



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Japhet School Students Make Craft Kits, Write Cards to Veterans, Decorate Cups for Kenya School on Family Service Night

Clawson, Michigan - During a special night for the school's community, Japhet School families, teachers, and friends engaged in an evening of service to others.

Family Service Night is a longstanding tradition at this award-winning school in Clawson, where academics and characters are equals in the classroom. Service to others is an integral part of the school's philosophy. This year's Spaghetti Supper & Family Service Night took place on Thursday, November 9.

The school's 7th- and 8th-graders, with leadership from Life Skills teacher Robin Pospisil, first cooked and served a spaghetti supper. Right after dinner, classrooms opened with service projects. While the community looks forward to savoring the housemade meat and veggie sauce and hot garlic bread every year, each year's service focus is different.

Japhet School staff and the school's Kids for Peace chapter organized three service activities, all with supplies donated from families or purchased by Kids for Peace: No-Sew Bunny & Snowman Craft Kits for children to make themselves while admitted to William Beaumont Children's Hospital, greeting and get-well cards for hospitalized veterans, and re-usable cups individually decorated for children attending the Kids for Peace School of Kenya. Japhet School's Kids for Peace chapter also purchased spoons, forks, and jump ropes for the Kenya school.

"My favorite part of Family Service Night was making the cups," said Sofia Shields, a Japhet School 2nd-grader from Royal Oak. "I was thinking how happy they will be when they get their own cups."

"Service is important to do because it helps you feel what others might be feeling," explained Esme Marcellini, a Japhet 1st-grader from Ferndale. "I liked making the bunny kits for other children."

Japhet School was founded almost 45 years ago and operates under 10 principles based on learning and ethical decision-making. The 6th principle, "With the gift of knowledge and the understanding of moral and spiritual values comes an obligation to help mankind," is the foundation for Family Service Night.

Photos and captions on next page ...



***High-res pics sent as individual files.**

***BOY:** Gwydion Perry, 5th-grade Japhet School student and Royal Oak resident, pours rice into a craft kit that a hospitalized child will make into his or her own cute, fuzzy snowman.

***FAMILY:** 7th-grader Peyton Keffer of Royal Oak shares her smile with Japhet School Spaghetti Supper guests, including her parents Tim and Jeannine.

***KIDS FOR PEACE:** (L-R) Japhet students Gavin Anderson (2nd grade of Royal Oak), Sofia Shields (2nd grade of Royal Oak), and Esmé Marcellini (1st grade of Ferndale) are all members of Japhet's after-school Kids for Peace chapter.

***CUPS:** Japhet School students decorated over 70 reusable water cups for students who attend the Kids for Peace School in Kenya.

About Japhet School:

Founded in 1973, Japhet School is an independent school, serving children the metropolitan Detroit area in preschool through eighth grade. Its mission is to nurture and prepare each child for life by

integrating character education with a strong academic program. The school provides small classes of fewer than 20 students in each, which enables teachers to challenge students with academic material that is appropriate for their intellectual readiness, regardless of age or grade. Integrated with strong academics is Japhet School's national award-winning character education curriculum, which builds a peaceful community within the school. The school's public speaking curriculum gives graduates confidence in leadership roles. Japhet is a National School of Character: it was the first school in Michigan -- and the first independent school in the country -- to receive this award. To learn more about Japhet, visit japhetschool.org.

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