

## ST. JOE'S COMMUNITY SERVICE SUCCESSES IN 2011/12



### St. Joe's Students Sell Lemonade and Raise \$382.27 for OATHS!



On Sunday, August 14, eleven students from St. Joe's Elementary School in Boise sold lemonade to raise money for OATHS. The eleven students were: Cate, Patrick, and Caroline Monahan; Ava and Sally DeFranco; Jude, Livi, and Cici Porter; and Zoe, Grace, and Kelly McCormick. For three hours on a hot afternoon these kids held up signs, waved at passing cars, and sold lemonade and cookies. Then they all raced into the Monahan's home and eagerly counted the money. The final total was \$382.27 with all of the proceeds going to OATHS! The heart of this organization has always been "students helping students" and this lemonade stand epitomizes what OATHS is all about. Thank you St. Joe's students!

**OATHS - Organization Assisting The Homeless Student** Founded by current Bishop Kelly HS student Ben Skinner, and brother to St. Joe's 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Laura Skinner, OATHS is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping homeless students get what they need to succeed, enjoy, and stay in school.



### Clothing Drive for City of Light Shelter

During the first two weeks of December, Mrs. Weaver's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class brought in 511 lbs. of lightly used clothing, which was taken to the local shelter, City of Light (it took one truck and one SUV to carry all the clothing!)

City of Light is a shelter for abused/battered women and children. The shelter also runs a year-long drug and alcohol program for those living there. The clothing was very much appreciated and needed.

"Flora," a recovering addict of 8 years who is now giving back to the shelter that saved her life, has volunteered to come and talk with our students in the early spring. Students will benefit from hearing her story of recovery and the gift of giving back -- this is what Father Henry has been talking about in Mass for months!





### **Cards for Veterans on 11/11/11**

On Veteran's Day (11/11/11), Boise VA residents were thrilled to receive very special cards made by the kindergarteners in Ms. Hesla's AM class, thanking our Veterans for their brave service.



### **Hand Made Bracelets for Orphans**

Children at Vinh Son Orphanage in Vietnam with the bracelets 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Angie Ngo, made as part of her community service.



## St. Joe's Serves Up Food, Music and Kindness



St. Joseph's School served over 120 homeless men, women and children at St. John's Friendship Feast on the evening of Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Along with toiletries and gently used winter clothing, a warm meal was served up with music, generosity and gratitude.

Organizers of the feast were the Student Council, school parent Judy Murdock, and Mrs. Julianne Russell, St. Joe's middle school math teacher. The 6th, 7th and 8th graders provided all the food, set up and served the dinner, and cleaned up afterward; and the younger grades created festive Thanksgiving-themed decorations for the occasion. Luke Shirley and Neal Maguire, two recent St. Joe's graduates, performed music for our guests, while students distributed food, toiletries and clothing that had been donated by our school's parents and students. All of this bounty prompted one guest to remark that "this has been such a wonderful evening -- it has been just like Christmas!"



### Friendship Feast Menu:

Ham

mashed potato  
casserole

corn

peaches

rolls with butter

Thanksgiving pies



## Helping Down on the Farm

Mrs. Russell's 6th grade class went to Common Ground Farm last week and helped them turn their Monstrous compost piles. We also helped to pull the spent plants from the fields which were placed on the compost pile as well. We met and worked with Devi, a refugee from Bhutan who taught us so much about the farm and how things grow. Several families have signed up for "Soup Scripsions" - home delivery of fresh cooked soups once a week for a month. The soups are made by refugees who work with Create Common Good- the organization that runs Common Ground Farm. And more than a few students are planning a personal return to the farm in the spring to help prepare for the new crops.



## Showing our Appreciation to our Priests

Mrs. Weaver's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students showed their appreciation for Fr. Jose and all he has given us by helping rake leaves at Fr. Jose's house: Cecilia Durcan, Mackenzie Allred, Ben Hermes, Nicholas Russell, Henry Hunter, Julia Wolfe, and Sam and Katie Ryan.



## St. Joseph's Helping Clean Up the Boise River

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the St. Joe's school community took part in an effort to protect a precious resource, the Boise River, in the Boise RiverSweep. The St. Joe's team alone was made up of over 40 volunteers. According to Mr. Jerry Pugh, the volunteer coordinator for Boise Parks & Rec, the 2011 RiverSweep was the most successful year yet, with nearly 800 volunteers cleaning the banks from Barber Park to Parma/Snake River.



## **Destitute Duffel Project**

Mrs. Cammann's First Grade class is participating in Destitute Duffel where the students gather supplies for the homeless around Boise. All the students have a list of items needed. The students combine supplies to create a bag full of helpful tools for the cold winter months. The Duffel bag transforms into a tent so that people also have somewhere warm to stay when it is cold. Trina King (teacher at St. Joe's previously) and her husband are in charge of this project and we are so happy to help. The students are busy getting supplies now. We are going to collect them all soon and they will be distributed by Trina and her husband during the middle of December. They will come back and give us a report of all the good we did for the community!

