



Vestal Central School District

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Tioga Hills Elementary students support the community with holiday projects

A holiday tradition, which completes a Social Studies unit on wants and needs, the fifth-grade Community Box Project at Tioga Hills Elementary was completed on November 30, 2023. In all, 50 shoe boxes filled with personal-care items were wrapped and delivered to the Park Terrace Community Food Pantry by fifth-graders and their teachers. The school's annual Holiday Food Drive, in conjunction with the Apalachin Lions Club, ended on December 5, 2023. The school-wide Food Drive netted 864 non-perishable food items, which were packed and picked up by Apalachin Lions Club members who were helped by fifth-grade Student Council members.

Facilitated by the fifth-grade teachers each year, the Community Box Project is tied into a Social Studies unit where students differentiate between needs and wants. Students also learn a lesson in kindness and giving back to the community. Students and their families filled the shoe boxes with personal-care items. The students brought the boxes to school and wrapped them, decorating the paper with holiday-themed messages and scenes. After lunch, they walked the short distance down Glann Road to deliver the boxes in person, where they will be shared with families who visit the Park Terrace Food Pantry during the holidays. While there, they toured the pantry and learned about its role in the community.

Also an annual tradition, the Tioga Hills Holiday Food Drive ran November 13 – December 5, 2023, in support of the Apalachin Lions Club Food Drive. Lions Club members Bob Jensen, Dave Houser, Dave Rupright, Jerry Strazik, Pete Sylvester, and John Whiting came by on December 1 and were assisted in packing up the donations by fifth-grade Student Council members Gianna Casterline, Melani Howell, Salvatore Peretore, and Sophia Secord.

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