

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPH CHILDREN DONATE MORE THAN \$8,048

TOLEDO, OH: The children of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Catholic Community announced the total of their charitable giving for the 2009-10 academic year this morning. Recipients of gifts from the weekly Joyful Noise Collection, special collections for Haitian Earthquake Relief, Heifer, International and the annual Mardi gras fund-raiser were at the 8:45 a.m. All-School Mass on Friday, March 5, 2010.

The Mardi gras celebration, which is a student-run event, has pledged receipts this year to the Assistance Dogs of America. This year's check is for **\$2,751.86** was presented to Rhonda DeKoninck, Judy Eckel and Sam of the Assistance Dogs of America, Incorporated.

Dr. Richard Paat, a 1974 graduate of SPH, also received a check for **\$1,400**. Dr. Paat used this funding to help provide medicine and supplies during his January medical mission trip to Haiti.

After the service, gave a slide show presentation to the students about this trip.

Children from the entire parish community contribute weekly to the Joyful Noise Collection, a coin collection taken up during every Mass. Each fiscal quarter, the funds from this collection are split and tithed to the parish and one charitable organization. The charitable groups were selected by a vote of all children registered in the school and the Religious Education program, called Family Faith Formation. This vote is taken each fall and children are asked to choose two organizations with local impact and two organizations that address global needs. 2010 Recipients include:

- **Jewish World Watch Solar Cooker Project** received **\$391** in February of 2010. Funds were used to help women in Rwanda.
- **The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo** will receive funds in early April. **To date \$193** has been raised, and this collection continues through the end of March.
- **The Child Hunger Relief Fund** will receive funding collected in April - June.
- **TeamUnite** will receive funds collected from July - September, and this gift will be made in memory of Alexa Brown of Clyde.
- **St. Patrick of Heatherdowns** has received **\$391** from this collection for parish needs.

A fourth fund-raising initiative began in February 2009 when students began raising money for Heifer, International. During this 18-month initiative, the students hope to generate \$5,000 - which would allow them to purchase an "ark-full" of animals for the organization (this means two of each type of animal available for Heifer, International sponsorship.) To date, students have raised **\$2,922 toward this goal.**

Presentations will be made at the end of the 8:45 a.m. Mass, at approximately 9:15 a.m. St. Patrick of Heatherdowns is located at 4201 Heatherdowns Blvd in South Toledo.

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Cutlines:

Dr. Richard Paat talks to SPH students about his medical mission trip to Haiti in January 2010.

(from left) Judy Eckel and Rhonda DeKoninck with Assistance Dogs of America, Inc., and SPH 8th graders Kyle Taylor and Jenny Kim take some time out to pet Sam, an Assistance Dog-in-training after Friday's check presentation.