



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Students Create Care Packages for Teacher's Husband, Classmate's Brother**

**Madison Heights, Michigan** - Students in Japhet School's first- and second-grade classrooms have created care packages for their teacher's husband, a classmate's brother, and a family friend of the teacher -- all servicemen in active duty.

"The students and I were inspired by a recent eighth-grader's presentation about 'Operation Gratitude,'" says Lauren Jones, the second-grade teacher. "Operation Gratitude" is a nonprofit organization that creates care packages for overseas soldiers. "As a special service project for our classes, we're doing our own mini version of 'Operation Gratitude' to show gratitude and patriotism for those soldiers close to us."

The servicemen are Airman David Jones, the teacher's husband who is an Air National Guard soldier in Afghanistan; Airman Jamie Miller, an Air Force serviceman serving in New Mexico; and Specialist Tyler Ring, an Army soldier serving in Texas who is the brother of a Japhet second-grader. The classes collected nonperishable snack items and made a fleece blanket for each soldier.

This classroom project was one of three holiday service projects at Japhet School. Whether families are in a position to give something new, share used things, or can share their time, the school offered a variety of ways to give for the month of December. In addition to the care packages, Japhet School is running a coat drive and pajama drive.

Japhet School's Recycling Committee is sponsoring a used coat drive for a local shelter. As families purchase new coats for themselves and their growing children, most shelters will gladly receive the coats and other winter items - hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and boots - for adults and children in need of as the cold season hits.

Japhet's faculty and staff is sponsoring The Pajama Program, a national nonprofit that collects new pajamas and books and distributes them to children in need who live near the collecting organization. "The winter season is a particularly critical time when these children are most vulnerable," says program founder Genevieve Piturro. "Warm, clean pajamas help to protect them against night chills and harmful conditions. Emotionally pajamas are a hug for children who feel lost and alone." The Lighthouse of Oakland County is receiving 40 pairs of pajamas and two dozen new books from Japhet families and staff.



**PHOTO CAPTIONS:**

Allison Ring of Troy, a Japhet School second-grader, is excited to join her class in a service project that will send a big box of healthy snacks and a class-made blanket to her brother in active duty in Texas, as well as to two other servicemen: her teacher's husband in Afghanistan and an Air Force airman in New Mexico.



Japhet School's second-grade class and their teacher, Lauren Jones, made three blankets for servicemen in active duty: one to Mrs. Jones's husband in Afghanistan, another to a student's brother in Texas, and a third to an Air Force airman in New Mexico.

**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 and creates leaders with integrity. 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 [www.japhetschool.org](http://www.japhetschool.org). # #