



Trumbauersville students help needy enjoy Thanksgiving feast



By Gary Weckselblatt

Trumbauersville Elementary School students and their parents truly showed their compassion in the days prior to Thanksgiving.

The school of approximately 379 students had a goal of donating 379 cans of nonperishable food items to the area's needy families for the Thanksgiving holiday. They nearly tripled that output with an outstanding effort of 1,184 cans.

"The kids were really excited about this," said Adam Schmucker, Trumbauersville's principal. "They wanted to make sure we help support the people in our school community."

The food was donated to the Milford Pantry, part of the Bucks County Housing Group.

Dianna Curran of the BCHG praised the "generosity of your students" in a phone call to the school. She said the 1,230 pounds of canned goods was an "awesome demonstration of your willingness to help other people. You actually made a lot of people very happy this Thanksgiving."

She said 69 Thanksgiving boxes with a turkey dinner went out to the local community, along with an additional bag of food thanks to the students' generosity.

The major effort was part of the school's "Cans of Compassion" event, which took place from Nov. 13-17, the school's Spirit Week.

During that time, the school placed extra emphasis on the term "compassion," one of the key characteristics of Trumbauersville's school wide positive behavior plan of CPR -- compassion, perseverance, and respect, according to Laura Gordon, the school counselor.

The Trumbauersville CPR program is a research based school-wide positive behavior support system. The goal is to create a safe learning community that promotes student achievement through the consistent practice of compassion, perseverance, and respect.

CPR promotes the development of clearly defined and consistent student expectations and accountabili-



Students at Trumbauersville Elementary School proudly stand in front of the boxes of canned goods they helped pack for Quakertown area families.

ties, communication and collaboration amongst all members of the community, and data-based school-wide behavior supports.

Students have received lessons focused on the ideals of showing compassion, perseverance, and respect in all areas of the school. Lessons include teaching students what these ideals look like in each area and a focus is on honest self-reflection and setting goals for future behavior

"It's something we're really trying to emphasize," Schmucker said. "Unfortunately, right now there are lots of conversations around differences in a negative way, whether they be gender or socioeconomic. We strive to help our students understand the similarities of people and how to help everybody appreciate different perspectives."

The food drive, for example, relates to the way everybody may not have financial resources, he said, and it's important, if you're able, to share with them. "It brings us together in a unifying way that focuses on good things and helps individuals bond together," he said.

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