

# *"KINDNESS IN MOTION"*

## **Welcome to the 2019 Kindness in Motion Celebration**

**June 4, 2019**

**6:30 p.m.**

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kindness in Motion Celebration! There is good news to celebrate! These inspiring students are changing the world through kindness and compassion. They *are the future* and it sure is looking bright!

### ***LOVE, PEACE, JOY***

**Unified Sports – Elementary School Special Olympics: Paula Morabito, Kristen Plocki and Barbara McLean:** These wonderful educational leaders collaborated with our elementary schools to create the First Annual Elementary School Special Olympics. Students enjoyed a day full of games and medals.

**Mobile Grocery Delivery Service: Highlander Transition Academy, Paula Morabito:** Paula is the Director of Student Services for Shared Services. She created a mobile grocery delivery service for senior citizens. HTA students meet with our elderly citizens to make a grocery list. They buy the groceries at Stop and Shop and happily deliver them.

**Parent Teacher Book Club: Mrs. Wiecking, Mrs. Perschmann:** Parents and teachers read and discussed a common book about adolescence. This activity contributed to a shared sense of community and learning together about some of the difficulties of raising and working with teens. They read, *The Gift of Failure*, *How to Raise an Adult*, *Mind in the Making* and *The Self-Driven Child*.

**Comfort Cases: Paige Dzenutis, Meghan North, Elizabeth Jerram** These students organized a drive to collect items for school-aged children such as socks, books, blankets, and other items that will bring comfort to children in need.

**Positive Thought Jars: Brooke and Karen Ransom:** Students created positive thought jars which were filled with positive thought provoking statements. Students were given blank strips to write on, as well as some premade strips for those students who struggle with ideas. These jars were given to support staff/secretaries at Northwestern and Barkhamsted Elementary for any student or staff to take and use. Extra jars were gifted to the Yale New Haven Mental Health Outpatient Program.

**Hearts for the Homeless: Emily Ohmen** Emily raised money to support the Homeless in Haiti. She was inspired to help this cause after a lesson in Social Studies class.

**Gals for Good: Asa Bannerman, Brooke Maloney, Amelia Ficalora** These young ladies planned and facilitated an evening fundraising event that included dinner, raffles, and music. The proceeds were used to support "Love146" which is an organization committed to ending child trafficking.

**Toys for CCMC: Alexia Lefkowski, Isabella Roepke, Cameron Stanulis, Kendall Rees, Kai August-Griffiths, Logan Kennedy, Emma Connors, Lily Copely** This group of middle school students put together a Pajama Day and purchased toys to donate to patients at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

**Team Up: Meredith Zematis, Nathan Veillette, Carley Bannerman, Nolan Risedorf.** This team of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have been collecting gently used sports equipment to donate to youth programs in our community. They are holding a "Sports Day" and the money raised will be used to give scholarships to children so they can participate in youth sports.

**Goods for the Woods: Anna Shafer, Katherine Roberts** These students used their grant as seed money to organize a bake sale. The proceeds have been used to support the Roaring Brook Nature Center.

**Momentum Equestrian Center: Mattie O'Brien, Moriah Hailu:** These young equestrians made horse treats to sell at their horse barn in Avon. They donated the proceeds to support rescued horses staying at Momentum Equestrian Center in Torrington.

**The Animal Project: Shianne LeClaire, Briana Langer, Erin Auclair:** These young ladies made and sold homemade dog treats. They are donating the proceeds they earned to Bandit's Place Animal Rescue in East Hartland, CT.

**Making Positive Changes One Village at a Time: Madison Thibault, Bradley Kane, Naomi Aldrich, Fiona Leon, Hunter Hayes** These students held a sports tournament and charge an entry fee. Participants played two games, one for adults/teens and one for children under 12. Drinks and food were for sale. All proceeds went to a village in Africa.

**Baking for a Cause: Madison Sage, Brianna Lago:** These bakers made delicious goodies and sold them at Browns Corner in New Hartford at baseball and softball games and at different events. The proceeds were donated to support cancer patients at CCMC.

