



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Japhet School Hosts Coat Drive and Makes Scarves to Benefit Local Families

Madison Heights, Michigan - "Give up the coats!" is scrawled upon a student-made poster in one of Japhet School's hallways -- a third-grader's plea to inspire the school's community to donate gently used coats and other winter gear to help those who need protective outerwear. Heading into winter, the school hosted a coat drive in preparation for its annual "Family Service Night" that took place on Tuesday, December 18. The school's families, teachers, and staff made nearly 100 fleece scarves that will travel with several moving boxes of coats for St. Vincent de Paul's "Bundle Up Michigan" coat drive.

Family Service Night, which is an annual tradition of Japhet School each December, is combined with a Spaghetti Supper served by the school's seventh- and eighth-grade students. The evening offered two activities for families to work in joined effort: the scarf-making project and a greeting card center. In addition to the scarves, students and their families made 175 homemade holiday greeting cards for veteran residents of the John D. Dingell V.A. Medical Center in Detroit.

Japhet School is a National School of Character -- the very first in Michigan -- and its award-winning character education curriculum is at the heart of the school's culture and is integrated into the daily lives of students. Its 18 character qualities are defined with action statements that help students understand and express good character. Students learned how three of these qualities -- patriotism, gratitude, and joy -- have a direct connection to service.

Patriotism has eight action statements that students learn, and the value is connected to service with the statement, "Make my country and world a better place to live through community service." Japhet's definition of gratitude has seven action statements, including "Put gratitude into action by giving selflessly of my time, talents, and resources." Joy -- the character quality in focus in December -- reminds students to think of the hardships of others with the statement, "Overcome sadness and dejection with hope and joy."

"Character education cannot be taught in a bubble, focusing only on hypothetical circumstances," says Cathy Mohan, Head of School. "It becomes real for students when schools and parents create opportunities for children to choose ... *to act*. They need to

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witness how expressing good character enacts positive change. This can be done in the day-to-day teaching as well as in special events like service initiatives.”



PHOTO CAPTION: Nicole Wrona and her children Veda (lt) and Logan (rt) of Madison Heights joined other families in Japhet School's annual Spaghetti Supper and Family Service Night on Tuesday. The school community made nearly 100 fleece scarves for St. Vincent de Paul and 180 greeting cards for residents of the Detroit Veterans Medical Center.

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. # #