



District 95 Schools Aid Tsunami Victims



The images of the December 2004 earthquake and resulting tsunamis in Asia deeply affected adults and children around the world. Springing to action, people began donating money and goods to help the victims of this unfathomable tragedy.

In the last 30 days alone, \$1.167 billion has been donated to the Red Cross federation. Millions more have been donated to other charities joining in the relief effort. Some of those donated dollars have come from the children, families and staff of Community Unit School District 95.

Through bake sales, donation bins, wristbands, potato chips, cookie dough sales and many more fund raising activities, thousands of dollars have been collected and donated to charities that are directly helping the victims of the tsunami.

The PTO at **Sarah Adams School** donated profits from their Market Day cookie dough sales. Fourth and fifth graders participated in an "Earn it and Give it" program, where students would do chores for others in return for \$1 that went to the relief effort. Still others held a baked goods sale at the school, raising \$363 one quarter at a

time. The proceeds from tonight's cake walk will also be donated.

Students at **Middle School North** sought donations during lunch, in their home room and at the school's front office. Their efforts raised more than \$1,000. In addition, two students took on the tsunami fund raising activity as a community project and collected \$1,028.83.

After learning of the students' efforts, Baxter Healthcare offered to donate \$2 for every dollar raised. The grand total of donations from Middle School North and Baxter came to a whopping \$3,086.49! The money will be split between the American Red Cross and AmeriCares.

On January 10, students at **Lake Zurich**

High School raised more than \$1,400 in only 10 minutes during a lightning fast fund raising effort by the Lake Zurich Honor Society. Other groups at the high school contributed additional dollars to the relief effort through other activities.

Middle School South Student Council members led the effort at their school,

collecting \$2,000 in donations.

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Tsunami Tsupport bracelets (right) were sold by Charles Quentin School students to raise relief funds.

Sarah Adams School students (pictured at right) raised more than \$363 for Tsunami relief during their "Lend a Hand and You'll Feel Grand" Bake Sale.

They Said It...

"Preventative budget maintenance: *Although they are still two years from their earliest projected deficit, Lake Zurich District 95 officials are scrutinizing every bit of spending at each of their nine schools. Any expenditure that doesn't fit the district's core values and strategic plan is out. This kind of effort to spend tax dollars wisely is not only admirable; it should be standard operating procedure for all school districts.*"

-- From the "Saturday Soapbox" in the Opinion section of the Jan. 29, 2005 edition of The Daily Herald

Project Playground Promotes Positive Play



On January 31, students at Middle School North were treated to basketball tricks that included dribbling, passing, juggling, shooting and lots of fun interaction with **Ramon Rodriguez, Bobbito Garcia and Black Jack Ryan**. The threesome—known as Project Playground—have been featured on the Nike® Freestyle TV commercials, MTV, numerous NBA and college half-time shows, festivals, schools, camps and corporate events. The three have traveled the world displaying their tricks and sharing their love for basketball and positive playground play. Judging by the laughter and cheers, the trio won over a lot more fans.

Another 6 Weeks of Winter!

On Wednesday, Feb. 2, Groundhog Day, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow. The world's most famous furry forecaster saw his shadow on Gobbler's Knob, suggesting another six weeks of winter weather.

Banking on a Great Financial Education

On January 26, a new bank branch was opened in Hawthorn Woods. That may not seem too noteworthy until you find out that it was opened in an elementary school and that it is being run by bankers not yet in their teens!

Run by fifth grade students at Spencer Loomis Elementary School, the Spencer Loomis/ Washington Mutual Bank is open on Wednesdays, when school is in session, from 12:45-1:15 p.m..

At this special bank, students are able to make actual cash deposits as small as 25 cents. Because this school

bank is associated with Washington Mutual, once they have opened an account, the students can also make deposits or withdrawals at any

Washington Mutual financial center.

Through this program, the fifth grade students have the opportunity to learn and practice basic financial management and banking skills. The fifth grade students run the bank with the help of PTO parent volunteers. The fifth grader bankers gain experience in many different aspects of banking, from the account application



Fifth graders **Chris Helgeson** does his banking with tellers (from left to right) **Ally Blake, Jeremy Krause,** and **Harrison Goodridge**.

process to actually handling deposits.

Jump Rope for Heart



The music will be thumping and students jumping (rope that is) at **Isaac Fox Elementary School** as part of the school's "Jump Rope for Heart" fund raiser on Friday, February 18, from 3-6 p.m., in the school's gym

and cafeteria, 395 W. Cuba Road, Lake Zurich. This year, 125 fourth and fifth graders will participate in the fund raising event for the American Heart Association (AHA).

Last year, the school raised more than \$13,000 for the AHA, who uses such funds for research and to spread the awareness of how to fight stroke and heart disease. Many of the students raised \$200 by themselves in sponsorships, with one student raising over \$1,200.

For more information, or to sponsor a student in the "Jump Rope for Heart," fund raiser; call Isaac Fox Elementary School, (847) 540-7032.

Coming Attractions.....

- **Feb. 5:** Sarah Adams Fun Fair
- **Feb. 8:** Isaac Fox Fifth Grade Music program, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 10:** Early Release Day
 - Orchestris Show, 7 p.m.
 - Committee of the Whole, 6 p.m., Annex Bldg.
- **Feb. 11:** Orchestris Show, 7 p.m.
 - Seth Paine Teddy Bear Tea
 - MSS Activity Night
 - MSN Valentine Dance, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 12:** District 95 Orchestra Festival, 2 p.m., LZHS Field House
- **Feb. 13:** Camerata Chicago/Student Concert, PAC, 7 p.m., Tickets: \$7 students, \$12 seniors and \$18 general admission.

