



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 10, 2018

Contact: Betsy Stecker  
Communications Director  
betsy.stecker@japhetschool.org  
248 585-9150

## **Japhet School Students Stuff Duffels and Totes During Annual Family Service Night -- four photos with captions**

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 character 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, December 6.

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.

Japhet School staff and the school's Kids for Peace chapter organized three service activities:

- The school collected blankets, stuffed animals, and toiletries; students stuffed the items into donated duffels for Oakland Family Services in Pontiac. Children who are placed into foster care are often done so with little warning, and these duffels give them some necessary products and items for comfort. 26 large, full duffels were donated.
- The school's class of 3rd- and 4th-graders collected gloves, socks, and hats for the COTS Emergency Shelter in Detroit. On Family Service Night, families decorated large totes and stuffed them with the donated winter gear. Japhet donated 30 totes as well more than 100 toiletry items.
- Japhet's animal-loving Kids for Peace chapter purchased supplies to make cat toys during Family Service Night, and about 60 toys were donated to a local animal shelter.

Japhet School was founded 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.

Four photos with captions (high-res photos attached):



“1 Duffel stuffing Japhet School”:

Zoë Niemkiewicz of Royal Oak, a 6th-grade student at Japhet School, stuffed a large duffel with a fleece blanket, stuffed animal, and toiletries. Japhet School donated the duffels to Oakland Family Services in Pontiac.

*Editor: Japhet School has parent permission to share this child’s name, city, and school.*



2 “Duffel stuffing toothpaste Japhet School”:

Sofia Shields of Royal Oak, a 3rd-grade student at Japhet School, helped organize toiletries before they were donated to Oakland Family Services and COTS.

*Editor: Japhet School has parent permission to share this child’s name, city, and school.*



“3 Tote bags Japhet School”:

Japhet preschoolers and their parents decorated tote bags. Each bag was stuffed with a hat, new socks, and warm gloves and given to the COTS Emergency Shelter in Detroit.



“4 7th-graders supper Japhet School”:

Japhet School’s class of 7th- and 8th-grade students cooked spaghetti supper and desserts for the whole school community as a warm-up to the evening’s service projects.

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. 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](http://japhetschool.org).

# #