Against Hunger program.
- In May, Moraine third graders enjoyed an exciting day celebrating Cinco de Mayo with Roberto Clemente students, many of who are of Hispanic heritage. The Roberto Clemente students shared traditional Hispanic dances and students from both schools shared a lunch of Mexican cuisine.

**Learning connection:** Through Bridgepointe, Moraine and Roberto Clemente schoolchildren are empowered to make a difference in their communities and in the world. At the same time, Moraine students had the opportunity to interact with peers from Detroit whose experiences and lives may be different than their own. Students from both schools also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Moraine principal Denise Bryan (bryande@northville.k12.mi.us), 248.344.8473.

**Northville Civic Concern**

**How it Works:** Moraine students and staff reached out to those in need in their own community through several Northville Civic Concern drives sponsored by the Moraine PTA.

- During April, flyers were sent home and articles were placed in the school newsletter asking Moraine students and families to donate non-perishable food and household goods to help stock the shelves at Civic Concern.
- During the school's "Physical Fitness Month" celebration in May (that included sports-themed dress up days and a Fun Run) Moraine families donated used sports equipment and clothing for Civic Concern to provide to families who can't afford to purchase it.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:** Moraine principal Denise Bryan (bryande@northville.k12.mi.us), 248.344.8473.

### **Itty-Bitty Burger Sales**

**How it Works:** Each spring Moraine fourth graders set up their own assembly line for an afternoon to mass-produce Itty-Bitty Burgers for sale to the Moraine student body. The sweet treat is made with two vanilla wafer cookies (the bun), one thin mint cookie (the burger) and red and yellow frosting (the ketchup and mustard). Parents provide the supplies and student make posters and flyers to market their product. Proceeds from the sale of the Itty-Bitty Burgers go to help purchase the food packaging supplies for the Kids Against Hunger program the students will take part in as fifth graders.

**Learning connection:** The Itty-Bitty Burger project enhances the Northville Public Schools fourth grade social studies curriculum by providing students firsthand experience with product production, sales and marketing. It also enables them to experience the planning and hard work that often goes into raising money in support of a worthy cause.

**Contact:** Moraine fourth grade teacher Joyce Pianin ([pianinjo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:pianinjo@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8473.

### **Moraine Recycling Project**

**How it Works:** Moraine third graders lead the school's recycling effort. They distribute boxes to each of the classrooms to collect recyclable paper. Every Thursday, they go around to each classroom and collect the boxes, which they then empty into the Abitibi Paper Retriever recycling bin in the school parking lot. Last year, the effort saved more than 150 cubic yards of landfill space and more than 80,000 KWH of energy.

**Learning connection:** Students learn about the responsible use of resources and become caretakers of the earth.

**Contact:** Moraine third grade teacher Katie Pinkelman ([pinkelca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:pinkelca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8473.

### **Wildlife Refuge**

**How it Works:** Just outside the Moraine second grade classrooms is a wildlife habitat carefully cultivated to attract birds and area wildlife including ducks and rabbits. The habitat was created with the help of a local botanist along with Moraine students, teachers and parents and funded by the Moraine PTA and the Mothers' Club of Northville. Each year, Moraine second graders tend to the habitat, planting new plants, cleaning and raking, and making food for the birds. This past spring, a family of ducks nested in the habitat.

**Learning connection:** Students benefit from learning about the animals and birds that visit the refuge and learn about the importance of protecting natural habitats.

**Contact:** Moraine learning consultant Amy Devlin ([devlinam@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:devlinam@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8473.

### **Hannah Doody Memorial Garden**

**How it Works:** In 2006, Moraine students and families created a special respite area under a tree near the playground in honor of fellow student Hannah Doody, who had passed away that spring. Each year, the Moraine Student Council, Girl Scouts and PTA plant flowers around the tree and keep the area cleaned up. Students can often be found there away from the hubbub of the playground reading, relaxing or talking quietly.

**Learning connection:** Students learn the importance of honoring and remembering others.

**Contact:** Moraine principal Denise Bryan ([bryande@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:bryande@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.9473.

### **Appalachian Book Drive**

**How it Works:** In route to a warmer climate for Spring Break, Moraine student Brian Moss and his family stopped at Arlie Boggs Elementary School in Eolia, Kentucky, to drop off more than 600 gently used books collected by Moraine students in a drive sponsored by the Student Council. Brian was moved to organize the effort after reading about the poverty in Appalachia for a home study project. As a result, each student at Arlie Boggs was able to take several books home to read and enjoy.

**Learning connection:** Students had the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Moraine principal Denise Bryan ([bryande@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:bryande@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.9473.

### **Pop Can Tab Drive to Support Soldiers in Iraq**

**How it Works:** Throughout the school year, Moraine students brought in thousands of pop can tabs that were then recycled to raise money for care packages that were sent to soldiers in Iraq. A special collection box was set up outside the school office and flyers and school newsletter articles encouraged Moraine families to keep saving their pop can tabs. The drive was the brainchild of Moraine resource room teacher Sophia Vrtachnik who has friends serving in Iraq.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to help others and at the same time help reduce waste and protect the environment by recycling.

**Contact:** Moraine resource room teacher Sophia Vrtachnik ([vrtachso@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:vrtachso@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.9473

## Northville Public Schools Community Service Directory 2007-08

### Ridge Wood Elementary School

#### **Bridgepointe Partnership: Bennett Elementary School**

**How it Works:** Ridge Wood students had the opportunity to help and learn alongside their Bridgepointe partners from Bennett Elementary School in Detroit in numerous ways during the 2007-08 school year.

- Following a devastating fire at Bennett Elementary School in Detroit the day after Christmas, staff, families and students from Ridge Wood, as well as the entire Northville school district, rallied to help.
  - In a PTA-sponsored “Books for Bennett” campaign, Ridge Wood students brought in dollar bills and loose change during the spring Book Fair week to help buy books for the Bennett library.
  - During the Student Council’s “Adopt-a-Classroom Fundraiser” Ridge Wood families donated more than 1,000 books, games and other classroom supplies for Bennett students and teachers.
  - More than 50 pairs of new and previously worn winter boots were donated for Bennett student during the “Boots for Bennett” campaign.
- In February, Ridge Wood fifth graders came together with students from Northville’s Meads Mill Middle School and Bennett to package more than 20,000 bags of food to help feed the hungry around the world through the Kids Against Hunger program.

**Learning connection:** Through Bridgepointe, Ridge Wood, Meads Mill and Bennett schoolchildren are empowered to make a difference in their communities and in the world. At the same time, Ridge Wood students had the opportunity to interact with peers from Detroit whose experiences and lives may be different than their own. Students from both schools also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Ridge Wood principal Alicia Parsons ([parsonal@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:parsonal@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.349.7602.

