

**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For Immediate Release*

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## **Mill Neck Manor Students “Give Back” at Local Church**

Four students from Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf recently paid a special visit to St. Gertrude’s Church in Bayville. Accompanied by two members of the Mill Neck staff, Speech Therapist Betty Quartuccio and Social Worker Jennifer Nola, the students said the purpose for the trip was, “Giving Back to the Community.” Specifically, they visited the church’s food pantry to bring in the shopping bags full of groceries that they collected. Under Quartuccio’s and Nola’s direction, the students organized a school-wide event to solicit food items for distribution to neighboring communities. One of the students, Bianca Llorens, said how she much enjoyed this special project, stressing how important it is to help others. Fellow students Keren Guerra, Cindy Euceda and Sabrina Russell created the program to let other students at the school know that giving back to the community is crucial. They consider it an essential extra-curricular activity. Quartuccio commented, “The project certainly gave the girls a real-life experience to touch the lives of others in need and a sense of appreciation for the overwhelming response of food donated to this worthy cause.” Reverend Stephen J. Brigandi, Pastor of St. Gertrude’s was truly grateful for the work the students did on behalf of the church community. Fr. Brigandi told the students that selecting St. Gertrude’s food pantry for their project was a blessing for the community and a genuine unselfish act of kindness for the less fortunate. He and Outreach Coordinator Jean Simensky expressed their appreciation for the school’s efforts by hosting a special breakfast for their visitors.

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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](http://www.millneck.org)



*Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf visited the food pantry at St. Gertrude's Church in Bayville with the donations they collected during a school-wide event. In front are students Cindy Euceda and Sabrina Russell. Standing are Betty Quartuccio, Mill Neck Speech Therapist; Jean Simensky, St. Gertrude's Outreach Coordinator; students Bianca Llorens and Keren Guerra; Mill Neck Social Worker Jennifer Nola and Fr. Stephen Brigandi, Pastor of St. Gertrude's Church.*

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