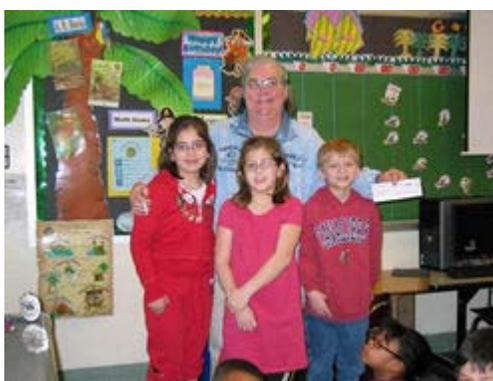


Boardman Stadium Drive Robinwood Students want to help



Kathy Price, founder and director of Mission of Love, accepts a check for \$622.50 from the combined third-grade classes at Stadium Drive Elementary. The check and an Olympic bracelet were given to Price by students Jaiden Dempsey, Emily Maroni and Shawn Korpi.

Kathy Price, founder/director of Mission of Love, based in Austintown, paid a visit to the combined third-grade classes at Stadium Drive Elementary School on Monday. She was there to receive a check for \$622.50 that the students raised through the sale of special Olympic bracelets.

“We are studying about the Olympics and how all the countries come together in peace,” said third-grade teacher Shirley Janoski. “We thought this was a good way for us to come together and help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.”

The third-graders began making the Olympic bracelets and then sold them to raise the money. On Monday, the check for the total amount the kids raised was presented to Price during a special assembly of the classes involved.

The students first got to watch a video of Mission of Love volunteers loading a container truck with lumber, rice, corn, medical supplies, clothes, shoes and tents. Price then told the students the containers were driven to Florida and placed on a ship bound for Saint

Marc, Haiti. When the containers arrive, they are unloaded, the goods dispersed to those in need, and the containers are set up as temporary shelters for children and families who were left homeless from the disaster.

Price then took questions from the students. One student asked if the donations would get to those in need and if it was guaranteed. Price told him that Mission of Love had already made arrangements and set up a Mission of Love site to ensure the aid goes to those in need.

“I make a commitment to you that the food and supplies will get to the people in need,” Price said.

At the end of the assembly, third-graders Jaiden Dempsey, Emily Maroni and Shawn Korpi were given the honor of presenting the check to Price. She was very grateful and then told the students she had a little something for them. In a bag were 90 worry dolls. Price said they were made by the Haitians as a way to help children sleep better.

Worry dolls are common to the native peoples of Haiti and Guatemala. When a child in particular has something that makes them worry, they tell it to the doll and then place the doll under their pillow. Some medical centers are using the dolls with the treatment of disease in children. They are also popular among tourists looking for small, inexpensive souvenirs.

As each third-grader left the assembly, Price personally shook their hand and gave them a worry doll.

Stadium Drive wasn't alone last week in helping the victims of the earthquake. On the other side of the school district, Robinwood Elementary students had also put together a similar program. The students of Robinwood held a hug-a-thon where they charged family and friends a dollar a hug. The program was organized by second-grade teacher Sue McConnell. After a week of hugging, the students collected \$1,558.75 that they donated to the Red Cross for the Haiti relief effort. – JT Whitehouse Town Crier