Tsunami Relief (cont.)

Charles Quentin School raised more than \$3,000 by selling green silicone Tsunami Tsupport bracelets, similar to the Lance Armstrong Foundation bracelet. The bracelets are expected arrive this week.

Isaac Fox School donated funds from a school cake walk at their school fun fair. In addition, **Stephanie Schaefer's** fourth grade class held a chip sale during lunch using the slogan: "Chip in and help the tsunami victims."

More than \$300 was collected at **Seth Paine School**. In addition, the proceeds at a fund raiser at TGI Friday's and proceeds from their cookie dough sale were also donated to the relief effort.

May Whitney School will be holding a special Valentine's Day fund raiser for the relief effort. Students will be selling Valentine messages, 1 for .25 cents or 4 for \$1. The messages can be sent to friends and others throughout the school.

The Student Council sponsored the fund raising event at **Spencer Loomis School**. Each class that had every student donate at least \$1 got to swap teachers with another class that also had 100 percent class participation. Since all classes had 100 percent participation, all classes got to swap teachers. The swap raised \$1,056.18. The students are looking for a local business to match this total so that even more money can be donated to the tsunami relief effort.

PTO's to Sponsor Board Candidate Forums

The combined Community Unit School District 95 PTO's will be hosting three school board candidate forums prior to the April 5 election. These forums are open to the entire community.

The format of the forums will be question and answer. Community members will write questions to the candidates on cards, which will be read by a facilitator. Candidates will have an allotted amount of time to answer the questions directed to them. These forums will offer you a great opportunity to learn more about the candidates who are seeking to be a member of the Board of Education. The dates and locations of the forums are:

- **Monday, February 28**
7:30 p.m.
Lake Zurich Middle School South – Cafeteria
435 West Cuba Rd., Lake Zurich
- **Wednesday, March 9**
7:30 p.m.
Seth Paine Elementary School – Library
50 Miller Rd., Lake Zurich
- **Tuesday, March 22**
7:30 p.m.
May Whitney Elementary School – Library
120 Church St., Lake Zurich

STORY UPDATE: Beanies for Baghdad

Community Unit School District 95
Office of Communications & Community Relations
THRIVE in 95

Dear Editor:

I only just learned that you included Beanies for Baghdad (B4B) in your November 12, 2004 issue, and I want to take a moment to thank you. The B4B program, while I was in Iraq, received and delivered over 100,000 items to children.

I wrote in one of my B4B updates: Sometimes life gives you the chance to touch someone's life. I want to change that statement: Sometimes life changes you, to touch someone's life.

One of the hardest things I have ever done is not share my food with some young Iraqi children, when we first entered the country. When we set up the B4B program, it gave us a chance to deliver school supplies and Beanie Babies to local schools. But it really was the donors who made this program work, not the soldiers.

On our visit to one of the schools in June 2003, we went class-to-class handing out the Beanie Babies and candy. I must say, even before the children knew we had toys and candy, they were full of excitement to see American soldiers at their school.

I am not sure I can describe the feeling of standing in the middle of 300+ children; all yelling, screaming, asking your name over and over, pushing and shoving, just to shake my hand. I did not stop smiling the whole time, but it was not because of what I felt. It was the smiles, I saw on their faces. They had received and given me joy, just by talking and touching me. I will remember that forever. The toys gave them a joy they could take with them.

Once we started to hand out the toys and candy, the whole school was a buzz. Even the teachers were excited for the kids and themselves, who also wanted the Beanie Babies, which was fine, because we had plenty.

Something special happened that day for me; one of the young female students went out of her way to talk to me. She spoke English extremely well. She told me that she was a Christian and wanted to know if I was. I told her that I believe in God. She got a hurt look on her face and asked, "You are Muslim?" As simply as I could, I told her "No, but in America, you can believe in God any way you want, so long as you do not force someone to believe the same as you." She took my hand in her hand and kissed it. Before letting go of my hand she said: "You are good man, thank you."

That moment, that day, I shall remember forever. I am a good man and that little girl will never let me forget it.

I learned another lesson from the whole experience of being in Iraq; Children, no matter where they are from, want to give, care and love.

Sincerely,

Kirk E. Wallace
Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army



Are You a Key Communicator?

Public schools must depend on the support of local citizens if they are to be strong and vital learning environments. In turn, the interest and support of citizens depends on their understanding and engagement in school affairs. That is why Community Unit School District 95 has created its **Key Communicator** program.

Our Key Communicator program is a network of community residents, leaders, opinion shapers and watchdogs whose opinions are well respected by friends, colleagues and neighbors. We are not looking for cheerleaders, but people who care about our schools and want to be kept informed and are then willing to share that information with others.

As a Key Communicator, you will receive timely, factual information via a newsletter e-



mailed to you about the work we're doing and the issues affecting your school district and your schools. Because this is designed to be a two-way communications network, we encourage you to give us your input and share your opinions. Your responsibility will be to share school district news with friends, neighbors and colleagues. To become a Key Communicator, simply call, email or fax:

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THRIVE in 95 is produced by the Community Unit School District 95 Office of Communications & Community Relations for staff and interested community members. Story submissions are greatly encouraged.

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