

**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For Immediate Release*

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## **Upstate School Reaches out to Mill Neck with Hurricane Sandy Donation**

Several years ago, Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf sponsored an Academic Bowl, where two teachers of the Deaf became acquainted. Lois Scanlon, a teacher at Jefferson-Lewis BOCES in upstate New York, met Mill Neck science teacher Gabrielle Barry. Their meeting proved to be a true connection between the two schools after Hurricane Sandy hit. Scanlon, her students and fellow staff heard about the devastation to Long Island and to the Mill Neck Manor campus. They decided they wanted to reach out and help.

A few weeks after the storm, a large box from Jefferson-Lewis arrived at the Mill Neck Manor Deaf Education Center containing bags of candy, hats, beautifully drawn cards with a dollar or two from the students and several checks from staff. Because of these generous donations, Mill Neck was able to send 49 students home with care baskets and help three families who suffered significant damage from Hurricane Sandy. The remaining funds will assist several families for the Christmas season.

Among the Jefferson-Lewis students who showed their kindness is 8-year-old Arianna Stottlemire. She is one of more than a dozen Deaf students from the school who wanted to lend a helping hand following the hurricane's destruction. "I felt really sad for the people," Arianna said. Through an interpreter, she told how she and her fellow students gathered bags of candy to send to Mill Neck. Scanlon says it's not just a chance to teach the students about giving back, but also an opportunity for them to be a part of the larger community of Deaf people.

Francine Bogdanoff, Assistant Superintendent of Mill Neck Manor, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the school. "For us - it meant that a group of strangers chose to be friends and help out our families. It has been a very tough time at school recently, but it's great to see folks pull together!"

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to serving Deaf and hard of hearing individuals through educational, vocational and spiritual programs and services. For more information about any of its programs, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

*Photo caption:*

Warm hats and colorful bags of candy make up part of the Hurricane Sandy donation to Mill Neck Manor from students and staff at Jefferson-Lewis BOCES.



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