

WE ARE STUDENTS.

We are leaders.

We are role models.

We are change makers.

We are here to serve.

We are making a difference.

We are just getting started.

we are...

St. Mary's Builders Club!



St. Mary's Builders Club
Sycamore, IL
2024-2025

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#B05119

Club Life



Our Kiwanis advisor, Steph Forsberg installing our new officers and members for the 2024-25 school year.





Our school celebrates Halloween with a Trunk-or Treat event after school. Our Builders Club members bagged up popcorn treats for all our little friends that came to the event.







5 of our Club members were winners in the Kiwanis Club of Sycamore's essay contest. The winners were Junior Marshalls for the Pumpkin Fest parade.









Crazy Christmas Sweater Day is always a fun day. Students in our school paid \$1 to be out of uniform. The funds were then donated to Sycamore Goodfellows, to purchase gifts for underprivileged children.





A little Christmas Party
entertainment from our
talented club members.

The Kiwanis Club of Sycamore holds an annual Pizza and Bowling party for the Builders Club members. Young and old Always have a great time together.







Our club President, Eileen is working with our scrapbook committee and giving directions during our scrapbook making meeting.



Service



These talented club members took on the role of Music Ministry at our school during our weekly school masses.



TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF

unicef



SEE WHAT YOUR DONATIONS CAN SEND:

\$5

could provide a year of safe water to a child

\$10

could provide one warm, fleece blanket

\$25

could provide a school with soccer balls

\$50

could provide a solar lamp to help children do their homework

TRICK-OR-TREAT
FOR UNICEF

This Halloween, the Box is Back!

It's kind of a big deal. Boxes like these have helped raise nearly \$200 million over eight decades to provide essentials like safe water, education and nutrition to children worldwide.

You're joining generations of Americans who have helped raise almost \$200 million for children.

Thank you!

unicef
USA

for every child

unicef





Kiwaniis[®]

CHILDREN'S FUND

December 12, 2024

Builders Club of St. Mary's School Sycamore
222 Waterma St.
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF gift of \$250.00. This year, your generosity will support the Start Strong: Zambia project, Key Club International's signature project in partnership with UNICEF.

Your gift will support UNICEF's efforts to create better futures for children in Zambia who lack access to health care, adequate nutrition and early learning opportunities.

For generations, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has been a powerful way to make a difference in children's lives. Today, that mission is as urgent as ever. Your donation will specifically support UNICEF's work to make early childhood development programs in Zambia possible. Because of you, young children and families will have access to healthcare and parenting support, age-appropriate toys and books and community centers with safe spaces for learning and playing.

Again, thank you for participating in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF and for supporting Key Club's Start Strong: Zambia project.

Yours in service,

Michelle Study-Campbell
Executive Director
Kiwaniis Youth Programs

Your gift is tax-deductible as provided by U.S. law. We verify no goods or services were provided to you in consideration for your gift. Please keep this letter as your receipt for tax purposes.

The Kiwanis Children's Fund is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and public charity as described in U.S. IRS Code section 170(b)(1)(A).



The Kiwanis Club of Sycamore holds a fall activity called "pumpkin Roll Down" each year. We have so much fun working together painting all the pumpkins used for prizes for the event.







We celebrated World Food Day with a food drive at our school. All the food collected went into our Blessing Box, which was our single service project last year.



We love our community! This Thanksgiving, we made Thank You cards and put together a bowl of candy to thank the many people who work at Kindred Hospital, right behind our school.



2/22/2025

Sue Croke
222 Waterman Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Sue,

Thank you for your generous donation of 90 Letters, and supporting those who serve. Since our founding in 2003, with the help of grateful Americans like you, we have delivered over **4 million** of our signature Care Packages to Deployed Troops, Veterans, Military Families, Recruit Graduates and First Responders. We are honored to serve those who have served us and are grateful for your support.

Your support has a tremendous impact. A Care Package boosts morale for a Service Member stationed far from home and enables a Veteran, Wounded Hero or Caregiver to feel appreciated -- many for the first time. Our Battalion Buddies bring comfort to the children of Deployed Troops at a very stressful time in their young lives. When we hand deliver Care Pouches to new Officer and Recruit Graduates, they know that as they begin their career of service to our great nation, they are supported along the way. And the delivery of First Responder Care Packages shows local heroes that their community values them in an often thankless job.