**Welcome Kit: Middle School Student Council:** The student council put together a welcome kit for all new students coming into our district. The welcome kits included; how to survive middle school, maps of the building, a list of all the clubs to join, sports information, who to see if you have questions, fun things to do in our four towns, and coupons for restaurants and area attractions.

**Highlander Honors Hallway: Civil Rights Stories** We have an on-going project to transform the hallway by the nurse's office in a way that highlights Changemakers and Upstanders. These people have taken a stand to make this world a better place and fought for Civil and Human Rights. We have completed portions of the project, but have plans to continue to expand it throughout the hallway.

**Blue Collar Project: Alison Keplinger, Kasey Colbert** These students held a bake sale to raise money to support Dog Star Animal Rescue in Canton, CT.

**Inspiring Instruments: Caven Kreske:** This talented young photographer made stunning note cards from pictures he has taken. He donated the proceeds to benefit students in need of a musical instrument.

**A Caring Hand Equals Millions of Smiles: Taylor Benaitis, Alexa Rouleau, Morgan Plitt, Natalie Brodnitzki, Amanda Lederman, Grace Geraghty, Miranda Carl, Bryanna Zuccaro:** This amazing team designed and personally wrote cards with well-wishes for residents at Valerie Manor.

**Lend a Paw: Nicole Dynak, Rhian Jones, Lena Doyle, Adam Muscaro:** Our project supports the adoption of dogs. These loving dogs come from shelters and are in need of good homes.

**Kindness in Motion Talent Show: Tobin DeShazo:** This creative young person is planning talent show to be held in the auditorium in the fall. Tobin will use this venue to kick-off the 2020 Kindness in Motion Program. Participants will pay a \$5 entrance fee and decide on a charity to support. The startup money will finance concessions and marketing. All money made from the event will go to the winner's charity. The winning act will be chosen by a panel of judges.

**Even Big Cats Like Catnip: Kailee Conklin, Lorin Slater:** These cat lovers sold cat toys and other items during lunch. They also held an elaborate donation contest. The \$100 grant was donated to the World Wildlife Fund to support the most endangered big cats in the world.

**Merry Messages: Xander Budge:** This creative student really knows how to brighten the day of an unsuspecting reader. He created "kindness messages" and hid them in books in our

school library and in the Reading and English teachers' books. His messages were a great way to brighten someone's day. Examples are, "You are awesome!", "You matter!" and "Have a fabulous day!" One final message from us, "Thank you, Xander!"

**Helmets for Happiness: Carly Budge:** Carly's project promoted the importance of wearing a helmet while biking. She donated helmets to children who do not have them. She set up a table at local businesses and at opening day at Rails to Trails bike paths to promote bike safety and collect donations. She handed out stickers and flyers to people, as well. She also contacted local schools, social workers and the FISH Homeless shelter to find families who could benefit from free helmets.

**Kindness for Paws: Bailey Boisvert, Emily Romanowski, Kiki Christiansen:** These animal loving students raised money for an animal pound called Animals for Life which is located in Naugatuck, CT.

**Cookies for Canines: Matty Young and Sandra Carfiro:** These dog lovers spent a lot of time making homemade dog treats to sell.

**Priceless Images: Ms. Hurley-Coughlin:** Ms. Hurley-Coughlin used her Kindness in Motion grant to donate to an artist who sketches beautiful memorial keepsakes for parents who have lost a child. This artist donates his time to provide grieving parents with a priceless sketch of their child.

**Friday Activities: Mrs. Fairchild:** Mrs. Fairchild has embarked on a journey to engage students in a series of fun, creative activities in the Library Media Center. Students and adults love to come in to the LMC on Fridays, thanks to Mrs. Fairchild's efforts.

**Expansion Program: NRG6762:** Our Robotics team (NRG6762) had the opportunity to visit Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts in our learning community to help the participants earn their Robotics Merit Badge. These students also held a bake sale with half of the proceeds going to the Ann Antolini STEM program to help finance a trip to their Robotics championship competition.