#### **Northville Civic Concern**

**How it Works:** Ridge Wood students and staff reached out to those in need in their own community through several Northville Civic Concern drives.

- Throughout November, flyers were sent home and articles were placed in the school newsletter asking Ridge Wood students and families to donate non-perishable food and household goods to help stock the shelves at Civic Concern. More than 350 items were donated.
- During Parent/Teacher conferences in November Ridge Wood families were encourage to bring in new or previously worn winter clothing to be donated to local families in need. More than 100 items were donated.
- During the holidays, Ridge Wood staff and families adopted eight needy families through Civic Concern collecting food, clothing and toys.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:**

### **Children-to-Children**

**How it Works:** During holiday parties at Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day, Ridge Wood students include helping others as part of the festivities. Each classroom or grade level selects a community service project to do for at least half of the allotted party time. This past year some of the projects included making activity kits for kids at Children's Hospital of Michigan and the First Step Domestic Abuse Shelter and making bagel birdfeeders for local senior citizen homes.

**Learning connection:** Staff, students and families had the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Ridge Wood resource room teachers Kristy Kenneally ([kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Sheri Janer ([janersh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:janersh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.349.7602.

### **Recycle at Ridge Wood**

**How it Works:** Ridge Wood fifth graders lead the school's recycling effort. Once a week, they go around to each classroom and collect baskets filled with paper ready for recycling, which they then empty into the Abitibi Paper Retriever recycling bin in the school parking lot. Ridge Wood second graders also got into the act last year by encouraging classrooms to separate out plastic water bottles for recycling. They collected the bottles, bagged them and left them for district's Operations staff to pick up for recycling.

**Learning connection:** Students learn about the responsible use of resources and become caretakers of the earth.

**Contact:** Ridge Wood fourth grade teacher Tom Boomer ([boomerto@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:boomerto@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.349.7602.

### **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients® Campaign**

**How it Works:** The Ridge Wood Student Council began sponsoring the national Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients campaign at the elementary school three years ago. Over a two-week period, students are encouraged to bring in spare change to donate to the society to help cure leukemia and other blood-related cancers. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society provides lesson plans and educational materials on blood-related cancers, an age-appropriate video, coin canisters and coin-counting tubes. In 2008, Ridge Wood students raised more than \$1,400 in loose change.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to help others and at the same time practice their math skills counting change and calculating and charting totals.

**Contact:** Ridge Wood resource room teachers Kristy Kenneally ([kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Sheri Janer ([janersh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:janersh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.349.7602. For more information on the Pennies for Patients program visit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society website at [www.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org).

### **Sight Night Used Eyeglasses Collection**

**How it Works:** Ridge Wood students collected 262 pairs of eyeglasses during the national Sight Night eyeglasses collection project organized around Halloween by the Ridge Wood school community and the Girl Scouts. The national collection drive is sponsored by the Give the Gift of Sight Foundation and the Lions Clubs International. Ridge Wood students were encouraged to canvass their neighborhoods and collect used eyeglasses during trick-or-treat activities.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to help others in a tangible way.

**Contact:** Former Ridge Wood parent and Girl Scout leader Tracy Bins ([tbins1@comcast.net](mailto:tbins1@comcast.net)), 734.451.7080. For more information about the Sight Night project visit the Lions Clubs International website at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

### **Stuffed Animal Collection**

**How it Works:** During November, Ridge Wood fifth graders coordinated a school-wide drive to collect new and gently used stuffed animals for patients at Children's Hospital of Michigan. More than 960 stuffed animals were collected.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Ridge Wood fourth grade teacher Tom Boomer ([boomerto@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:boomerto@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.349.7602.

### **Holiday Paws for a Cause Collection**

**How it Works:** The Ridge Wood Student Council sponsored a Paws for the Cause Collection in December during which they encouraged their classmates to bring in animal care items to be donated to the Michigan Humane Society. More than 1,600 items were collected.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of sick and abandoned animals.

**Contact:** Ridge Wood resource room teachers Kristy Kenneally ([kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Sheri Janer ([janersh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:janersh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.349.7602.

### **“Wear a Hat” Spirit Friday**

**How it Works:** Being allowed to wear a hat to school is a big treat for elementary school students. On “Wear a Hat” Spirit Friday, Ridge Wood students were able to earn this privilege by bringing in a small monetary contribution to support the Christoph's A.L.L. Stars and the Jacob Shaw Recovery Fund. Christoph's A.L.L. Stars is a charitable organization started by a Northville student diagnosed with leukemia to support the Children's Hospital of Michigan hematology/oncology clinic. The Jacob Shaw Recovery Fund helps pay the medical expenses for a Northville Public Schools student severely injured when a car struck him in November 2007. Last year, Ridge Wood students raised more than \$400 for the two charities.

**Learning connection:** Students understand that being part of a community means helping others in their community when they are in need.

**Contact:** Ridge Wood resource room teachers Kristy Kenneally ([kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:kenneakr@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Sheri Janer ([janersh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:janersh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.349.7602.

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**Silver Springs Elementary School**

**Northville Civic Concern**

**How it Works:** Silver Springs students and staff reached out to those in need in their own community through a Northville Civic Concern drive. Throughout February flyers were sent home and articles were placed in the school newsletter asking Silver Springs students and families to donate non-perishable food and household goods to help stock the shelves at Civic Concern.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:** Silver Springs physical education teacher Ken Stark ([starkke@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:starkke@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8410.

**Thanksgiving Cards for Seniors**

**How it Works:** During the Thanksgiving holiday Silver Spring students join forces to make colorful Thanksgiving cards with special messages of thanks for residents of the Star Manor of Northville nursing home in downtown Northville.

**Learning connection:** In addition to the opportunity to interact with and learn from individuals of a different generation, Silver Springs students practice their letter writing skills.

**Contact:** Silver Springs learning consultant Diane Vanston ([vanstodi@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:vanstodi@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8410.

**Classroom Cares Book Collection**

**How it Works:** Silver Springs third graders are challenged each November to read 100 books with the goal of raising money to purchase hundreds of new books for children at Wolverine Human Services in Detroit and Spectrum Human Services in Plymouth.

