

Blanket Statement



Blackrock third grade collects and donates blankets

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COVENTRY — Grade three students at Coventry's Blackrock Elementary School recently sponsored a new blanket drive where they collected 136 blankets.

"Collections were part of our community service project and took place for the months of October and November," Blackrock Elementary School Principal Nicole Hitchener explained.

The types of blankets purchased and donated included baby and youth blankets, throws and bed blankets.

Mia Ancil, Michael Rico and Hanna Brosseau were among those students who participated and called it "a great experience."

"We handed out flyers to the school to let everyone know what we wanted to do," Ancil, who takes part in other good causes as well, said. "I really care about charities and I told my mom about it; she agreed that I should do it. It felt good to do and we know there are

some who don't have good homes."

Brosseau explained how the project came about through a social studies project.

"We wanted to do a community service project and everyone came up with ideas," she said. "We all voted on them and the top three we put into a bucket and chose one."

Brosseau also takes part in community service projects outside of school. One she recalled doing a few years ago was collecting

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Blankets give all involved at Blackrock good feelings

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stuffed animals for a drive.

Rico enjoyed taking part because he "likes to be generous."

"It's important to give back and help others in the community," he said. "It's a really good feeling."

Third-grade teacher Diana Lachance said it was the most amazing thing to be going over the Newport Bridge and witness

the sunrise the morning she dropped off the 130 of the 136 blankets to a United Way homeless shelter with the other six hand-made blankets going to the Blankets for Linus program.

"I was overwhelmed by the feeling of warmth we sent out to Rhode Island homeless as this holiday season begins," she said. "I'm so thankful and so proud to have been a part of this effort of the entire Blackrock

Elementary School Community and friends of the teachers and staff."

Hitchener said the next big community service project, collecting non-perishables for the Coventry Food Pantry, has already gotten underway and is going strong.

"We were able to collect 400 items for the Thanksgiving drive and we're hoping to reach that or surpass it this time," she said.