We recently received this email from a Care Package recipient deployed overseas:

Thank you! I wanted to personally reach out and say how much we appreciate the support you have shown from Operation Gratitude. I am currently on deployment and received one of the care packages; it has truly brought some extra joy into my life being so far from home. Please keep up the good work as I know there are many more of my brothers and sisters in the service that will be just as grateful as me. Again, thank you very much! Very Respectfully, AZ3 F, S.M. VAQ-132 "Scorpions"

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and wonderful patriotic spirit. Every single donation we receive furthers our mission, and the recipients of your generosity will remember your kindness forever. As a daughter of a retired Army Colonel, wife of a former Navy Petty Officer and sister of a former Deputy Sheriff, I will always be appreciative of your support and encouragement for Operation Gratitude. You are truly making a difference!

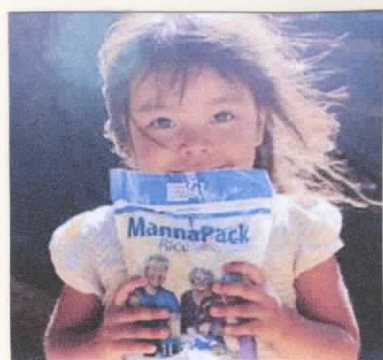
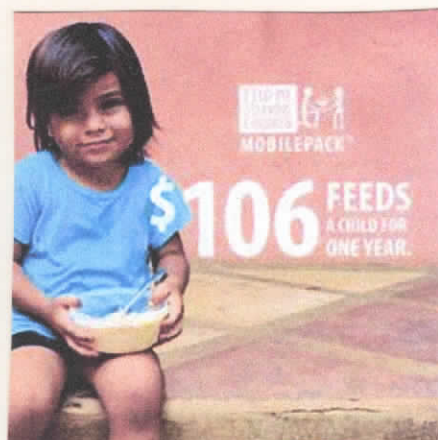
With Gratitude,

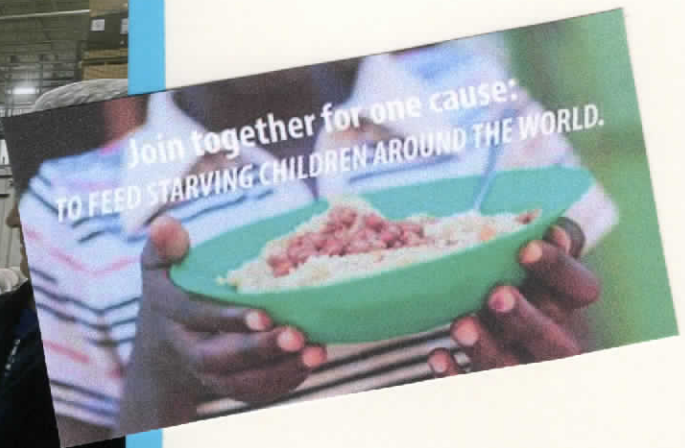
Meg Barron
Executive Director

Operation Gratitude has been granted non-profit status under Section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS Code. Your contribution to this organization is fully deductible in accordance with applicable law for federal income tax purposes as no goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Federal Tax ID # 20-0103575

Our club loves volunteering
for the Feed My Starving Children
Mobil Pack in our town every year.
It is such a rewarding experience.



