

SUMMER SMILES

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129
children,
ages 5 to 18
attending
6-weeks of camp



12,384
hours of
academic
classroom
instruction



6,192
*FREE meals
served
*Breakfast
& Lunch

2017 grants

Berkshire Bank Foundation
County of Mercer
East Windsor Township
Emergency Food and Shelter
Program - First Energy
Foundation - First Presbyterian
Church of Hightstown
Lillian Lea Foundation
Mary Owen - Borden Foundation
PNC Foundation - Princeton
Area Community Foundation-The
Bunbury Fund - Selective
Insurance Group Foundation
State of New Jersey-Office of
Faith Based Initiatives
The Benevity Community
Impact Fund - Wells Fargo
Foundation



649
fun-filled
& educational
field trip
experiences



Help us stuff
600 backpacks
with supplies
for children
in need across
our area.

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

DROP OFF LOCATION:

Rise Main Office
116 North Main Street, Hightstown, NJ



ABSOLUTELY KNOT

by Joice Reyhan

What happens when Millstone Township Elementary School

decides to plug a few holes in computer teacher, Phyllis Matseur's schedule by assigning her to the Gifted and Talented (G & T) program? The Knackpac program emerges. What's a Knackpac, you ask? The title Phyllis gave to her self-designed, student-directed, G & T program. "Everyone has a knack for something," says Phyllis and her program gave Hannah Basha and Francesca Scibilia a chance to prove it through their "Scarves for Families" project.

The procedure: trace, cut slits in the fabric and knot the fringe. Hannah smiles and says "When you're not chatting too much, it takes about 15 minutes to make a scarf." In total, the girls made twenty scarves.

To meet the technology standards of the program, the girls created their own website featuring their mission statement, project goals, procedure and outcomes which can be found on their school's website until September. After some Internet research, they decided to donate their scarves directly to a charitable organization.

In her personal life, Phyllis Matseur is a philanthropist who wanted to bring her lifelong philosophy of giving and caring about others to her students. Phyllis was charged by the school district to develop a student-based program that would meet technology standards and demonstrate technology learning outcomes. Pair this directive with her personal life philosophy of philanthropy and you've got the framework for interesting things to emerge.



They discovered Rise - a Community Service Partnership where Leslie Koppel, Executive Director, accepted the scarves on behalf of needy families in the community.

These young life philosophers believe that they have changed the world a little by their project. Hannah says, "Even though we only helped 20 families, it's still 20 families." She says she's learned that "You have to stay on task and work really hard to get something done." Francesca commented that, "It was really hard achieving our goal and actually making the scarves, but It feels good to help others." Hannah's one regret is that they didn't make 40 scarves!

So, on day one, Mrs. Matseur told her students to "think deep, to challenge themselves, to work beyond their comfort zone and to do something for the betterment of others." Enter then 5th grade students, Hannah Basha and Francesca Scibilia.

"Scarves for Families" by Hannah Basha and Francesca Scibilia - warming one neck and heart at a time.

How would they meet the challenge of creating a project that used technology and helped others? Francesca says that Hannah remembered a project that she had done as a Girl Scout that involved making scarves.

To read more about "Absolutely Knot" visit njrise.org

Generosity begins where we live, learn, shop, work, and play.