Students in each of the third grade classrooms can sign up to read books throughout the month with the goal of reaching 100 books for each classroom. If students meet this challenge, the Optimist Club of Novi/Northville and Patti Mullen of Remerica Hometown One pledge to donate money to help purchase the books for kids in need. Students in each class chart their progress toward reaching 100 books on a poster in their classroom. This past year, the Optimist Club and Patti Mullen donated \$750. The Silver Springs third graders, along with their teachers, select the books to be purchased through the Scholastic Book Club being careful to consider the range of interests and ages of the children at Wolverine and Spectrum. The students then decorate the bags the books will be delivered in. Last year, more than 400 books were donated to Wolverine and Spectrum through the Classroom Cares challenge. Often a representative from Wolverine Human Services, along with some of the children, will come to pick up the books and share a video about facility's programs.

**Learning connection:** In addition to the opportunity to help others in need, students gain a sense of satisfaction and pride by doing something themselves — they read the 100 books and they select the books to be donated. The project also encourages students to set aside time to enjoy reading.

**Contact:** Silver Springs third grade teacher Beth Kuriluk ([kurilube@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:kurilube@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8410.

### **Toys for Tots Drive**

**How it Works:** Silver Springs staff and families participated in the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots collection campaign that takes place in October, November and December in preparation for the Christmas holiday. Students brought in new, unwrapped toys to collection boxes located in the school office. The toys were delivered to needy children in the Northville community by the Marine Corps.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Silver Springs speech and language pathologist Marianne Barry ([barryma@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:barryma@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8410. For more information about the Toys for Tots program, visit the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation website at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

### **UNICEF Halloween Collection**

**How it Works:** In addition to collecting candy on Halloween, many Silver Springs students also raised money to help children in need worldwide. Along with their Halloween baskets, students carried the familiar orange UNICEF collection box and asked for donations as they went house-to-house trick-or-treating. The collection boxes were distributed at school to students who were interested.

**Learning connection:** Students learn the important role they can play in helping other children.

**Contact:** Silver Springs second grade teacher Cheryl Sepich ([sepichch@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:sepichch@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8410. For more information about “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF,” visit the organization’s website at [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).

### **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients® Campaign**

**How it Works:** Inspired by a Northville Public Schools student diagnosed with leukemia, Silver Springs sponsored a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients campaign. Over a two-week period students were encouraged to bring in spare change to donate to the society to help cure leukemia and other blood-related cancers. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society provides lesson plans and educational materials on blood-related cancers, an age-appropriate video, coin canisters and coin-counting tubes.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to help others and at the same time practice their math skills counting change and calculating and charting totals. For more information on the Pennies for Patients program visit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society website at [www.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org).

**Contact:** Silver Springs fourth grade teacher Kathy Barcelona ([barcelka@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:barcelka@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8410.

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**Thornton Creek Elementary School**

Thornton Creek focuses its community service efforts around grade levels, selecting projects that are age-appropriate and reflect a need that student's can address in their school, local, national or international community.

**Kindergarten: Waltonwood Retirement Home Pen Pals**

**How it Works:** Throughout the school year, Thornton Creek kindergartners exchange letters with their pen pals at the Waltonwood Retirement Home in Novi, including special Valentine's greetings. As a culminating activity, students visit their pen pals at the nursing home and read stories together.

**Learning connection:** In addition to the opportunity to interact with and learn from individuals of a different generation, Thornton Creek kindergartners practice their letter writing skills.

**Contact:** Thornton Creek kindergarten teacher Shea Eagle ([eaglesh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:eaglesh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8475.

**First Grade: Baking Jiffy Muffins for Local Soup Kitchens**

**How it Works:** A highlight of the school year for Thornton Creek first graders is a field trip to the Chelsea Milling Company where the various Jiffy muffin and cake mixes are packaged. Back at school, the first grade classes, with help from teachers and parents, use the Jiffy mix they receive on the plant tour to bake muffins that are then donated to a local soup kitchen to help feed the homeless.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to help others and at the same time practice their math skills by measuring ingredients for the muffin mix.

**Contact:** Thornton Creek first grade teacher Chris Modrack ([modracch@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:modracch@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8475.

**Second Grade: Blankets for the Salvation Army**

**How it Works:** Each year, Thornton Creek second graders make dozens of blankets for children and teens in crisis at the Salvation Army Denby Center in Detroit. Students select the material for the blankets, cut out the patterns and construct the blankets by knotting a series of ties around the edge of the blankets.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to help other children who are less fortunate and at the same time use their math skills to measure the patterns and use hand-eye coordination in knotting the blanket ties.

**Contact:** Thornton Creek second grade teacher Tamara Worrell ([worrelta@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:worrelta@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8475.

**Third Grade: Northville Civic Concern Collection**

**How it Works:** Thornton Creek third graders coordinate the school-wide Northville Civic Concern drive each year. Throughout May, third grade students design posters that are

hung throughout the school, create flyers that are sent home and write articles that are placed in the school newsletter asking Thornton Creek students and families to donate non-perishable food and household goods to help stock the shelves at Civic Concern. The third graders sort the items, help load them in the Civic Concern truck and visit the Civic Concern offices to see how their hard work is helping others.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:** Thornton Creek third grade teacher Kathryn Thompson ([thompska@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:thompska@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8475.

#### **Fourth Grade: Toys for Tots Read-A-Thon**

**How it Works:** Thornton Creek fourth graders and their families participate in the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots collection campaign that takes place in October, November and December in preparation for the Christmas holiday. Students organized a Read-A-Thon to raise money and then went shopping for gifts that were donated to the Toys for Tots campaign. The Marine Corps delivered the toys to needy children in the Northville community.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others. They also practiced their math skills by counting the money raised through the Read-A-Thon and determining how best to spend the money to benefit those in need. The project also encourages students to set aside time to enjoy reading.

**Contact:** Thornton Creek fourth grade teacher Maureen Nichols ([nicholma@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:nicholma@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8475. For more information about the Toys for Tots program, visit the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation website at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

#### **Fifth Grade: Kids Against Hunger**

**How it Works:** In February, Thornton Creek fifth graders and students from their Bridgepointe partners at Neinas Elementary School in Detroit came together to package more than 20,000 bags of food to help feed the hungry around the world through the Kids Against Hunger program. In preparation for the Kids Against Hunger activity, Thornton Creek fifth graders sponsor a school-wide "Hat Day" fund-raiser. Being allowed to wear a hat to school is a big treat for elementary school students. On "Hat Day," Thornton Creek students can earn this privilege by bringing in a \$5 contribution that goes to help purchase food packaging supplies.

**Learning connection:** Through Bridgepointe, Thornton Creek and Neinas schoolchildren are empowered to make a difference in their communities and in the world. At the same time, Thornton Creek students had the opportunity to interact with peers from Detroit whose experiences and lives may be different than their own. Students from both schools also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Thornton Creek principal Sharon Irvine ([irvinesh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:irvinesh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8475.

