

## Welcome to the 2018 Kindness in Motion Celebration

June 5, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Welcome to the 2018 Kindness in Motion Celebration! There is good news to celebrate! These inspiring students are changing the world through kindness and compassion. These students *are the future* and it sure is looking bright!

**Charity for Children: Alessandra Lascari, Katelyn Ogonoski:** Alessandra and Katelyn created fundraisers to raise money to purchase necessities, clothes and books for children in homeless shelters. These compassionate Changemakers have created opportunities for displaced children to find comfort.

**Care Bags for NICU Families: Eliza Austin, Samantha Norton, Caitlyn Valko:** These thoughtful, enthusiastic Changemakers empathize with new parents who have babies in the NICU. They created care packages for parents who need to feel supported during a difficult time.

**Earth Day Clean-Up, Making the World a Better Place: Civil Rights Stories Group:** Civil Rights Stories students from Northwestern Middle School joined the Lion's Club of Barkhamsted help cleanup along our beautiful Farmington River for Earth Day.

**The Joy of Art: Alisha Paige:** Alisha is a talented, creative artist who knows the joy that artwork can bring others. She bought canvases and paints and taught a painting class to a group of residents from “The Workman” an elderly living home in Torrington. Guided by Alisha’s expertise, the residents created their very own paintings.

**Mary Beth Tinker, First Amendment: Civil Rights Stories Group:** These inspired students are motivated to share stories about people who have changed history. Through their work, they were able to bring Mary Beth Tinker to Northwestern last month.

**Righteous Paws: Lindsay Hayes, Caylin Sitter, Lily Denver, Isabelle Gregor:** These determined animal lovers value the mission of Little Guild in Cornwall, an animal shelter that rescues abused dogs and cats. They raised money and

purchased pet supplies for the organization to help care for the animals. They also spent time petting the cats and dogs.

**Caring for Canines: Chelsey Gdovin, Julia Jerram:** Chelsey and Julia were inspired to support the mission of The Little Guild of St. Francis in Cornwall. They purchased items off their wish list and volunteered time at the shelter. They will continue to volunteer well after Kindness in Motion project comes to an end because, “No dog deserves limited love”. They are exploring ways to develop a reading program that will pair children with dogs.

**Aiding Against Abuse: Madeline Adams, Julia Busemeyer, Taylor Benaitis:** These thoughtful, empathetic students worked to raise money to purchase clothes for women and children who have been subjected to abuse. These changemakers collaborated with the Susan B. Anthony Project to help those in need.

**Flowers for the Elderly: Katelyn Ogonoski:** Katelyn’s compassionate project brightened the lives of residents at the Litchfield Woods Health Care Center. The residents were surprised with a vase of fresh flowers and a visit from Katelyn.

**Cystic Fibrosis: Carly Budge, Xander Budge:** This dynamic duo raised money for research that will assist people suffering from the effects of Cystic Fibrosis. These focused students believe that money to promote research will bring about a cure in the near future.

**Giving Back to CCMC Kids: Lindsay Dyndiuk, Anna Hester, Erika Lupinacci** These loving students bought amazon gift cards and books to read to babies in the NICU at CCMC.

**Special Olympics: Carly Budge, Paige Dzenutis:** These proud students used their grant money to plan, promote and facilitate a tag sale to raise money for adults with special needs. The money raised was donated in support of Northwestern Connecticut Special Olympics swim and track teams.

**Roaring Brook Nature: Kacie Sonnenberg, Alexa Ayers:** Kacie and Alexa were inspired to help the Roaring Brook Nature Center after they found and nursed an injured bird back to health. These compassionate girls used the money and their time to support the center and learn more about our environment. They

learned how to become Changemakers by bringing about positive change in our world.

**Paying it Forward: Tyler Schumacher:** Tyler is a talented athlete and thoughtful person. He was determined to give back to a family who helped him when he was younger. He dedicated his project to the memory of Donota Banks. Mrs. Banks supported Tyler growing up by helping him with activities. Tyler and Mrs. Banks' nephew started the Donata Banks Scholarship Fund to support kids and families in need of assistance to participate in Winsted and Torrington Recreation Programs.

**Snuggles for Shelter: Anna Shafer, Alexa Maser:** Anna and Alexa are focused on compassionate care for animals. They used the grant to fund bake sales and snack sales at various locations in the community. They donated the money raised to provide pet supplies and funding to the Connecticut Humane Society.

**A Cause for Paws: Rebecca Wipperman, Amanda Geiger:** These two devoted Girl Scouts worked toward their silver award while creating positive change to our community. Unfortunately, many people must surrender their pets when they can no longer care for them. These girls raised money for pet supplies to donate to Hands of Grace which led to the development of a pet program for the organization.

**Buy a Shirt and Help Another: Tobin Deshazo:** Tobin is a caring, creative and compassionate student. He was inspired to help two orphanages, one in Iraq and one India, after talking with a family friend who is serving in the military overseas. He designed and produced t-shirts that he sold to raise money to help these orphans.

**Highlander Hall of Honors: Civil Rights Stories Group:** Over the next few years, the Civil Rights Stories group will be putting together a hallway at Northwestern to honor people that have made a difference in the world. This Hallway will honor changemakers & upstanders in hopes of inspiring our students to both learn about them and to aspire to be like them and make a difference in the world themselves.

