

COVENTRY

# TIOGUE TEAMWORK



Photo by Kendra Lolio

Tiogue Grade 5 safety patrol students Kyleigh Matola, Anna Bryson, Sophia Sigman and Arianna Tefft.

## Tiogue Elementary School hosts collection drive for hurricane victims

By KENDRA LOLIO

klolio@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — Students, families, faculty and staff at Tiogue Elementary have had an eventful back-to-school season over the last couple of days thanks to their Hurricane Harvey collection drive. In just under two weeks the school has gathered nearly 200 items to assist with the cleanup efforts in Texas, where communities have been displaced by torrential rain and heavy flooding.

The donated items, sitting outside the school's main office this week, will be

delivered to Cardi's Furniture today in conjunction with the company's Texas Relief Drive going on at various locations, including West Warwick. Cardi's has teamed up with Gallery Furniture in Texas and Arpin Van Lines to transport items to a Houston checkpoint. Although many drives are collecting clothes and sanitary items, Cardi's is asking for cleaning supplies for their work to help cleanup 1,000 homes damaged by the weather, including mops, buckets, paint brushes and much more.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) esti-

mates that just a single inch of water in a home can cause more than \$20,000 in damage, and rainfall in Texas reached up to 50 inches last week.

According to Tiogue Grade 4 ELA, Social Studies and Content Specialist Tara D'Aleno, donations poured in from teachers, students, staff and families in a short amount of time. One family even donated 24 boxes of adult diapers.

"We've collected 187 items to send between Tuesday and today," D'Aleno said on Friday morning. "I'm going to bring it all there tomorrow myself."

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# Drive

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Students brought in plenty of mops, disinfectant wipes, sponges, paper towels and other cleaning and building supplies.

D'Aleno said the collection drive is part of the school's initiative to be a Feinstein Leadership School, which involves finding ways to help the community through different projects. The collection drive is just one project of

many the students at the school will participate in throughout the year to give back and learn the value of community.

Grade 5 safety patrol students Kyleigh Matola, Anna Bryson, Sophia Sigman and Arianna Tefft helped D'Aleno to gather the items and load them up Friday morning to be transported to Cardi's.

"I think it's so great," D'Aleno said of the students' efforts. "This was done in such a short amount of time and the kids really helped so much."

"We are so proud of the quick turn-around and participation given the short notice," said new Tiogue Principal Domenic Giusti. "The students and their families truly stepped up to the challenge and donated much needed supplies for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We hope that we do not need to do a similar donation drive as Hurricane Irma approaches Florida."

The collection drive at Cardi's will be running Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at their Swansea, South Attleboro, West Warwick and Wareham locations.