

For Immediate Release

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**Canton Intermediate School Kicks Off “Kids Care Club”
with Donation of 2,000 Items to Therapeutic Child Center**

CANTON, CT, January 14, 2010 – This week marked the inaugural meeting of a new kind of club at Canton Intermediate School (CIS), but rather than a sport or hobby, this club focuses on kids helping others. An offshoot of the school’s Quality Council, the 58 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade members of the Kids Care Club will plan and execute projects aimed at improving the lives of others in their extended community.

As its first project, the Kids Care Club contributed to a massive toy and book drive for the Therapeutic Child Center at Family Services of Greater Waterbury. The Therapeutic Child Center needed books, toys, musical instruments, arts & crafts and other supplies for its programs supporting children age birth to 5. The Child Center is seeking accreditation and needed more supplies than it had to meet the accreditation standards. Most of the children served come to the Center because their families are facing challenges – like leaving an abusive marriage, grappling with substance abuse or struggling with unemployment. The Center gives the children a safe, enriching and educational place to be while their parents get the support they need. Together with teachers and parent leaders, students at CIS collected more than 2,000 new and gently used items in November and early December, and sorted and packed up the donation for the Center. The items filled three cars.

“This is the biggest load we’ve ever gotten,” said Holly Leone, development associate at Family Services of Greater Waterbury. It will be helpful to have a variety of toys, she said. “We can rotate through some of the toys. This will help us address the skills needed for accreditation from NAEYC [the National Association for the Education of Young Children].”

The toys, books and supplies will make a big difference in the lives of the children. “It’s going to keep the children interested, excited and engaged,” said Nancy Winslow, the Child Center’s director. “It’s going to help them socially, emotionally, with fine motor skills and with gross motor skills.”

“At Canton Intermediate School, one of our goals is to help children develop both academically and socially, to become better people through an awareness of community and community service. The Kids Care Club enables our students to identify specific needs, brainstorm ways to address those needs and then act in a way that has a direct impact on their community, with tangible and meaningful results,” said Jordan Grossman, principal of Canton Intermediate School.

“I always say I am proud of my students, and this type of club helps to demonstrate why. The donation to the Therapeutic Child Center at Family Services of Greater Waterbury called for our students to dig into their own toy boxes and bookshelves and decide which things they were willing to give up for children who are less fortunate than themselves. This kind of generosity might seem uncommon, but it is a frequent occurrence here at CIS.”

At their first meeting, students brainstormed ideas, which fell into five categories – care for the environment, activities with and for seniors, fundraising and help for the poor, gifts for service people and care for animals. Students agreed to come to the next meeting in February with handmade Valentine’s Day cards which will be distributed to local senior citizens.

About Canton Intermediate School

Canton Intermediate School serves fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students in Canton. The school’s goals are to develop student skills and knowledge to the maximum potential, to assist students in recognizing the components, value and practice of leading a healthy lifestyle, to create an awareness of the importance of community and community service, and to create a school culture that accepts responsibility for actions and recognizes how actions affect others. Additional information is available at

www.cantonschools.org/cis.



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Fifth graders Bran Berry and Aubrey Sanford help sort and pack more than 2,000 donations.



Students from sixth-grade teacher Patrick Allen's class load up three vehicles to transport the donations.



Sixth-grade students from Patrick Allen's class pose with their teacher after the load is packed.