**The Water Project: Lauren Bunch, Marissa Dube:** This project is a continuation of work that began last to bring a clean drinking water well to a

3rd world country. These empathetic students understand how important clean drinking water is for a person's health.

### **Spirit of Kindness Award**

**Salutes for our Troops: Kyah Ryan, Juliana Viksnes, Skylar Wootton, Maggie Antuna, Emma-Leah Burrage:** These fine students organized a fundraiser to purchase items for care packages for our military overseas. Their goal was to spread hope, joy and support to our military warriors.

**Project STEW: Kaylyn Avenia, Alison Choquette, Frankie DeSanti :** These compassionate sophomores raised money to make care packages for women who benefit from the Susan B. Anthony Project. S: Strengthen, T: Teach, E: Encourage, W: Women.

**Powering Up Kindness: Megan Fecteau, Abby Whalen, Emily Whalen:** These thoughtful changemakers held a pasta dinner to raise money to purchase a soccer chair for Aiden Fecteau. Aiden has raised money to help others through Kindness in Motion in the past. It is especially pleasing to see him as the recipient of this great project this year.

**So, You Think Your Dog's Got Talent? Ellie Crone, Kendra Link:** These creative dog lovers designed a dog talent show where community members brought their dogs to be judged in a variety of fun categories.

**Clothes for Kids: Ryan Carrigan, Delaney Brier, Colin Quigley:** This project is another ripple started by last year's Kindness in Motion project. These students put together a pancake breakfast and sold raffle tickets to raise money to purchase clothing, toys and other necessities for children in an elementary school in North Carolina.

**Operation Semper Fi: Mary Healy, Ava Blanchard, Megan Strzepa:** These thoughtful students raised money to support the Semper Fi Fund, an

organization that donates 93% of their proceeds to support service members and their families.

**Bookworms: Madelyn Badger, Dane Runowicz:** These two fine students want to share their love of books. They worked to bring the joy of reading to younger students. This program paired high school students with younger ones at Beekley Library in New Hartford where they worked on reading comprehension skills by creating reading buddies. They ran their program for 4 weeks.

**Water Pitchers for South Sudan: Will Cady:** Will worked toward the school-wide goal of raising enough money to build a clean drinking water well in South Sudan. Will crafted 25 ceramic water pitchers and is selling them for \$20 each, with the goal of raising \$500 toward the well.

**Helping Hands for Heroes: Madi Tranquillo, Nicole Lodovico:** These two changemakers organized a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for Disabled Veterans. The dinner was held at the Elks Lodge in Torrington. The dinner raised over \$2700 and the money is being donated to the Disabled Veterans Association.

**Bus Driver Breakfast: Mya Clarke, Kaitlyn Weller:** These thoughtful students developed a plan that would show their deep appreciation for our bus drivers. These young ladies invited them to the Pleasant Valley firehouse on Saturday, May 12th for a breakfast. Each driver was presented with a carnation as a show of gratitude.

**Hug a Horse: Emilie Caron:** Emilie's is donating her Kindness in Motion grant to the USA Horse Rescue and Welfare in Avon, CT. The money will be used to purchase supplies for horses that were rescued from being euthanized.

**Spread the Joy of Reading: Caroline Crone, Jill Keegan:** These two hard-working students continued their project of creating community bookshelves for young children. Their first successful project brought a children's bookshelf to Winsted's Open Door Soup Kitchen. This year, the girls have created the second Community Bookshelf for Children at Torrington's Community Soup Kitchen.

**Vessels of Kindness: April Roupp, Sarah Swetz:** These two awesome students decided to continue the ripple effect of a project done a few years ago. They

created ceramic pots and then filled them with plants. They sold them for \$20 each at Whiting Mills and as a result donated \$400 to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

**Costa Rica Conclusion: FFA Officers:** Northwestern's FFA Officers worked to support Salvatore Barone's dream of creating a farm for orphans in Costa Rica. Salvatore visited Northwestern to talk about his dream which motivated our students to continue the ripple effect. Our school's FFA chapter donated \$500 as well as the KIM grant to Mr. Barone for his project.

**Keychains for Cancer: McKenna Oberheim, Emma Jerram, Fiona Mulhair:** These changemakers revived a successful project from their past to create this year's Keychains for Cancer. The girls made lanyards and are selling them to raise money for Smilow Cancer Center at Yale-New Haven Hospital. So far this group has raised approximately \$200 for the center.

**Blessing Bags: Pia Warner and Lili Warner:** These two dynamic sisters have once again had a significant impact on the less fortunate. They were awarded a special \$500 grant by Susan Auclair last year to support their work. Pia and Lili are in the process of creating Blessing Bags for the homeless. Blessing Bags contain items that are essential (ex. Toiletries) for people who are less fortunate.

**More Than Just Buckets: Corrin Tangarone, Natalie Lederman:** These supportive students held a 3-on-3 basketball tournament to raise money to purchase a new camera for a community member who has done a lot for our sports program. *Sshhh, it's a surprise!*

*2018 Kindness in Motion Sponsors*

*Our most sincere gratitude to those who provided financial assistance to support our work*

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