

Parker students help GiftsToGive

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Students in Tamara Wells-Reynolds' Grade 4 Art Club students at the Parker School in New Bedford give a thumbs-up to doing good deeds. In their case, that means making a generous donation to GiftsToGive.

Courtesy of GiftsToGive

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NEW BEDFORD — With the support of Parker Elementary School Principal Paul Fay, Teacher Tamara Wells-Reynolds and her Grade 4 After-School Art Club, raised \$382.96, from raffle ticket sales for their art work.

Now here's the rest of the story ...

After a visit from Homeless Liasion Kelly Cabral-Mosher, the students learned about homelessness and the lesson definitely made a mark.

The kids then chose GiftsToGive to be the recipient of their profits, so that they could help less fortunate kids. Their generous gift will help get basic essentials to 15 local kids who are in need. But they're not stopping there.

GiftsToGive is a SouthCoast non-profit, based in New Bedford whose mission is to connect children to giving and service. And Parker's student artists plan to visit the mill where Gifts to Give is located and to help out at the Custom Designed, Birthday Wrap Art production line.

"I am inspired not only by the students' art but by their overwhelming sense of hope and positivity," said Cabral-Mosher. "The students are learning that when they work together, they can be a positive force for change in their community."

Jim Stevens, GiftsToGiveCEO and founder, said in a statement, "These kids are amazing – not only for how they express themselves through their art but for me, they represent a great hope for their generation."

By the way, community members can donate "gently used" children's things and/or volunteer at GiftsToGive by calling 508-717-8715 or by visiting www.giftstogive.org.

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