

Hopkins Hill feeds families for Thanksgiving

Students, community gather more than 1,200 canned goods for annual holiday food drive

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COVENTRY — The students, families, faculty and staff at Hopkins Hill will be giving away an impressive 27 Thanksgiving baskets this year as part of their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The school was able to collect over 1,200 canned goods and had plenty of help from the community.

According to Kim O'Connell, a

grade four teacher at Hopkins Hill Elementary, this year they will be distributing its highest number of baskets yet in the history of the long-running food drive tradition at the school.

"We started out maybe a week and a half to two weeks ago as part of our Feinsteins Good Deeds Program," said O'Connell.

Each class was assigned a different item to bring in for the food drive, and when combined the

school was able to use the items to stuff 27 baskets and have enough left over to go to the Coventry Food Bank.

O'Connell said the drive was truly a community effort. The family of one of the students at the school won a turkey and basket and donated it to the drive, First Student bus service donated six baskets and turkeys, Brookdale Senior Living Solutions provided three baskets and turkeys, Washington Oak

Elementary and Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School provided 8 baskets and turkeys total, and Stop and Shop on Tiogue Ave donated 15 turkeys. Dave's Supermarket donated \$500 which the staff used to stock the baskets with extras like butter, pie, fruit, veggies and other fresh items.

"With the \$500 we bought everything for a Thanksgiving meal," O'Connell said. "We will use what is leftover for Christmas."

O'Connell coordinated the donations and baskets and said Hopkins Hill School Nurse Diane Kowal did most of the shopping.

"It's just a very generous community we have here," said O'Connell. "Our families don't always have but they still give."

As part of their Feinsteins Good Deeds Program, Alan Shawn Feinstein will match the school \$1

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Submitted Photo

Hopkins Hill Elementary School donated 27 Thanksgiving baskets to school families this week with help from students, faculty and the community.

Drive

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for every canned good to help the school purchase supplies or learning materials.

“Once we start announcing the number of cans we have that’s when the kids start getting competitive,” O’Connell added. “Then they want to bring in more. Some students brought in a can every day.”

O’Connell said the drive was truly a team effort.

“It’s just amazing to see at this time of year - people coming together,” she said. “I wish we could do more of this all year long. It’s amazing what you’re able to accomplish when the community comes together.”

“We are overwhelmed and so appreciative of the generosity of our school community and the community at large,” said Hopkins Hill Principal Kathryn Tancrelle.

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