



## **Welcome to the 2022 Kindness in Motion Celebration**

**June 6, 2022**

**6:30 p.m.**

Welcome to the 2022 Kindness in Motion Celebration! There is *good news* to celebrate! These inspiring students and staff members are changing the world through kindness and compassion. These students *are the future* and it sure is looking bright!

**NFLHS Bracelets for Oaxaca Streetchildren Grassroots:                      NFLHS Mrs. Sarah Viets**

This project raised money by selling customized bracelets to sponsor Ian Jimenez Campos, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in Oaxaca, Mexico. This money will provide him with the supplies necessary to attend school. Each year, the NFLHS students send \$250 to provide tuition, tutoring, uniform, shoes, supplies, meals, computer/internet access, medical and dental services, and emergency support for families. The students have committed to sponsoring Ian through high school.

**Operation Christmas Child:                      Mr. Reese, Ms. Sullivan, Mrs. Mercier, Ms. Fortier and Students**

This group collected donated toys and personal items for Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Wrapped toys were put in shoeboxes and shipped to countries all over the world through Samaritan's Purse. The shoeboxes were tracked so our students could learn about where the shoeboxes were delivered and those who received them who are living in remote parts of the world. This is their 4<sup>th</sup> year supporting this organization.

**Walk a Mile in Their Heels:                      Ame Beaulieu, Alison Keplinger, Soleia Swanson, Brandon Garcia**

These students feel strongly about helping victims of domestic violence. They baked goods to sell outside of Food Town and spent time making beautiful jewelry. They sold the jewelry at the Highlander Food Truck Festival. Proceeds were put to good use by raising awareness about domestic violence.

**Highlander Care Closet:****Nora Sweeney**

This fashionable student converted and decorated a closet in the LINKS room to support those in need of nice clothes, hygiene items, and shoes. Nora used the grant money to purchase these items and created a place where students and staff can go for necessities.

**Friendly Hands NWR7 Food Drive:****Alex Borelli and Maddie Adams**

Last year, Alex's Capstone project focused on food insecurity during the pandemic. He was motivated to continue supporting the hungry after learning how significant this problem is, not only across the country, but right here in the northwest corner of the state. Alex and Maddie raised money and collected food items from teachers and students. This is his second year of working to support the Friendly Hands Food Bank of Torrington.

**Aid for Ukraine:****Ben Crone and Nicole Dynak**

These students held several fundraisers including selling concessions at local sporting events and a school-wide Hat Day. The proceeds went directly to the non-profit organization called Sunflower of Peace which provides first-aid and medical tactical backpacks for paramedics and doctors on the front line in Ukraine.

**Stand Up and Play:****Brendan Fritch**

This benefit golf tournament will be held in the name of Brendan's father Tom at Tunxis Country Club on August 5<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the Stand Up and Play Foundation, the ALS Association CT Chapter, and the Wounded Warriors Project. Stand Up and Play provides people with impaired mobility the ability to regain their freedom and take an opportunity to engage in everyday activities, including golf, through the use of paramobiles. Paramobiles act as golf carts/wheelchairs that are designed to move users around the course and stand them up to swing a golf club.

**Tools for Troops:****Alexa Yacawych and Carley Bannerman**

These students used their grant money toward shipping costs associated with sending toiletries and other supplies for service men and women around the world. There are local organizations that send items overseas to support those serving in our Armed Forces. They are: The Royal Coachman in Riverton, the Auxiliary of the Winsted VFW, and the New Hartford American Legion Auxiliary. These fine young ladies donated to AdoptaPlatoon.

**Fighting the Good Fight on Hunger and Homelessness:  
Ransom**

**Grace Fragale, Adrian**

These changemakers created care packages for homeless people in our area. They used the grant as seed money and raised enough funds to purchase toothpaste, socks, hairbrushes, and other personal items. The packages were assembled and delivered to a homeless shelter.

**First Responders Meaningful Cards:**

**Elizabeth Gosselin**

This thoughtful and caring student previously initiated a card writing campaign to cheer up nursing home residents during COVID. Her idea grew into sending cards to first responders to thank them for all they have done for our communities during COVID.

**Flag Football:**

**Tyler Schumacher**

Tyler combined his Capstone project with Kindness in Motion. He gathered some flag football players and set up a tournament. The teams were responsible to provide a \$5.00 entrance fee. The participants had fun and all proceeds were donated to CCMC in Hartford.