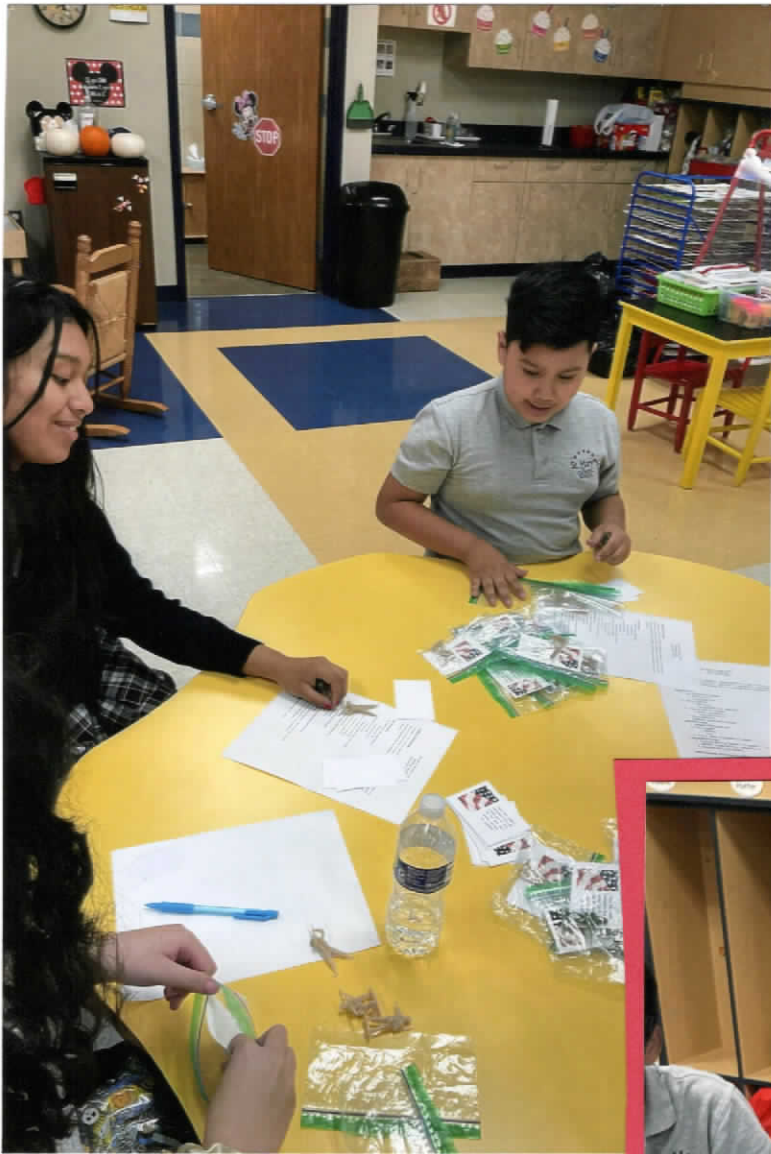






We celebrate our Veterans with a special Mass each year. Builders Club bagged up a soldier and prayer tag that was handed out to everyone at Mass.







January 18, 2025

St. Mary's School
322 Waterman Street
Sycamore IL 60178

Dear Friends:

Over eighty years ago a tradition of caring and sharing was established in the DeKalb/Sycamore area with the first Goodfellows Christmas project. This informal group meets only during the holiday season to help spread Christmas cheer to families in need.

Thank you for your support of Goodfellows of DeKalb/Sycamore and specifically for your 2025 donation of \$200.00.

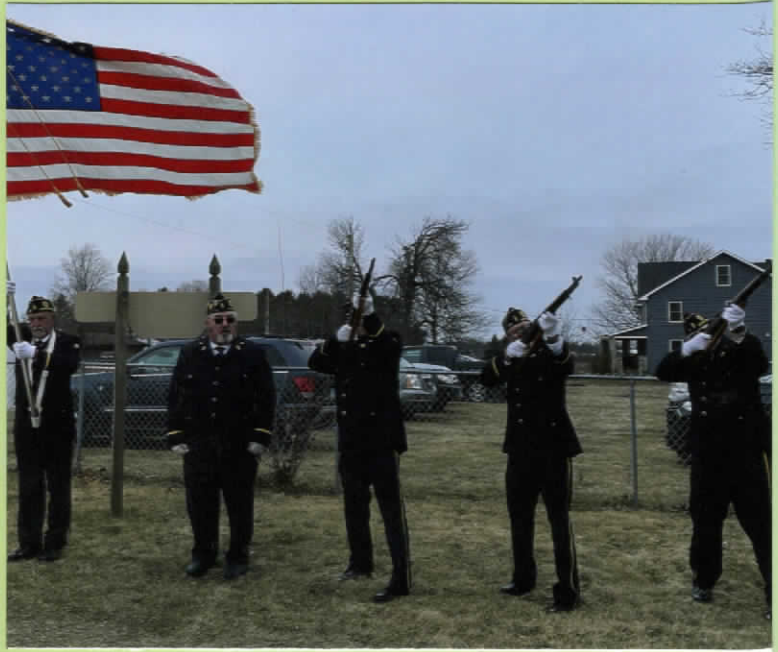
Please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny White- Treasurer
The 2025 Goodfellows Committee