**School Beautification Project**

**How it Works:** For one week each spring Thornton Creek students and families from all grade levels join forces to beautify the school grounds. They rake, spread mulch, plant flowers and trees and paint benches. The Thornton Creek PTA coordinates the beautification effort.

**Learning connection:** Students learn the importance of taking care of their school and protecting the environment. They also learn gardening skills and how to work as a team.

**Contact:** Thornton Creek principal Sharon Irvine ([irvinesh@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:irvinesh@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8475.

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**Winchester Elementary School**

**Bridgepointe Partnership: Holbrook Elementary School**

**How it Works:** Winchester students had the opportunity to help and learn alongside their Bridgepointe partners from Holbrook Elementary School in Hamtramck in numerous ways during the 2007-08 school year.

- Before the start of school year Winchester students and families delivered backpacks filled with school supplies to Holbrook students. The backpacks and supplies were donated during a school-wide collection drive at the end of the 2006-07 school year.
- Winchester teachers traveled to Holbrook in the fall for a professional development program, called “The First 10 Days of School,” to help Holbrook teachers better prepare their students to take the state MEAP assessment.
- Throughout the school year, Winchester students exchanged letters with their Holbrook pen pals. As part of the school’s March is Reading Month celebration, Holbrook students traveled to Winchester to meet their pen pals, enjoy a lunch donated by Northville-area restaurants, and play on the Winchester playground with their new friends.
- The Winchester Jump Rope Club, an after school group for third through fifth graders formed by physical education teacher Heidi Haite, collected money from club participants and donated it to Holbrook to purchase playground equipment such as balls and jump ropes.
- In February, Winchester fifth graders and Holbrook students came together to package more than 20,000 bags of food to help feed the hungry around the world through the Kids Against Hunger program.

**Learning connection:** Through Bridgepointe, Winchester and Holbrook schoolchildren are empowered to make a difference in their communities and in the world. At the same time, Winchester students had the opportunity to interact with peers from Hamtramck whose experiences and lives may be different than their own. Students from both schools also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Winchester principal, Pat Messing ([messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

**Northville Civic Concern**

**How it Works:** Winchester students and staff reached out to those in need in their own community through several Northville Civic Concern drives.

- Winchester Kids’ Club students coordinated the school-wide Northville Civic Concern drive. Kids’ Club students designed posters that were hung throughout the school, created flyers that were sent home, and wrote articles that were placed in the school newsletter asking all Winchester students and families to donate non-perishable food and household goods to help stock the shelves at Civic Concern.

- During the holidays, each grade level adopted a family through Civic Concern collecting food, clothing and toys.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:** Winchester fifth grade teacher Andrea Iwaniki ([iwanikan@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:iwanikan@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

### **Battle of the Change Fundraiser**

**How it Works:** Winchester students raised money to purchase backpacks and school supplies for Holbrook students, as well as food packaging supplies for the Kids Against Hunger activity, and at the same time had lots of fun during the weeklong Battle of the Change competition. In Battle of the Change, grade levels compete by putting change in each other's buckets — pennies are good and nickels, dimes and quarters are bad.

**Learning connection:** In addition to raising money to help others, students practice their math and money skills.

**Contact:** Winchester fourth grade teacher and Student Council sponsor Stacie Fortner ([fortnest@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:fortnest@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

### **Bennett Book Drive**

**How it Works:** Following a devastating fire at Bennett Elementary School in Detroit (one of the Northville Public Schools Bridgepointe partnership schools) the day after Christmas, staff, families and students from Winchester, as well as the entire Northville school district, rallied to help. As part of the school's March is Reading Month celebration, Winchester students collected more than 1,000 new and gently used books that were donated to Bennett.

**Learning connection:** Staff, students and families had the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Winchester learning consultant Jay Hillard ([hillarja@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:hillarja@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

### **Soldier Care Packages**

**How it Works:** Winchester first, second and fourth graders and their families donated toiletries and treats for care packages that were sent to American soldiers in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Airborne stationed in Iraq. A Winchester teacher who has a family member serving with the unit coordinated the project.

**Learning connection:** Students have an opportunity to support American soldiers and talk about how events taking place across the world impact those in our own community.

**Contact:** Winchester teachers Lori Weber ([weberlo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:weberlo@northville.k12.mi.us)); Gayle Cartwright ([cartwrga@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:cartwrga@northville.k12.mi.us)); and Kandy Rush ([rushka@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:rushka@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

### **Letters to a Soldier Dad**

**How it Works:** In May, Winchester fifth graders wrote letters to the father of a classmate serving in Iraq.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity show support for an American soldier and talk about how events taking place across the world impact those in our own community. They also practice their letter writing skills.

**Contact:** Winchester principal, Pat Messing ([messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

### **Recycling Club**

**How it Works:** Winchester fourth graders lead the school's recycling effort. They distribute boxes to each of the classrooms to collect paper that can be recycled. Once a week, they go around to each classroom and collect the boxes, which they then empty into the Abitibi Paper Retriever recycling bin in the school parking lot.

**Learning connection:** Students learn about the responsible use of resources and become caretakers of the earth.

**Contact:** Winchester fourth grade teacher Ashley Noonan ([noonanas@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:noonanas@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

### **Toys for Tots Drive**

**How it Works:** Winchester Boy Scouts led a school-wide drive to collect toys and coats for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots collection campaign that takes place in October, November and December in preparation for the Christmas holiday. Students and families were asked to bring in new, unwrapped toys and winter coats to collection boxes located in the school office. The Marine Corps delivered the toys and coats to needy children in the Northville community.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Winchester principal, Pat Messing ([messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415. For more information about the Toys for Tots program, visit the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation website at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

### **School Beautification**

**How it Works:** Each fall and spring, Winchester Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts join forces after school hours to beautify the school grounds. They rake, pick up trash, spread mulch and plant flowers. The beautification projects are the scouts' way of thanking the Winchester school community for providing a meeting place and other support for the scouting programs.

**Learning connection:** Students learn the importance of taking care of their school and protecting the environment. They also learn gardening skills and how to work as a team.

**Contact:** Winchester principal, Pat Messing ([messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:messinpa@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8415.

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**Hillside Middle School**

**Hillside Extravaganza**

**How it Works:** Each November, more than 100 Northville senior citizens are invited to Hillside to participate in activities including a pancake breakfast, miniature golf, art show, choir concert, life time wellness program and selected readings all put on by Hillside students under the leadership of the school's electives team teachers.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to interact with and learn from individuals of a different generation and experience performing in front of an audience.

