

## **St. John Vianney Regional School Students Raise Over \$1000 to Support Local Children Facing Serious Illnesses**

*Helpers of Christ Spiritual Student Council Launches “Bulldogs Dream Big” Week to Benefit Dream Come True Foundation*

Students at St. John Vianney Regional School (SJVRS) in Allentown demonstrated remarkable generosity and leadership this school year, raising more than **\$1000** to support children in the Greater Lehigh Valley who are facing serious, chronic, or terminal illnesses.

The initiative, called **“Bulldogs Dream Big Week,”** was organized by the school’s **Helpers of Christ**, a Spiritual Student Council made up of 7th- and 8th-grade students dedicated to serving others within the school and the broader community. This year, the group more than doubled in size—from 10 students to **24 active members**.

During lunch and recess meetings throughout December, the students planned a week of fundraising activities to benefit **Dream Come True**, a local nonprofit founded in 1984 that grants wishes to children ages 4–17 battling life-threatening or long-term illnesses.

*“Our students desired to share the hope that comes from following Christ Jesus by putting their faith into action”, said Aislinn Duran, SJVRS Advancement Director. “The diligence, generosity, and humility they demonstrated throughout this journey reflect what it truly means to be a Helper of Christ and a student at SJVRS.*

As part of Bulldogs Dream Big Week, students organized a schoolwide dress-down day, sold handmade bracelets and rosary decades, and hosted a bake sale. They also created promotional flyers and produced a video to help raise awareness about the cause.

The Helpers of Christ chose **three specific children’s dreams** to sponsor, each representing a child currently supported by Dream Come True. Information about these children and their wishes was included in student-designed flyers distributed throughout the school community.

*“The enthusiasm from our students was inspiring,” said Principal, Matt Carlin “Seeing them offer their time and talents to help others is what Catholic education is all about.”*

The group’s efforts build upon a strong tradition of service at SJVRS. Last year, the Helpers of Christ led Stations of the Cross during Lent, organized Advent activities, read Christmas stories to younger students, and helped bring the Advent season to life through creative decorations and the Mary on the Mantle tradition.

The Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools commends the students, faculty, and families of St. John Vianney Regional School for embodying the values of faith, service, and community.

### **About Dream Come True**

Dream Come True is a nonprofit organization serving the Greater Lehigh Valley, providing hope, joy, and unforgettable experiences to children battling serious, chronic, or terminal illnesses. Since 1984, the organization has granted dreams to children ages 4–17, helping them escape the daily struggles of illness and create lasting positive memories.