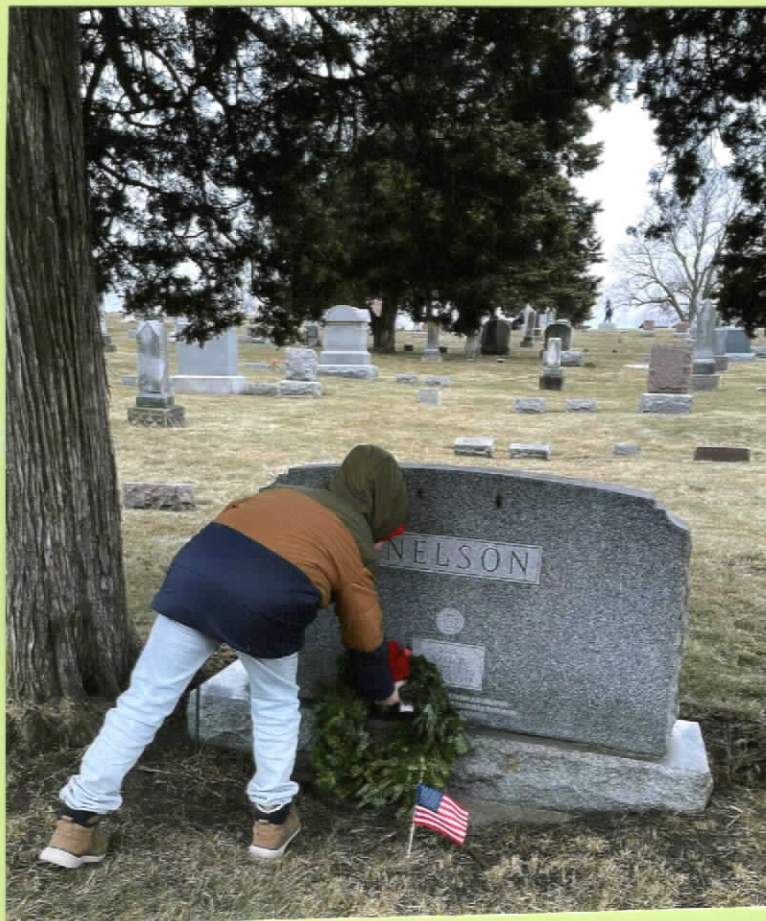
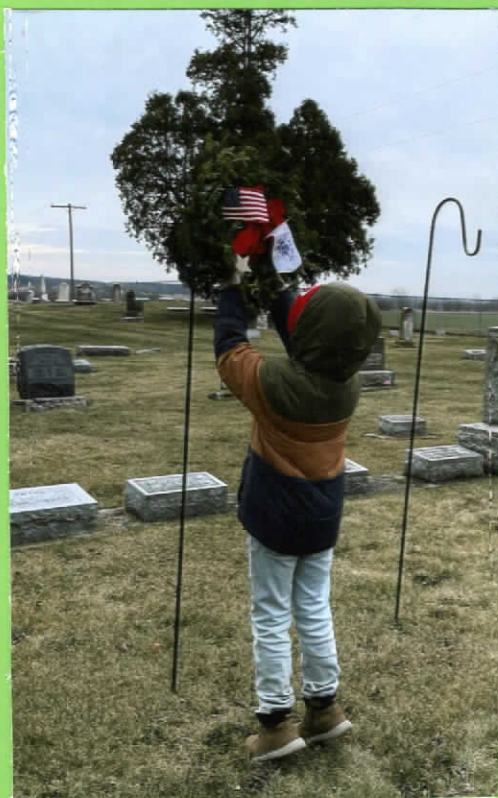
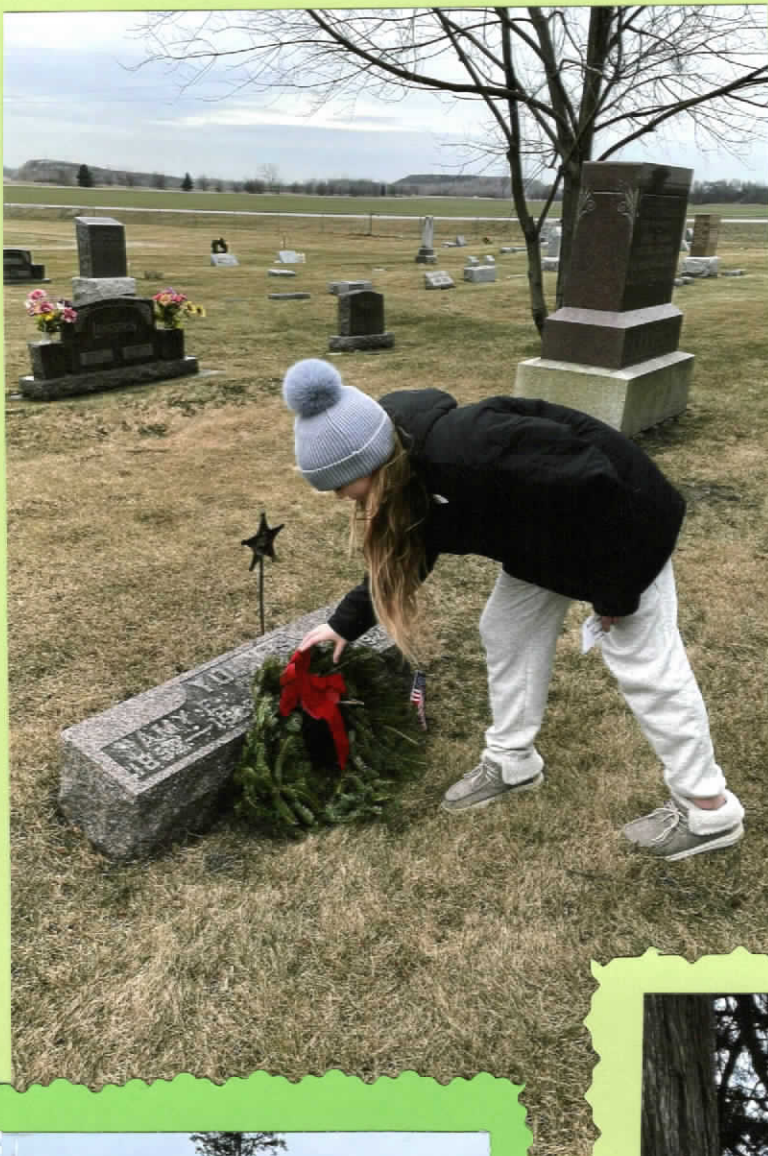
The Goodfellows of DeKalb/Sycamore are exempt from Federal income tax under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Goodfellows are tax deductible under Section 170. Our FEIN number is: 36-4195282