**Lively-Hood:**

**Ali Mendoza**

Ali's project raised money to help homeless teens. She raised money to help support them with food, a safe place to stay, and counseling. She is grateful for all that she has in her life and is inspired to help those who are less fortunate.

**Freedom Pens:**

**Isaiah Sanchez**

This talented young man made handcrafted pens for veterans to support the FREEDOM PEN PROJECT. Mr. Dougan taught his students how to create wooden pens by using a lathe. Isaiah packaged the pens and distributed them to veterans in appreciation for their service to our country.

**Giving a Hand to those in Need:**

**Marissa Richards**

Marissa feels strongly about helping those in need. Her project raised awareness about the FISH shelter in Torrington. She used the grant to buy supplies, such as blankets and jackets. She also raised money for nonperishable food items outside a grocery store. This work is important to her because her mother works closely with FISH and she has been waiting for an opportunity to help them.

**Water for Chilcapamba:****Lucas Oles**

Lucas is persistent when it comes to helping others. Over two years, he raised \$7,500 to build a clean drinking water well in Chilcapamba, Ecuador. Lucas will travel to the village this summer to deliver the funds for the construction and drilling of the well. His project will have an impact on the entire village for many years to come.

**Say Cheese!****Ms. Jenn Hurley-Coughlin and Photojournalism Club**

Ms. Hurley-Coughlin always has a group involved with a Kindness in Motion project. This year, the Middle School Photojournalism Club took beautiful pictures and made greeting cards to sell. All proceeds benefited a local animal shelter.

**The People's Impact Project:****Elise Gajewski, Ruby Dasgupta**

These thoughtful students created a project to support the Teen Center in Torrington. They raised money to buy supplies such as hygiene items, snacks, and other items for the teenagers who visit the Teen Center. They also collected gift cards from local pizza restaurants for the teens to enjoy.

**Pizza to Toys:****Kylie Stapleton**

Kylie's project supports children who are patients at CCMC in Hartford. She sold slices of Pizza Pete's pizza at the Middle School Civil Rights dance. She used the money raised to buy toys and art supplies, utilizing the wish list on the CCMC website.

**Be a Pineapple:****Mrs. Evans**

For this "sweet" project, Ms. Evans used her grant money to purchase bracelets that promote "Be a Pineapple". The bracelets remind students to stand tall, wear a crown, and be sweet on the inside. Students nominate others and presented certificates to their peers for demonstrating "Be a Pineapple" qualities.

**Community Hero Basket:****Ella Gannon**

Ella knows how important it is to show appreciation for law enforcement. She chose to make special baskets for the Avon Police Department. The basket was filled with snacks and candy that are easy for them to grab and go during their busy shifts. She included tags on the bags with a written expression of appreciation for all they do to go along with it. She also included a donation of small toys that officers could keep on hand and distribute to children that might be in need of comfort when they go to their duties.

## **Spirit of Kindness Award**

### **Kindness in Motion for Ukraine:**

**Ms. Cady and Art Students**

Ms. Cady puts positive energy into everything she does. She has been a consistent contributor to Kindness in Motion and was previously awarded the Spirit of Kindness Award. This year, her many projects raised money to support the people of Ukraine. These projects include; Wire Wrapped Rings, World Unity Bowls, and a large Butterfly Mural. Ms. Cady and her creative students are truly changemakers.

### **NWR7 Sunrise Calendars for Ukraine:**

**Mr. Dougan and Class**

Mr. Dougan's class created 2022 Northwestern sunrise calendars to sell. The proceeds went directly to Global Giving, an organization that provides love and protection for babies in the Ukraine.

### **Helping Hands on Hartford:**

**Grace Falk and the Social Justice Club**

These hard working girls raised money and collected donations for Hands on Hartford, a nonprofit organization that supports Hartford's most economically challenged residents in the areas of food, housing, and health. They planned several fundraisers, including selling concessions at NWR7 games, a pajama day, and a raffle basket.

### **Hands of Grace Food Drive:**

**Tess McKelvey, Emma Roy**

These thoughtful and dedicated changemakers held a food drive at Food Town in New Hartford. They collected monetary and food donations and gave them to a local food bank, Hands of Grace. The monetary donations were used to buy more food and other items. They emailed Hands of Grace to ask what the greatest need was at the time and then purchased those items.

### **Jail Your Teacher: York**

**Addie Lefkowski, Olivia Avery, Hailey**

These 7<sup>th</sup> grade students worked to support the Ichthyosis Foundation and other related skin conditions. Mr. Amara was put in "jail" to raise money to support a cause close to Addie's family.

