

Community Service At Carderock

At Carderock Springs Elementary School, we are committed to the values of compassion and social responsibility. In 2010, C.S.E.S was the recipient of the Marriott Award for Outstanding Community Service. Our mission is to provide community service opportunities and encourage our children to participate voluntarily in these activities. The Community Service Committee is dedicated to the "Pay it Forward" philosophy. Small acts of kindness do lead to a better community for all.

At the beginning of October, each class at Carderock was read *The Lemonade Ripple: An Adventure in Philanthropy*, written by Carderock parent Paul Reichert. The "Ripple" teaches us that small acts of charity can lead to great things. When we initiated the "Carderock Ripple" project, our intent was to raise our children's awareness of philanthropic work, encourage them to show kindness to those less fortunate and inspire them to help others in need.

We didn't expect such an out-pouring of support! We challenged our children to perform acts of charity and fundraise with a purpose, which they did passionately. They took time out of their busy little lives and organized unique ways to give back to their communities. Among the countless hours of community service performed, our kids successfully took to the task of fundraising. With that, our children collectively raised over \$1500.00 through bake sales, lemonade stands, coffee stands, dog washes, car washes, donating babysitting money and allowances and other creative forms of fundraising.

The school voted on the "Just Tryan It" Foundation to be the recipient of the funds. Healthy kids helping kids. A final assembly on November 3, recognized our kids contributions and highlighted a few ways our kids gave back both in time

and monetarily.

For more on that charity, please go to <http://justtryanit.com/>

A few of the charitable organizations that Carderock will partner with this year and a brief description of our role in the community is as follows:

Martha's Table: Weekly Giving

Carderock Springs E.S is in our third year partnering with Martha's Table. Last year, we provided over 4000 sandwiches to McKenna's Wagon, an emergency food program on wheels. McKenna's Wagon provides lunch and dinner to hundreds of homeless and low-income people on a daily basis. On any given day, 12000 of DC's children, families and individuals are homeless or in need of food with about 82% of these homeless families headed by single mothers.

With that, Carderock is committed to helping and giving back to our community on a weekly basis. Every Friday we ask our families to voluntarily make sandwiches for Martha's Table. Last year, SGA took on the responsibility of collecting, counting and encouraging their fellow classmates to make more, DO more. As a result, collection more than doubled from the previous year.

Weekly Friday sandwich collections include meat and cheese (no condiments), PB&J, fresh fruits or additional healthy snacks.

For more information on Martha's Table and the services they provide, please go to www.marthastable.org/mckennas-wagon.html

Linkages to Learning: November 7-21

Linkages to Learning is a school-based organization which provides a broad range of services to at-risk children and their families. Last year Carderock Springs partnered with Linkages and collected items for families in need whose children attended Montgomery County elementary schools, Pine Crest and Montgomery Knolls. Our community donated school supplies, winter clothes, furniture and other items to be distributed to families in need. The goal of Linkages to Learning is to improve the quality of family life and help students thrive in school. Similar to A Wider Circle, Linkages to Learning strives to help entire families improve the quality of their lives. This school year, the Community Service Committee will be collecting much needed winter coats for children and adults to be distributed to the Linkages families in need. This coat collection will run from November 7-21. Coats to be donated can be dropped off in the main foyer of the school.

Thank you so much for your support.

For more information on Linkages to Learning go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/linkages

A Wider Circle: Holiday Gift Giving, end of November – mid December

For the past two years Carderock Springs E.S has partnered with the charitable organization **A Wider Circle**, and participated in a wonderful gift-giving program. A Wider Circle, a Washington DC based charity founded in 2001, provides a broad range of services to help lift families out of poverty. A Wider Circle partners with multiple social

service and other charitable organizations to accomplish this goal and to assist individuals and families who are transitioning out of shelters or are living without basic necessities. Their approach is to service the "whole person" by furnishing not only tangible items, such as food and school supplies, but by conducting educational workshops in shelters and low-income schools on topics such as stress management, resume writing, and healthy self esteem. As of September 2011 Wider Circle has served more than 80,000 children and adults.

In keeping with the Wider Circle mission to service both the tangible and inner needs of families, Carderock sponsored gift-giving drives in both the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 school years. The project was so meaningful because each grade sponsored a family whose particular "wish list" was provided to us by A Wider Circle. The Carderock Community was able to help a group of families celebrate the holiday season with gifts that they specifically selected. It was a great success, and the Community Service Committee plans to make this project a yearly tradition. One family in particular relayed to the Community Service Committee that some items on their wish list were meant to keep their kids off the street and in the home so they could keep an eye on them. Small things do make a difference.

This year, we have introduced a new element to the Holiday Gift Giving Project; a community service representative in each class. This liaison serves as communicator between their class and the Community Service Committee. The role of this individual is to organize the families needs, send out the list to their class and catalog the gifts as they come in. Families choose items on the wish list and either purchase or supply gift cards to meet the needs of there family. This is a wonderful opportunity to make the holidays

a special time for another family.

This project typically follows Thanksgiving. More to come!

For more information about A Wider Circle go to

www.awidercircle.org.

Pet Connect

PetConnect Rescue was founded in 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and has evolved into a vibrant animal rescue organization. Our mission is to save the lives of dogs and cats that have been abandoned and place them in loving and permanent homes. On a daily basis, we respond to email and phone pleas for help for dogs and cats imminently slated for euthanasia. We pull these animals into rescue from over-extended local shelters as well as rural shelters from West Virginia to Georgia. PetConnect Rescue is a non breed-specific organization and we are committed to stepping forward whenever we can and wherever there is the greatest need.

In the summer of 2011, PetConnect opened Muddy Paws Farm, a refuge for homeless animals on their path to new, loving forever homes. Muddy Paws will not only be used as a temporary home for our animals, but as a site for small fundraising events, and a place for volunteers to offer their time and talents to help PetConnect

j To contact us please email us at info@petconnectrescue.org or call us at 1-877-838-9171.