



Service Learning News

3.23.09

by Judy Brookhart and Amanda Kuhlen

Dear Parents,

Our Heifer Heroes barnyard is filling! A bee is buzzing, chicks are clucking and soon the sheep will be joined by a goat, some rabbits, more chicks and rumor even reports a water buffalo! The first graders' Heifer bake sale was a huge success, earning \$405. We loved hearing the story about how second graders debated the merits of various animals and how they would impact a family's life. We also learned about a book titled *Beatrice's Goat* by Page McBrier. Here are some lines from a review on amazon.com:

Beatrice lives in the village of Kisinga, Uganda, with her mother and five younger brothers and sisters. Life is hard and the family is very poor... And then one day everything changes; the family receives a goat. Beatrice names the goat Mugisa, which means lucky because her mother said the goat was their lucky gift. Soon the goat gives birth to two kids and the family's life begins to change. They have milk to drink and some to sell and in time, they are able to sell one of the kids to improve their lives even more. They build a new, sturdy hut with a steel roof that won't leak and are even able to make Beatrice's dream of going to school come true... Based on the true story of how one family was helped by Heifer Project International, Page McBrier's beautiful and engaging picture book shows how different life can be in other parts of the world and how little it takes to bring hope and changes to developing countries.

You might look for it in your local library!

And now to a different service project coming up..."Spring Cleaning!" We announced a few weeks ago that we plan on holding three collection drives in April: one for books, one for children's shoes and one for children's clothes. You've heard from Chris Schott '07 and his book drive, now Amanda Shaw '05 would like to introduce her service initiative.

Dear OTS Community,

My name is Amanda Shaw and I am currently a senior at Western Reserve Academy, as well as a member of the OTS class of 2005. I am working on a clothing collection, started through my father's law firm, Baker and Hostetler, for the Orchard Park School in Cleveland. The school is similar to Old Trail, in that it teaches both boys and girls K-8 and requires a dress code. However, many of the students do not have the necessary attire for school or are unable to purchase it. I know as both an OTS alum and WRA student that dress-code clothing can build up in our closets as we grow. I encourage all of you to take some time in your spring cleaning and gather up any collared shirts, khaki, blue or black pants, jackets or any other gently used pieces of clothing without an OTS logo that could be helpful to a child in need at Orchard Park School. The collection will begin on April 14 and bins will be located in the main lobbies for the three weeks following. Thank you for your support on both this and the other collection drives taking place!



Sincerely, Amanda Shaw

Look for more information to follow on each of these collections drives in division head's letters, in Buffalo Bytes, and at upcoming Head of School's Assemblies.

Serving together,

Judy & Amanda