A favorite activity of our club is participating in Wreaths Across America. At our local cemetery, we participate in a small ceremony, and then help place wreaths on all the Veteran's graves.







Saint Mary

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYCAMORE, IL



January 7, 2025

Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation
Attn: Donations
PO Box 205
Bettendorf IA 52722

Dear friends,

Please accept this donation of \$200.00 to your research foundation, from our Builder's Club, here at St. Mary School in Sycamore, IL. Builder's Club programs help club members develop important social and emotional skills that promote meaningful connections with self and others. Our club members learn to be mindful servant leaders who pause and welcome each new experience with non-judgment and acceptance. Our Builders Club is student led and includes students from 5th - 8th grade. This year our club members chose to hold an Ice Cream Social in April to raise the money for this important cause.

Thank you for what you do.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sue Croke, Student Advisor
Builder's Club
St. Mary Catholic School
222 Waterman Street
Sycamore, IL 60178
scroke@stmarysycamore.org
815-895-5215

Saint Mary

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYCAMORE, IL



Goodfellows
c/o Riley Oncken
212 S Main Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear friends,

Enclosed is our donation of \$200 from our Builder's Club, here at St. Mary Catholic School in Sycamore. As a part of Kiwanis International, Builder's Club members are a part of a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. The Builder's Club program helps club members develop important social and emotional skills that promote meaningful connections with self and others. Club members learn to be mindful servant leaders who pause and welcome each new experience with non-judgment and acceptance. Our Club Members organized a Crazy Christmas Sweater Day in December to raise this gift.

We are praying for your organization and every child who benefits from your generosity. Thank you for what you do!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sue Croke, Student Advisor
Builder's Club
St. Mary Catholic School
222 Waterman Street
Sycamore, IL 60178
scroke@stmarysycamore.org
815-895-5215



Suzanne Croke <scroke@stmarysycamore.org>

Builders Club Contribution to KNRF

2 messages

Mark Petersen <mdpetersen131@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 17, 2025 at 3:54 PM

To: scroke@stmarysycamore.org

Cc: Ken Whitmore <ka.whitmore59@gmail.com>, Larry Forsberg <forsberg@pardridge.com>

Mrs Croke:

I wanted to let you know that I received your check from the St Mary's Catholic School Builders Club for \$200 and deposited it today. On behalf of our Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation Board, our researchers and the many people who benefit from that research, THANK YOU for your gift. I think it's awesome that your Builders Club raised money for our District Foundation. Please pass along our thanks to your Builders Club members and I wish you all a happy and healthy rest of the school year.

