

Students Helping Out

Hopkins Hill students giving good nights

Pajama drive aims keep cold nights a little warmer for the needy

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
kmill@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — Through the leadership and guidance of fifth-grade teacher Louise Martella, the fifth-grade students at Hopkins Hill Elementary School are helping to keep those in need cozy and warm during these bone-chilling months through a pajama drive.

“This is the first time we’ve done this and we’re doing it through the Alan Shawn Feinstein Good Deeds Program,” she said.

Martella said during the holidays there are

canned good drives and other types of drives but nothing during the month of February, so she thought it being the middle of winter as well, this would be a great way to get students involved while doing a good deed.

“They wanted to do something and I heard about a program called ‘One Million Good Nights’ that Oprah Winfrey had on as a segment for one of her shows years ago,” said the fifth-grade teacher. “I decide to have the Hopkins Hill Pajama Drive with donations going to a local chapter of ‘One Million Good Nights.’

The Pajama Program, founded in 2001, provides new pajamas for those in need nationwide, many of whom live in group shelters, temporary housing or are shuffled from one place to another, according to pajamaprogram.org.

Many of these children have never enjoyed the simple comfort of a new pair of pajamas.

The drive kicked off two weeks ago, right when the first major snowstorm hit, so donations have been slow to come in but Martella

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said the goal is 150 pairs.

"The kids announce it during the morning messages, practicing their public speaking skills and have made posters that have been hung throughout the school and have gone room to room taking collections," she said. "It's so cute to see

them so excited. Once the seed was planted, they took off with it."

So far, 27 pairs have been collected and students will be collecting until the end of February. They have to be brand new and donations are being accepted for all ages, from newborns to adults.