

Chippewa Valley Sequoyah pupils collect for Children's Hospital

- By Nicole Tuttle For MediaNews Group
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Sequoyah Elementary School will collect activity items for Children's Hospital of Michigan Feb. 28 to March 1. Pictured are the Sequoyah Elementary student council representatives, ranging from third to fifth grade.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Sequoyah Elementary School's student council is collecting activity items for Children's Hospital of Michigan. Pictured is Helena Scharf, Sequoyah teacher and sponsor of the school's student council.

Like many of her peers in southeastern Michigan, Sequoyah Elementary School teacher Helena Scharf may have had a break from the classroom due to recent school snow days. However, during that time she remained hard at work to help the school's student council develop a worthwhile project to assist hospitalized children.

"At our last meeting that we had in January, the student council reps came up with some different types of fundraising ideas," Scharf said. "They were very vague but they came up with these ideas, and several of them involved helping children. I kind of took that idea and did a little research over several snow days, and actually came across how to help at Children's Hospital of Michigan."

In studying the options for assistance, Scharf learned about the need for activity packs for hospital-bound children. Believing her student council members could head up a drive to collect the necessary items for the packs, she contacted Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

"I brought it to the student council representatives last week at a student council meeting, and they voted unanimously for the activity packs," Scharf said earlier this month.

Sequoyah Elementary School is a Chippewa Valley School's building, located on 24 Mile Road and Woodside Drive in Macomb Township. The student council consists of 24 students in grades three through five. The council plans to collect supplies to develop the activity packs Feb. 28 to March 1, asking their roughly 700 classmates, parents and teachers to contribute. Special boxes were designed to collect the items and will be placed outside of school classrooms.

The activity packs are specifically being developed for children that are in clinic areas or children unable to leave their inpatient rooms at Children's Hospital. With this in mind, parents and students at the school are being asked to donate the following items:

- New Rose Art or Crayola brand crayons, markers and colored pencils. These items must be 12 count or smaller.
- New coloring books or paper writing tables
- New word searches, crossword puzzles

- New craft activities such as necklace kits

In accordance with key safety guidelines from the hospital, donated craft items must have a non-toxic seal such as AP, CP or the health label of non-toxic. Items containing latex such as rubber bands, rubber stamps and rubber erasers will not be accepted due to latex allergies.

The student council will put the bags together on March 7 during a regular meeting. The goal is to collect enough items to fill 300 activity packs, according to Scharf.

“I am making labels to put on the outside of the bags, ‘Hope this brightens your day,’ Everything needs to be the same as far as the message. The kids are so excited,” Scharf said.

Student council representatives have worked to promote the drive by visiting classrooms to discuss it, developing fliers and preparing information to be included in morning announcements.