Mark D. Petersen

Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation Treasurer

Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis International

Past Governor 2020-2021

PO Box 205

Bettendorf, IA 52722

Cell Phone 563-210-3982

Email mdpetersen131@gmail.com

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Ken Whitmore <ka.whitmore59@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 18, 2025 at 4:20 PM

To: Mark Petersen <mdpetersen131@gmail.com>

Cc: scroke@stmarysycamore.org, Larry Forsberg <forsberg@pardridge.com>

Dear Mrs. Croke,

I also am impressed with the support from the St. Mary's Builders Club! What a positive impact YOU are giving these young minds!

Thanks!

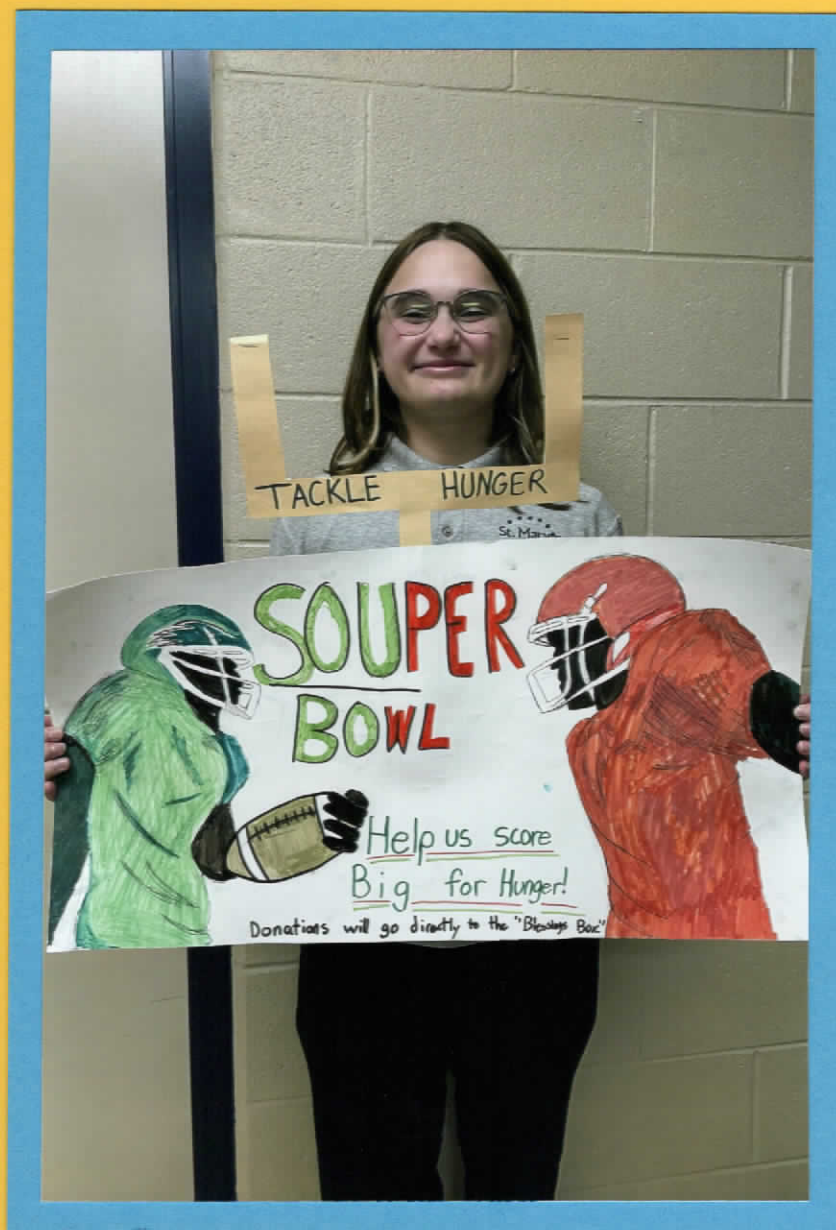
Ken Whitmore

Executive Director, I-I District Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation

2006-2007 Past Governor

Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis International

[Quoted text hidden]



Our Secretary, Carly used her artistic talents and drew this amazing poster for our Souper Bowl Food Drive to "Tackle Hunger" .