**Contact:** Hillside choir director Vicki Kopistiansky, ([kopistvi@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:kopistvi@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

**Hillside Senior Citizen Prom**

**How it Works:** Each spring, the Hillside Student Council hosts a Senior Citizen Prom for area seniors, as well as the grandparents of Hillside students, in the Hillside cafeteria, which this year was transformed into "Destination Greece." The seniors are treated to a pasta dinner served by Hillside students, songs by the Hillside choir, music by the jazz band and dancing.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to interact with and learn from individuals of a different generation and experience performing in front an audience.

**Contact:** Hillside assistant principal Heidi Capraro, ([caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

**Spirit Days for Civic Concern**

**How it Works:** Each October as part of the Hillside Spirit Days, the Student Council and the PTSA sponsor a Northville Civic Concern drive to collect non-perishable food and household goods for the needy in the community. Students earn "spirit points" for their grade level for each item they drop off before school at the collection tables inside the front entrance. "Spirit points" are calculated and announced each day to help build excitement and competition. At the week's end, the grade level with the most "spirit points" wins bragging rights. Each year, the drive brings in thousands of donations.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:** Hillside assistant principal Heidi Capraro, ([caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

**Make A Difference Day**

**How it Works:** Each fall as part of the national Make a Difference Day, the Hillside Student Council and the PTSA organize a day for students to take part in a community service project. Past projects have included sprucing up the grounds at Maybury Farm, the Northville Senior Center and Hillside. In 2007, more than 500 students participated in Make a Difference Day improving the grounds at Hillside.

**Learning connection:** Students see themselves as contributors who can help others in their community.

**Contact:** Hillside assistant principal Heidi Capraro, ([caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

### **Kids Against Hunger**

**How it Works:** In January, 50 Hillside students came together with students from their Bridgepointe partner school at Maybury Elementary in Detroit to package more than 20,000 bags of food to help feed the hungry around the world through the Kids Against Hunger program.

**Learning connection:** Through Bridgepointe and Kids Against Hunger, Hillside and Maybury schoolchildren are empowered to make a difference in their communities and in the world. At the same time, Hillside students had the opportunity to interact with peers from Detroit whose experiences and lives may be different than their own.

Students from both schools also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Hillside assistant principal Heidi Capraro, ([caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

### **Wolverine Human Services Toy Drive**

**How it Works:** Every holiday season, the Hillside Student Council sponsors a toy drive for the children and adolescents at the Wolverine Human Services treatment facilities in Detroit. Students are challenged to force the assistant principal out of her office by filling it with donated toys. Last year, more than 150 toys were donated and more than \$260 was raised to purchase toys.

**Learning connection:** Students had the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Hillside assistant principal Heidi Capraro, ([caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:caprarhe@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

### **Building Bridges**

**How it Works:** Each year, Hillside sixth graders take part in outreach projects with severely impaired students from the district's special education center program at Old Village School. Old Village has two satellite classrooms at Hillside. Throughout the school year, Hillside and Old Village students work together on art projects and take part in physical education activities.

**Learning connection:** Hillside and Old Village students have the opportunity to interact with peers whose experiences and lives are much different than their own.

**Contact:** Hillside sixth grade teacher Linda Stein ([steinli@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:steinli@northville.k12.mi.us)), and Old Village teacher Mary McKay ([mckayma@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mckayma@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

### **Operation Good Cheer**

**How it Works:** Hillside eighth graders on Team 8C adopt a family each holiday season through Northville Civic Concern. Flyers and e-mails are sent home asking families to make a small monetary donation. Teachers and students then shop for food, clothing and toys for the family, which are delivered by Civic Concern.

**Learning connection:** Students had the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Hillside eighth grade teacher Laura Convery ([converla@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:converla@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

### **Animal Room Docent and Caregiver Program**

**How it Works:** Dozens of Hillside seventh graders serve as volunteers each year in the school's award-winning animal room which includes a variety of rare reptiles and other species. The students are trained to care for the animals including cleaning cages and feeding, as well as lead tours for the numerous outside groups that visit the Animal Room each year.

**Learning connection:** Students benefit from learning about the animals and their habitats and the importance of protecting the environment.

**Contact:** Hillside seventh grade teacher Colleen Polydoras ([polydoco@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:polydoco@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8493.

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### Meads Mill Middle School

#### **Kids Against Hunger**

**How it Works:** In January, 50 Meads Mill students, along with students from Ridge Wood Elementary in Northville and their Bridgepointe partners at Bennett Elementary in Detroit came together to package more than 20,000 bags of food to help feed the hungry around the world through the Kids Against Hunger program.

**Learning connection:** Through Bridgepointe and Kids Against Hunger, Meads, Ridge Wood and Bennett schoolchildren are empowered to make a difference in their communities and in the world. At the same time, Meads students had the opportunity to interact with peers from Detroit whose experiences and lives may be different than their own. Students from all three schools also hone their math skills during the Kids Against Hunger activity as they carefully measure and weigh the ingredients for the food packets.

**Contact:** Meads Mill principal Dr. Sue Meyer ([meyersu@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:meyersu@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435.

#### **Spirit Week for Civic Concern**

**How it Works:** Each October as part of the Meads Mill Spirit Week, the Student Leadership class and the PTSA sponsor a Northville Civic Concern drive to collect non-perishable food and household goods for the needy in the community. Students earn “spirit points” for their grade level for each item they bring in during the week. “Spirit points” are calculated and announced each day. To help build the excitement and competition, bonus point items (such as peanut butter, cereal or laundry soap) are announced at the end of each school day for the next day. At the week’s end, the grade level with the most “spirit points” wins a plaque and an ice cream party thrown by the PTSA. Last year, the drive brought in 2,683 donations.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community.

**Contact:** Meads Mill principal Dr. Sue Meyer ([meyersu@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:meyersu@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435.

#### **Stuffed Teddy Bear Collection**

**How it Works:** During the holidays, Meads Mill sixth graders collected new and gently used stuffed animals for the young patients at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Meads Mill sixth grade teachers Doug Walters ([walterdo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:walterdo@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Tonya Traylor ([trayloto@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:trayloto@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435.

### **Christoph's A.L.L. Stars A.L.L. Star Week**

**How it Works:** Throughout the week, Meads Mill sixth graders made "Chains of Courage" bracelets and sold buttons to fellow students, neighbors and friends to raise money for the leukemia research and patient support foundation Christoph's A.L.L. Stars, started by a Meads Mill student who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2007. The week culminated with a school-wide assembly featuring the Pistons' Hooper and Flight Crew.

**Learning connection:** Students understand that being part of a community means helping others in their community when they are in need.

