

Tiogue joins in effort to help cancer patients

Coventry elementary collects pennies for patients as part of program

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COVENTRY — Students at Tiogue Elementary School have donated their time and money during the past two weeks to help raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS).

Fourth grade teacher Cheryl Canfield-Ross has been the coordinator for Pennies for Patients for four years.

Although the school has participated in the fundraiser for 10

years, Canfield said she wanted to become the coordinator after her father passed away from lymphoma.

"This cause is definitely near and dear to my heart," she said.

The fourth grade class helps sponsor the drive, which was held March 1- 15, by creating posters, announcing the drive, and hosting numerous fundraising events at the school.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society donated boxes to the school to place in each classroom.

Students then emptied their piggy banks and filled the boxes with either coins or dollars.

"Some people were generous by putting in \$5 or \$10," she added. "Some families even sent in checks to help out."

To encourage some friendly competition, the top three students who brought the most money in from each grade received a coupon for the school store.

"The society likes to have competition between classes but we did it as a school incentive," she

explained. "So the money we raised got us a pennant and as a school we were recognized for raising the money."

This year, the school was able to raise approximately \$1,500 — \$200 more than last year.

Along with putting money into the boxes located in the classrooms, students were given an opportunity to donate and have fun.

A popcorn day was held for the students; they were able to purchase popcorn at lunch for 75

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cents, which raised \$153.

Also, students were able to represent their school colors or favorite sports team by wearing jerseys and hats for \$1. This event raised another \$155.

Canfield explained that the students are very involved and have a great time participating in these fundraising events.

She said the Parent Teacher

Association (PTA) is also a big part of the drive, having donated all the popcorn during the popcorn day.

"The PTA and volunteers from the LLS work with Coinstar to help count the money," she said.

Because the LLS is a charity, Coinstar does not take out a percentage of the coins like it typically does. Once the money is counted out a receipt is sent to LLS.