Our Builders Club members helped our Pre K kiddos make "Valentines for Seniors". The cards were distributed around our community.

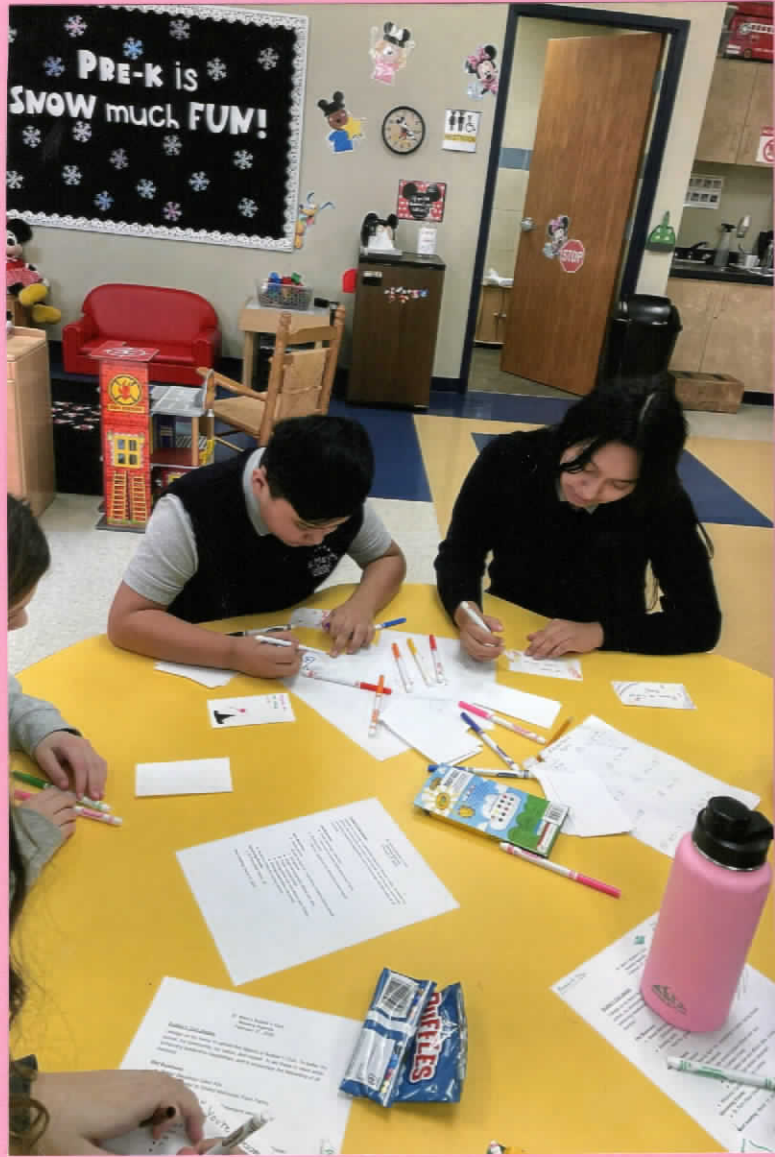






A favorite activity of our club is to make Prayer Rocks for our church. a Reminder to pray during the Lenten Season.