**Contact:** Meads Mill sixth grade teacher Amy Balog ([balogam@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:balogam@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435.

### **Orphan Medical Network International Vitamin Drive**

**How it Works:** Meads Mill seventh graders lead a school-wide drive to collect vitamins and monetary donations for the Orphan Medical Network International, which provides medical care for orphans around the world, most recently in Zambia, Africa.

**Learning connection:** Seventh grade students learn about the medical and socioeconomic needs of less fortunate people in an area of the world they are studying.

**Contact:** Meads Mill seventh grade teacher Shelley Woodrich ([woodrish@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:woodrish@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435.

### **Detroit Zoo Adopt an Animal**

**How it Works:** Meads Mill seventh graders ran a bake sale and sponsored a school-wide "Hat Day," where students give a monetary donation for the privilege of wearing a hat to school for a day, to raise \$1,000 to "adopt" a gorilla at the Detroit Zoo. The Adopt an Animal program allows individual or groups to "symbolically" adopt an animal at the Detroit Zoo. The support helps the zoo provide veterinary treatment, improve exhibits and sponsor educational classes, seminars and research exhibitions. The students received a photograph of their adopted gorilla, an adoption certificate and a gorilla fact sheet.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to participate in the protection of endangered wildlife and learn about habitats and needs of these rare animals.

**Contact:** Meads Mill seventh grade teacher Jennifer Miers ([miersje@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:miersje@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435. For more information about the Detroit Zoo Adopt an Animal program visit [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

### **1,000 Cranes Project**

**How it Works:** The Meads Mill Japanese Club sponsored an origami crane-making contest as part of the international Cranes for Peace project, which began in 1995 as an effort to collect paper cranes to be sent to Hiroshima, Japan, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuclear attack. (Japanese legend says that folding 1,000 cranes so pleases the gods, that the folder is granted a wish.) The entire Meads Mill school community was invited to participate and special sessions were offered to demonstrate how to fold the cranes. 1,000 paper cranes were sent to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Meads Mill students delivered 1,700 cranes to Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit for patients to hang on their IV poles.

**Learning connection:** Students learn about the cultures and traditions of fellow students and participate in a meaningful project to support peace and offer encouragement to sick children.

**Contact:** Meads Mill electives teacher Crystal Gregg ([greggcr@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:greggcr@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435.

### **Leadership Class Drives**

**How it Works:** The Meads Mill Leadership class organized several school-wide drives to help those in need in the Detroit metropolitan area including:

- Collecting new and previously worn coats for students at the school district's Bridgepointe partnership schools in Detroit.
- Collecting leftover Halloween candy for children at the First Step Domestic Abuse Shelter.
- Collecting hygiene and personal care items for hospitalized veterans. The students delivered the care packages to the Veterans' Hospital.
- Spending time after school helping beautify the school's ground by raking, spreading mulch and planting flowers.

**Learning connection:** Students learned how to organize a charity drive and had the opportunity to help those in need in the Detroit metropolitan area. They also learned gardening skills, how to work as a team, and the importance of taking care of their school and protecting the environment.

**Contact:** Meads Mill Leadership teachers Sarah Debien ([debiensa@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:debiensa@northville.k12.mi.us)) or Melissa Morse ([morseme@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:morseme@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8435.

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**Northville High School**

**Outreach Week**

**How it Works:** Two years ago the Northville High School Student Congress transformed the school's spring Spirit Week celebration into a week focused on giving back to the community. The students still have dress-up days, a pep rally, lunchroom activities and a Saturday night dance. However, they also are asked to bring in specific items each day to support a variety of charitable organizations. This past year they collected beanie babies, toothpaste and toothbrushes for Sweet Dreamz; cartoon-themed band-aids for Mott Children's Hospital; phone cards for soldiers in the Airborne Angel Cadets; pet food, toys and supplies for the Michigan Humane Society; and toiletries and socks for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Proceeds from the dance were donated to Habitat for Humanity of Detroit.

**Learning connection:** Students had the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Activities coordinator Monika Miller ([millermo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:millermo@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

**How it Works:** In February, the Northville High School Student Congress hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive at the high school. More than 135 pints of blood were donated by students and staff through the drive.

**Learning connection:** For many students, the drive marks their first experience with blood donation. Often fears are alleviated and students are energized by the opportunity to help others in such a tangible way.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Activities coordinator Monika Miller ([millermo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:millermo@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420.

**Letters to Soldiers in Iraq**

**How it Works:** For this first time this year, students attending Freshman Orientation at Northville High School were asked to write letters to service men and women serving in Iraq as one of the many activities they participated in throughout a day devoted to helping these incoming students become familiar comfortable in their new school.

**Learning connection:** Along with providing cheer and comfort to soldiers who are far away from their families and friends, the activity helps keep incoming freshman grounded during what can be an anxious day.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Activities coordinator Monika Miller ([millermo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:millermo@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420.

**Paper Recycling Drive**

**How it Works:** On a Saturday in September the Northville High School Recycling Club sponsored a paper drive. Volunteers went door-to-door in the neighborhoods

surrounding the high school to collect newspapers, magazines, office paper and mail for recycling. In addition, those high school families not living in the area surrounding the school were encouraged to bring their recyclable paper to the Abitibi Paper Retriever in the high school parking lot.

**Learning connection:** Students learn about the responsible use of resources and become caretakers of the earth.

**Contact:**

### **Canned Food Drive**

**How it Works:** Each November, the Northville High School National Honor Society holds its annual canned food drive. This is the sixth year of the drive, and the organization annually collects over five tons of non-perishable food items. The food is collected in a variety of ways, but most food comes from seminar classes. Members of the National Honor Society earn service credit by coordinating the effort in their own seminars. The publicity for the event is coordinated by the National Honor Society officers. The top collecting seminars often exceed 2,000 cans, which equates to about 100 cans per student in that seminar. The food is donated to Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor and Northville Civic Concern.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to give back to their community. The event raises awareness to the great need many of our neighbors have.

**Contact:** Northville High School National Honor Society advisor Chris Cronin (croninch@northville.k12.mi.us), 248.344.8420.

### **Special Olympics Basketball Tournament**

**How it Works:** The first Saturday in March, Northville High School plays host to a Special Olympics basketball tournament. In preparation for the event, National Honor Society members help set-up the gymnasiums and decorate with posters for each team. On the day of the event, over 60 National Honor Society members work as scorekeepers, officials, and help with a concession stand. The proceeds from the concession sales go directly to Special Olympics. Northville has hosted the event for eight years.