**Soup for the Soul: Mrs. Blazys and World Cuisine Students:** Mrs. Blazys and her World Cuisine Students made delicious soups to fill Ms. Cady's students' beautiful glazed bowls. The soup and bowl were sold to faculty and staff. All proceeds went to Guiding Light Orphans.

**Kindness for Carrie: Mrs. Blazys and Mrs. Kersten** These kind teachers raise money to help support a colleague who has been diagnosed with cancer. The proceeds go to assist with transportation costs, meals, groceries and other medical expenses. They were able to purchase a Kindle for Carrie, so that she can read books, listen to music or play games to pass the long hours at the hospital.

**Be K.I.N.D.: Macie, Evan and Brodie Wheeler:** The Wheeler's asked for donations from local businesses to create baskets to be raffled off in conjunction with having a bake sale. They sold raffle tickets for the baskets in order to raise as much money as possible to donate to K.I.N.D. (Kids In Need of Desks), a charitable mission through UNICEF USA. To support the mission, only \$27.50 is needed to buy one desk while \$55 will purchase a desk and bench for two. Meanwhile, \$177 funds one year of a girl's education. Through their incredible fundraising efforts, Macie, Evan and Brodie Wheeler raised \$509! Great job!

**Giving to Those Who Gave to Us All: Alexa Yacawych, Meghan Mahoney, Amanda Geiger:** These students gave half of the grant money (\$50) to a soldiers' home in Massachusetts. These three students visited them over a weekend to hear their stories. They also played cards or board games with each veteran. The other half (\$50) went to making Valentine's Day cards for veterans and active duty servicemen and women. They sent them to a place in Texas called a Soldier's Angel, which is an organization that distributes cards for our military around the world and in the community during holidays.

**Suicide Awareness Bracelets: Nicole Lodovico, Mackenzie Hein, Madi Tranquillo, Kaylyn Avenia, Alison Choquette:** These thoughtful students made special bracelets in an attempt to raise suicide awareness in our community. We appreciate their efforts!

**Creative Children Making Changes: Mya Clarke:** With a heart set on helping students in need, Mya's project benefitted patients at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Mya has worked long and hard on her project once again this year!

**True Colors: GSA:** Their Kindness in Motion grant went to offset the cost of a trip to the True Colors Conference at the University of Connecticut in March. The students enjoyed this experience very much.

**Give a Dog a Job: Aiden Fecteau and Family:** The Fecteau Family's project went towards supporting Canine Companions for Independence, an organization that provides skilled companions, service dogs, and facility dogs free to people with disabilities. We hope you get the opportunity to meet Aiden's sweet dog.

**Breakfast for Bravery: Ashlyn Zematis, Corrin Tangerone, Jana Sanden, Madi Tranquillo** Honoring first responders and police officers for their service to the community is important to these students. They hosted a breakfast to thank those who give so much of themselves to help people in need. We are grateful for their thoughtfulness.

**Blankets for Project Linus: Madelyn Badger, Katie Alvers, Abigail Buckley, Genevieve Grube, Sofia Sihpol, Tatiana Sihpol, Sarah Swetz, Reagan Payne, Amanda Spielman, Lauren Veits, Cecily Ventre, Miranda Bossi, Emma Pierce:** These students donated blankets to Project Linus, whose mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."

**Candles for Cancer Patients: Mary Healey, Ava Blanchard, Eliza Austin, Megan Strzepa:**

This group of students raised money in order to purchase candles for cancer patients at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

**Kicking it with Crafts: Alexa Ayers, Audrey Coates:** Their project helped patients at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. These girls realize how fortunate they are that they never had to spend long periods of time at the hospital, as others did. The girls made over a hundred baskets for all different age groups. Inside the each basket was a handwritten message to inspire and give hope to kids. They included other crafts items and goodies, in hopes to put a smile on their faces.

**Big and Little Helping Hands for Humanity: Franki DeSanti, Natalie Lederman:** These students helped paint and redecorate a much needed space in our school community.