### **Supporting Spencer:**

**Ryane Longhi, Mckenzie Bannerman, Zil Desai, Ava Burrell, Melanie Jenner, Makenna McPherson, and Lily Colella**

Among other fundraisers, these young changemakers held a raffle basket fundraiser and a goat petting opportunity at the Opening Day at Brown's Corner. Their many efforts raised \$4,000 for Spencer's family. Spencer is a child who has Downs Syndrome and is battling cancer. He is currently spending 29 days in the hospital for specialized surgery and treatment.

**Seeds of Support for Ukraine:**

**Callum Young**

Since the national flower of Ukraine is a sunflower, Callum sold sunflower seeds to raise money for all the children affected by the Russian invasion. He sent the money to a charity called Save the Children. This charity uses the donations to provide food, water, hygiene kits, social support, and cash assistance to the children and their families.

**Adopt a Pen Pal:**

**Xander Budget, Owen Frost**

These thoughtful young men worked to send sunshine to the residents of Valerie Manor. They created goodie bags full of sweet treats, comforting stuffed animals, and beautifully painted rocks with inspirational messages.

**Cody is the G.O.A.T:**

**Sandra Carfiro, Matty Young**

These determined and compassionate students worked hard to provide Cody Pound and his family with a wonderful experience at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford on May 14th. The girls sold tickets to a Yard Goats game and gifted Cody's family 18 seats so they could enjoy a night at the park. Cody surprised us when he threw out the first pitch! The remaining proceeds of \$450 went to Cody's family.

**Spring Joy in Senior Center:**

**Carly Budge**

Carly is a very thoughtful person and thinks a lot about how to help others feel better. For this year's project, Carly bought snacks for residents of nursing homes. Then she wrote inspiring messages that were included in the gift packages. The gift bags were delivered to a local nursing home.

**Civil Rights and Kindness with Deacon Art Miller:  
Stories Group**

**Mr. Stapleton and the Civil Rights**

This Kindness in Motion grant was used to bring Deacon Art Miller to Northwestern to have an open dialogue with 8<sup>th</sup> graders about Civil Rights. Deacon Miller shares his personal story with a message of kindness, stressing the importance of treating everyone with respect. He encourages students to love who you are, to be intelligent, to work hard and most importantly to be kind.

**Fidget Lap Quilts:**

**Ms. Lekang, Ms. Ficke, Links Staff and Students**

The LINKS staff and students created fidget blankets for dementia and Alzheimer's patients at Valerie Manor and Wolcott Hall in Torrington. Students learned how to use a sewing machine and hand stitch. They participated in laundering, ironing, and beading activities to complete the blankets. Students used their creativity to add fidget items like zippers, bells, beads, and various textured fabrics to the blankets so patients could interact with it in various ways. Recently, 10 blankets were delivered to Wolcott Hall by 3 students and staff. Patients were thrilled and loved both the blankets and the interactions with our students. Students enjoyed the interactions with the patients as well, as demonstrated by their caring, thoughtful words and kind gestures while visiting.

**Comfort Critters:**

**Mrs. Brazie and Students**

Mrs. Brazie always finds time for Kindness in Motion projects. The goal of this year's project was to provide the children of Ukraine with a comfort critter to help soothe them throughout this difficult time. This creative group of students made blue hippos and yellow ducks (Ukrainian Flag colors) to show solidarity and support for the most innocent victims of the war.

**Army's Legacy:**

**Laci Chase and Brayden Harris**

May 15th was crazy hair day! Students who participated donated one dollar to go to Army's Legacy animal rescue and sanctuary. Also on May 14th, 15th, 16th these creative students sold dog bookmarks to increase their donation to this worthy cause.

**Kind Hands for the Homeless:**

**NWR7 Administrators**

Mr. Amara and his family bought necessities for homeless people and put them in gift bags. Each bag contained socks, a toothbrush and toothpaste, lip balm, wipes, granola bars, and an inspirational message. Mr. Franklin and Dr. Palmer's families will distribute the bags to people in need.

**2022 Kindness in Motion Scholarship Awards**

*Award winners are graduating seniors who have completed multiple years of Kindness in Motion projects and have had a positive impact on our school community, our towns, our state, our country, and our world by spreading kindness. This year, we have four \$500 scholarship winners.*

*2022 Kindness in Motion Sponsors*

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

**Dr. Matthew Keefe, Canton Valley Dental**

**The Colebrook Associates**