**Learning connection:** Students have the opportunity to work with a diverse group of peers. The day is a celebration of sport and the human spirit. The tournament also is often referenced as a favorite experience by National Honor Society students.

**Contact:** Northville High School National Honor Society advisor Chris Cronin (croninch@northville.k12.mi.us), 248.344.8420.

### **AIDS Walk**

**How it Works:** For the first time this past September, Northville High School SADD students participated in the AIDS Walk of Michigan Royal Oak Walk. Participants compete in teams to raise money, and prizes are awarded to high-achieving teams. During the 5K walk, participants march with determination through downtown Royal Oak, and many carry signs.

**Learning connection:** Students benefit from increased awareness about AIDS/HIV and how it affects families, communities and individuals.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn

Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353. For more information about the AIDS Walk visit [www.aidswalkdetroit.org](http://www.aidswalkdetroit.org).

### **Teens as Teachers (TAT)**

**How it Works:** Trained Northville High School SADD students visit elementary schools and give presentations with drug-free messages. They discuss the harms of tobacco and smoking through games and interactive posters. They also help young students understand peer pressure with a fun candy activity. The purpose of the program is to educate younger students about the negative consequences of tobacco use (physically, financially and socially), and encourage them to make positive decisions. Students face decisions about smoking and drugs at earlier and earlier ages, so TAT hopes to instill students with important knowledge and skills before they are exposed to negative peer pressure.

**Learning connection:** Younger students benefit by learning skills that can help them live drug-free lives and by interacting with positive high school role models. SADD students have a chance to improve their speaking and presentation skills.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353.

### **Zero Tolerance (ZT)**

**How it Works:** Zero Tolerance is a program through which Northville High School SADD students visit middle school classes and give presentations about the harms of alcohol and marijuana. Along with several entertaining demonstrations, SADD students use activities and video clips from popular movies to explain common misunderstandings about alcohol and being drunk. The SADD students undergo special training before participating in the program. The purpose of ZT is to educate younger students about alcohol and other harmful substances. ZT instructors hope to encourage the middle schoolers to resist negative peer pressure by empowering them with knowledge.

**Learning connection:** Younger students benefit from learning skills and information that can help them choose a drug-free lifestyle. ZT presenters also benefit from the information and have the chance improve their speaking and presentation skills.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353.

### **Prom Letters Project**

**How it Works:** Northville High School SADD students visit elementary schools (usually second through fifth grade classrooms) in early spring to give a short presentation on drug use, prom and graduation. Playing games such as pictionary and charades, SADD presenters explain how high school seniors sometimes make poor decisions about alcohol and drugs around graduation. The younger students are then asked to write a fun and personal letter to the seniors explaining why they should avoid these harmful activities and what they could do instead to have fun at prom and graduation. The purpose of the Prom Letter Project is to encourage graduating seniors to make positive decisions during prom and graduation. Many seniors also remember writing the letters

when they were in elementary school, so SADD hopes to create a positive cycle of drug-free messages.

**Learning connection:** Seniors benefit from the drug-free reminders from younger students. The younger students have the opportunity practice letter writing and are reminded of the importance of making good decisions.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353.

### **Rachel's Challenge**

**How it Works:** In spring 2008, SADD along with the Northville High School PTSA sponsored a school-wide presentation by a family member of Rachel Joy Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine shootings. The one-hour program included a heart-touching video about Rachel's life. Following the school-wide program there was a 45-minute training session for student leaders on how they can make a positive impact in their school. That evening, there was another presentation by Rachel's family member for Northville parents and community members. The goal of Rachel's Challenge is to inspire students to forgive and help others in order to create a positive school atmosphere. It motivates students to begin a "chain reaction" of positive change in the way they treat others at school.

**Learning connection:** High school students learn skills to encourage a more positive school environment.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353. For more information about Rachel's Challenge visit [www.rachelschallenge.com](http://www.rachelschallenge.com)

### **Community Movie Night**

**How it Works:** Four times a year, the Northville High School SADD group hosts a Friday community movie night in the high school cafeteria for families with young children. SADD students provide a fun activity for young children such as coloring or a movie-related craft before the movie begins. SADD students also sell popcorn and other snacks for the attendees to enjoy. At the December movie night, Santa Claus makes an appearance to visit with the children and get his picture taken with them. The movies selected are usually rated G (occasionally PG) and are fun for the entire family. The goal of the movie nights is promote positive family fun and to show that drugs and other negative activities do not have to be present to have a good time.

**Learning connection:** The families who attend have the chance to relax, have fun, and let their children run around without worrying about their safety. The movies often provide a positive message about life. Past movies have included "The Bee Movie," "Polar Express" and "Happy Feet."

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353.

### **St. Patrick's Day Table Tents**

**How it Works:** Every March, Northville High School SADD students design creative table tents that remind people to drink responsibly and wear seatbelts during St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Restaurants in the Northville area display the table tents on

their dining tables to show their support. The goal of the table tents is to involve the community in sending positive messages about the importance of appropriate alcohol consumption and the use of seatbelts.

**Learning connection:** Students take an active role in reminding community members to drink responsibly, not to drive while drunk and to wear seatbelts during the St. Patrick's Day holiday.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353.

### **Red Ribbon Week**

**How it Works:** Northville High School SADD students sponsor several activities each year during Red Ribbon Week in October. Red Ribbon Week is part of a national campaign by the National Family Partnership to unite people and communities to take a visible stand against substance abuse. SADD students tie red ribbons to cars in the high school parking lot and distribute red ribbons for students to wear. They also create special announcements each week during October about the harms of drug use and encouraging students to live drug-free. SADD students also visit elementary schools to read a special book that encourages younger students to make good decisions and to help others.

**Learning connection:** High school students are reminded about the negative affects of drug and alcohol use and elementary students gain knowledge and skills to help them make good decisions.

**Contact:** Northville High School Student Assistance Program coordinator Carolyn Miranda ([mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mirandca@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8420, x353. For more information about the Red Ribbon Week campaign visit [www.nfp.org](http://www.nfp.org).

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**Early Childhood Center**

**Bike-a-Thon**

**How it Works:** Preschooler and young children in the Early Childhood Center Summer Kids' Club program held a bike-a-thon collecting pledges from family members and friends for the number of times they could ride their bicycle, tricycle or big wheel around the school playground. The \$467.26 raised went to support cancer research and care for children undergoing treatment at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The staff and students decided to hold the fundraiser after a five year old in the Early Childhood Center program with cancer was sent to St. Jude's for treatment.

**Learning connection:** These young children learn they can help other children who are sick and have a fun and active day in the process by riding their bikes.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Krygier ([krygieel@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:krygieel@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248-344-8465.

