

Feinstein MS students show they've got sole

Falcon Junior Honor Society members fly high to collect shoes for the needy

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COVENTRY — Students from the National Junior Honor Society and the life skills program at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School teamed up to launch a shoe drive.

The drive began November 30 and runs until January 30 with more than 400 pairs of both new and used shoes.

According to Mary Bettez, assistant principal at the school, the purpose of the drive is twofold.

"We're doing it to raise funds for the life skills program for various field trips as well as the National Junior Honor Society," she said. "These programs will earn funds based on the number of pairs collected as Funds2Orgs will purchase all the donated goods."

Bettez explained that all donated shoes will be refurbished throughout a network of micro-enterprise partners in developing nations.

Funds2Orgs helps impoverished people start, maintain and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America, as well as some in Africa.

In an effort to spread awareness, the students organized and distributed the donation bins by team and created posters to display throughout the school.

"I enjoy it because I like taking care of people and I want them to have nice shoes," said Chris Strain.

Another student, Matthew Sellui, said it's something they can do all year.

"My favorite part has been going around to the classrooms and collecting," he said.

Ben Pires said it will make lives a little better.

"It really brings the school together," said Jake Julian. "People have to walk around



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The members of the National Junior Honor Society with the lifestyles class ready to donate another load of bags filled with shoes.

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Feinstein students collecting shoes for the needy in drive

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and it's a really great cause."

"It's a great thing to give back and make lives better," said Lorenzo Zonfrilli.

"I like it because you're not just throwing away shoes, they're going to a good cause," said Jayson Ryan.

Natahalie Fortier and Bianco Colucci like how the school has come together to help out the less fortunate.

"It gives me a good feeling in

my heart," said Devin Fabio, who has been making the rounds collecting with others.

Kristin Skwirz, special educator, said the project also has the benefit of incorporating lessons such as counting with the bags and number of shoes, organizing with the shoes and maintaining a spreadsheet to keep track of how many donations come in and socialization when it comes to visiting all 13 classrooms to talk about the drive and respond to emails.

Proceeds from the show sales are used to feed, clothe and house their families.

"We are excited about our shoe drive," she said. "We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us and help those less fortunate become self-sufficient. It's a win-win for everyone."

Anyone can help by donating gently-worn, used or new shoes at the school located at 15 Foster Dr.