**Spirit Horse Therapy: Caitlyn Vlako, Samantha Norton, Eliza Austin, Adrian Ransom:** These creative students raised money to support an organization called SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center. This organization provides therapy in the form of horseback-riding for people of all ages that have disabilities. This center is expanding to make room for new horses and is in need of a new saddle and tack. Proceeds can also help with providing lessons for families that can't afford it.

**Ice Cream Party for Foster Kids: Paige Molway, Megan Koester (St. Paul's Bristol)** The goal for this project was to provide a fun and enjoyable experience for young people in foster care. Ice cream and other delicious treats were provided to lift their spirits. A fun time was had by all!

**PJ Day for the Trevor Project: Hannah Kronengold:** Hannah organized a district-wide pajama day with students donating \$1 to wear pajamas to school. All proceeds were donated to the Trevor Project, the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 25.

**Community Blessing Boxes: The Labrie and Nguyen Families:** Community Blessing Boxes are similar to the Little Libraries throughout our communities. The boxes were inscribed with "Leave what you can, take what you need." The boxes were filled with non-perishable food items and toiletries. Two specific locations were identified with the help of town officials; one in the town of Barkhamsted and one in Winsted. The money was used for building supplies to construct the community blessing boxes in both locations. Left over money was used to stock the community Blessing Boxes with supplies.

**Return to Earth Art Show: Victoria Grosclaude:** Victoria is an idealistic and ambitious senior with a vision to spread awareness of Connecticut Green Burial Grounds. Her project was to create an art show to inform our community and raise money for the first green burial ground in Connecticut.

**Art Journaling for Everyone: Christine Mitchell:** Students learned how to build a practice of creativity, self-reflection and exploration using visual and written language. Through various exercises and prompts, students used writing, mark making, paint, collage and more to create beautiful and meaningful journal pages in a relaxing, stress-free environment.

**Help for First Responders: Mary Healy** The New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance Explorer's Post #379 (serving Barkhamsted, New Hartford, Hartland and mutual aid) raised funds for PTSD awareness in first responders around the country and those who were permanently affected by 9-11-01. This topic is often overlooked and can lead to serious mental health problems and even suicide in first responders. Funds were raised through several different fundraisers including dinner at Panera Bread.

**Making a Change: Natalia Brown:** The goal for this project was to improve the lives of shelter animals and help those who care for them. Natalia was busy, as she coordinated several bake sales and fundraisers and also appeared on local radio stations to promote her cause.

**Dorie's Promise: Kyah Ryan and Skylar Wootton** These supportive students used their grant as seed money to get supplies for a bake sale. They also hosted a flatbread fundraiser. The money was sent directly to an orphanage so the directors and mothers there can use it to buy what they need (ex: backpacks, clothes, etc.).

**Susan B. Anthony: Mrs. Waring and Kindness in Motion Club:** Mrs. Waring and her Kindness in Motion Club collected and donated items to the Susan B. Anthony Project in Torrington, CT. The Susan B. Anthony Project promotes safety, healing, and growth for all survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and advocates for the autonomy of women and the end of interpersonal violence.

**K.I.M. Presents: First Annual Highlander Food Truck Festival: Gary Franklin:** In an effort to fund Kindness in Motion for the 2019-20 school year, NWR7 hosted the First Annual Highlander Food Truck Festival. Food trucks from across the state donated \$100 each to participate in the event and the CT National Guard provided inflatables and games free of charge. The festival raised close to \$7,000.

### **Spirit of Kindness Award**

**Guiding Light Orphans: Ms. Kathy Cady and her students:** These amazingly artistic students created bowls of **LOVE, PEACE, and JOY**, the theme of this year's Kindness in Motion Program. 100% of the proceeds will support Guiding Light Orphans. Funds will be used to teach rural Ugandan women to craft garments and make soap. This in turn will empower them to earn their own income that will ultimately transform their lives.

**2019 Kindness in Motion Sponsors**

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



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