**Northville Civic Concern Adopt a Family**

**How it Works:** In lieu of purchasing holiday gifts for each other, members of the Early Childhood Center office staff decided to give to those in need by adopting a family through Northville Civic Concern. For the Thanksgiving holiday, staff members personally delivered a basket of food and a gift certificate to the family. At Christmas they purchased special gifts for each of the family members.

**Learning connection:** Even adults benefit from the opportunity to share their good fortune and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Contact:** Early Childhood Center program director Eileen Freeman ([freemaei@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:freemaei@northville.k12.mi.us)) and assistant program director Joanne Sawicki ([sawickjo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:sawickjo@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8465.

**Food Drive and Art Auction**

**How it Works:** Each April during the Month of the Young Child, the Early Childhood Center Kids' Club program sponsors an art auction where student artwork is raffled off for purchase by parents. Those attending are asked to bring a donation of canned goods or other "child friendly" food. The food donations and the proceeds from the auction are donated to Northville Civic Concern to help those in need in the community. Last year the art auction collected more than \$1,000 for Civic Concern.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community. Students also gain a sense of pride from selling the artwork they worked on so hard.

**Contact:** Early Childhood Center program director Eileen Freeman ([freemaei@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:freemaei@northville.k12.mi.us)) and assistant program director Joanne Sawicki ([sawickjo@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:sawickjo@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8465.

### **Collections for Kids and Animals**

**How it Works:** Kindergarteners in the Winchester Elementary School Wondergarten program participated in two collection drives during the school year. They collected blankets, food and toys to benefit animals being cared for by the Humane Society. They also collected books, music and games for children being cared for at Mott Children's Hospital.

**Learning connection:** The kindergarteners learned about the needs of others, including our furry friends, and had the opportunity to provide comfort to children while they are away from home in the hospital. A representative from the Humane Society visited the students to explain how the organization helps animals.

**Contact:** Kathi Elgin ([elginka@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:elginka@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8465.

### **Hat, Mitten and Scarf Drive**

**How it Works:** The Early Childhood Center Thornton Creek Preschool program collected hats, mittens and scarves during the cold winter months and donated them to the children and adolescents at the Wolverine Human Services treatment facilities in Detroit.

**Learning connection:** These young students see themselves as contributors who can help those in the community who are less fortunate.

**Contact:** Stacey Seltz ([seltzst@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:seltzst@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8465.

### **Operation Quiet Comfort**

**How it Works:** As part of this yearlong project students in the Early Childhood Center Ridge Wood Kids' Club and Wondergarten programs created a magnificent, one-of-a-kind quilt containing artwork by the students. The quilt was sent to injured military men and women through the Michigan Military Moms organization. (The Early Childhood Center has two military moms in its program). In addition, in October students sent their extra Halloween candy to soldiers stationed in Iraq and Japan. In December they sent homemade cookies and in February the students made special Valentine's that were sent to the troops.

**Learning connection:** Students have an opportunity to support American soldiers and talk about how events taking place across the world impact those in our own community. They also have the satisfaction of creating something unique and special and the experience of being part of a collaborative group effort.

**Contact:** Kathleen Tibaldi ([tibaldka@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:tibaldka@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8465

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### Cooke and Old Village Schools Special Education Center Programs

#### **Haiti Pazapa School Project**

**How it Works:** For the past several years Northville's two special education center programs have been involved in an initiative to provide much-needed assistance to the disabled children and their families at the Pazapa School in Haiti. In Haiti, where the average per capita income is about a dollar a day, few resources exist for children with disabilities. In Haiti's Southeast Providence, with a population of 1 million, Pazapa is the only resource. The disabled are traditionally shunned, treated with indifference, suspicion, and even cruelty. Pazapa has been quietly and purposefully making a difference in the lives of disabled children since 1987. Pazapa kids receive surgery and physical therapy so they can walk, sign language instruction and hearing aids so they can communicate, and education so they can function in the community. Cooke and Old Village staff and families are helping Pazapa kids by sending items such as wheelchairs, walkers, lifts, standers and canes that the two Northville programs are no longer using or that the students have outgrown. To avoid having the equipment end up on Haiti's black market, the items are personally delivered to the school by members of the Ann Arbor First Presbyterian Church Haiti Medical Mission group. In 2008, Cooke School principal Marilyn Bachorik joined the Pazapa Foundation as secretary of the Board of Directors. The hope is the relationship between Pazapa and the two Northville schools can grow to include a sharing of expertise and curriculum among staff and pen pal exchanges among students.

**Learning connection:** Cooke and Old Village staff and families have the opportunity to give to others who are disabled. This is particularly poignant as these students and families are often the ones receiving help.

**Contact:** Cooke School principal Marilyn Bachorik ([bachorma@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:bachorma@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8489.

#### **Northville Civic Concern Drive**

**How it Works:** Cooke and Old Village families and staff reached out to those in need in their own community through a Northville Civic Concern drive. Throughout January families and staff were asked to donate non-perishable food and household goods to help stock the shelves at Civic Concern.

**Learning connection:** The Civic Concern drive helps students see themselves as contributors who can make a difference in the lives of others in their community. Cooke and Old Village families and students are able to help others, instead of always being the ones receiving help.

**Contact:** Cooke School social worker, Ulla Gmelin ([gmelinul@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:gmelinul@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Old Village School principal Art Fischer ([fischear@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:fischear@northville.k12.mi.us)).

### **Old Village School Service Learning**

**How it Works:** Many Old Village students practice social and communications skills and learn key work and daily living skills by participating in service learning programs at Northville area businesses and community organizations. At the same time, these businesses and organizations gain hard workers who can help with simple, yet important, tasks including folding towels, matching socks, cleaning windows, organizing bowling balls, collecting library books from the return bin, watering plants, caring for animals at Maybury Farm, and packing sack lunches for Meals on Wheels. Area businesses and community organizations participating in the program include Compuware Arena, Novi Bowl, the Northville Board of Education, Northville District Library, Maybury Farm and Meals on Wheels.

**Learning connection:** Students experience an improved self-concept as they provide important help for local businesses and community organizations. They also gain key work and social skills and apply learning in math (number concepts, time, measurement, calendar, sequencing); English language arts (reading schedules, signs and survival words, signing in/out); science (plants and animals, life cycles, weather, food groups); and social studies (civic responsibility, community awareness).

**Contact:** Old Village teacher Kathy McEvoy ([mcevoyka@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:mcevoyka@northville.k12.mi.us)) and Old Village principal Art Fischer ([fischear@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:fischear@northville.k12.mi.us)), 248.344.8460.