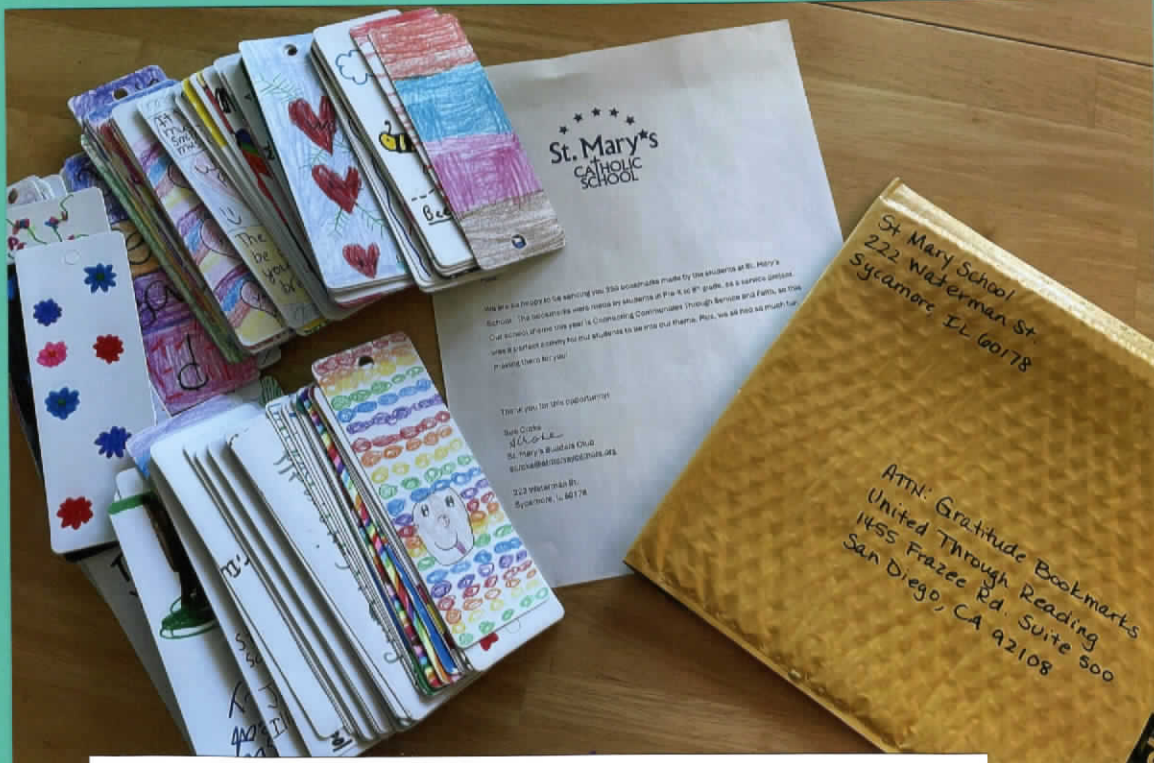


We love helping the "Loving Lunches" non-profit in our community. They make 300 lunches each week to be distributed to the homeless. Each lunch bag gets a kindness card made by the kids.



Let's **Tackle Hunger** in our community. It's **Souper Bowl** time! Students are asked to bring in a can and place it in the basket to predict the games winning team. After the Super Bowl, the cans are put into our Blessing Box on our campus where people can take what they need.





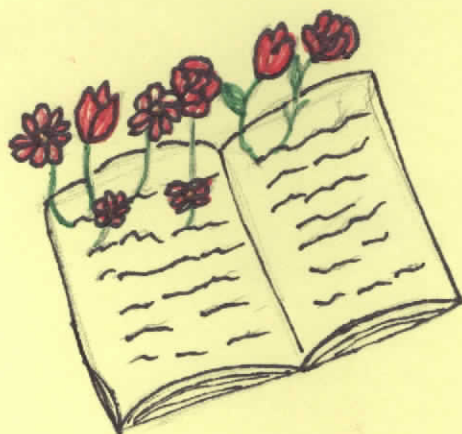
We love drawing and making cards. This year our club made over 250 bookmarks that were sent to United Through Reading. The bookmarks go into books that are given to children with parents serving in the Military.

A mi amigo en México:
 Cuanto tú más leas,
 Más cosas tú sabrás,
 Yo espero que tu disfrutes leyendo
 este libro.

Tu amigo, Liam
 Escuela de Santa María
 Sycamore, Illinois
 U.S.A.

Our club fundraised and then purchased Bilingual children's books. We wrote messages on the inside cover in Spanish. The books were then donated to Corazon de Nina, a children's orphanage in Puerta Vallarta, Mexico.

mi amigo en México:
 cuanto tú más leas,
 más cosas tú sabrás
 Yo espero que tu disfrutes leyendo este
 libro.
 Annabelle
 Escuela de Santa María.
 Sycamore, Illinois
 USA







Students had fun planning and implementing the "Sweet Blessings Cake Kits" service project. The cake kits were then donated to the local food pantry for a sweet treat.



Upcoming Events

April 15 Club Photo Day

April 17 Club Meeting

April 19 National Event. "Twp Lights for Tomorrow"
service opportunity at DeKalb History Center.

May 1 Final Meeting! End of Year Party!