



For Immediate Release

4-7-2014

Contact:

Kellen Stellmacher, Marketing Coord.

Farmers & Merchants Bank Reaches Further with CHN

Farmers & Merchants Bank has recently partnered with Community Health Network and their *Read. Run. Reach.* program, a campaign encouraging kids to read 12 books, run a total of 12 miles and perform 12 random acts of kindness, to extend the reach portion with the Kindness Project. The Kindness Project offers Green Lake County classrooms (K-8) the ability to perform random acts of goodness on a larger scale by providing funds and resources to do great things. “We wanted to partner with another strong community involved business. Being an extension of CHN’s *Read. Run. Reach* program just fits with who we are and what we’re all about,” says Kellen Stellmacher, Marketing Coordinator at Farmers. “Grandpa Harry Kujawa instilled in our bank family what it means to give back—especially when it comes to kids.”

Farmers & Merchants Bank has already helped two classrooms reach further. The bank helped Princeton Public School’s 1st Grade Class purchase fleece to make tie blankets for a classmate’s family whose home was damaged in an electrical fire. With the donated funds the class was able to put together a basket full of games, movies and books for the family as well. The bank also provided several gift cards to major stores for All Saints Catholic School’s 4th Grade Class to deliver to a Berlin High School teacher who lost her home and all her belongings in a fire a few weeks ago. The students added a personal touch with hand painted note cards for the teacher to use.

Read. Run. Reach and the Kindness Project culminates on Saturday, May 17 at CHN’s Helping Hands for Cancer 5K Run/Walk where students will receive a special prize for completing their reading, running and random acts of kindness.

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For Immediate Release

4-29-2014

Contact:

Kellen Stellmacher, