

PRESS RELEASE
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Mill Neck Students Utilize Many Skills to Support Local Charity

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf students in Donna Argeroplos' Home and Careers Skills class wrapped up their month-long, campus-wide project for Long Island Cares on December 16. That day, they delivered the items they collected to the food pantry operated out of St. Gertrude's Church in neighboring Bayville, a collection site for Long Island Cares.

After choosing the project, the students presented it for approval to the school's principal and then immersed themselves in every aspect necessary to get it rolling. The sixth through eighth graders were responsible for everything from start-to-finish; for tasks including research, strategy, marketing, distributing the collection boxes throughout the campus and packing up. Rather than have the items picked up by Long Island Cares, the students themselves delivered the items to the food pantry and also helped stock the shelves. Said Argeroplos, "We feel it's important to take the kids to the drop off location, rather than having the food picked up, to allow them to see where the food goes."

Argeroplos, who is also the school's librarian, described the significance of the Home and Careers class, saying it is organized around four process skills: communication, leadership, management and thinking. These skills are taught through ten content topics: community connections, career development, clothing management, consumer resource management, family/parenting, financial management, human development, interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness and personal environment management. The skills and content topics align with the National Learning Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences. Carrying out a community project

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is a natural extension of the course, as it is taught using a hands-on, experiential approach. “The use of real-life relevant tasks, laboratories, simulations, and community involvement are integral parts of the course. So is the use of research, class discussions and group activities,” said Argeroplos.

Collectively, the middle schoolers expressed great enthusiasm for the project and felt they learned many valuable lessons, from awareness of the particular charity they supported to working as a team. They all agreed, too, that it is important to spread awareness about hunger throughout the year, not just during the holidays. “I don’t think it matters the time of year, people always need food,” said 7th grader Amanda Parrott.

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, founded in 1947 by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special needs. For more information about our programs and services, please call 516-922-4100 or visit www.millneck.org

The Home and Career Skills class at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf heads out to deliver the donations they collected on behalf of Long Island Cares. Seen here with one of the two carloads of items destined for the food pantry at St.



Gertrude’s Church in Bayville are (from left) Donna Argeroplos, Mill Neck Manor librarian and teacher of the course, students Annalese Allegue, Niah Taylor, Andrew Lopez, Jose Yanes, Charles Iovino and teacher assistant Doreen Bobick.