

## CHS students build for Tomorrow

### Carpentry class project benefits cancer charity org.

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COVENTRY — Carpentry students at Coventry High School took what they learned in the classroom and constructed a giant gazebo, which ultimately benefited the Tomorrow Fund.

Carpentry teacher Scott Leavitt explained that this was the sixth year his junior and senior students had built a structure to raise money for the organization.

He said it all began one day when a woman approached him in the carpentry shop at school.

"I didn't know who she was but her mother worked at the high school," he said. "She came in and asked if we could build a kids playhouse for the Tomorrow Fund."

Leavitt explained that at the time he was not familiar with the organization but told her his students would build the playhouse anyways.

"We generated some money from the playhouse and then I started learning more about the charity and the next year they asked us to build a bigger project," he said.

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Scott Leavitt's Coventry HS carpentry students recently constructed a gazebo that was auctioned off to raise \$6,500 for The Tomorrow Fund.

Submitted Photo

# Tomorrow Fund benefits from CHS

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Once he and his students learned how the money was used, they were hooked.

The Tomorrow Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial and emotional help to families and children with cancer.

Leavitt said the money is not used towards cancer research, but to assist families of children with cancer by paying their mortgage or other bills.

"The charity hits home because my kids were younger when my students first began building and I never thought about kids having cancer," he said. "It's not

something you think of and I found out a lot of local families go through it."

This year, 16 students helped to build the gazebo. The carpentry program at the high school is a two-year program and students complete a project each year.

"The students start the project as juniors and during the year they start to understand the charity and the importance of the Tomorrow Fund," he said. "And then the next year, as seniors, it hits home the second time they complete the project."

The gazebo was auctioned off at The Tomorrow Fund's 25th Annual Fantasy Ball, held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet earlier

this month.

He said all the items the students have built throughout the years have been the "big ticket" raffle items during this fundraising event.

The gazebo was auctioned off for \$6,500 and delivered to the highest bidder the following day.

He said all the materials used to build the gazebo were donated, so all the proceeds from the auction go directly to the Tomorrow Fund.

Leavitt said he and his students will be partaking in projects for the Tomorrow Fund for many years to come.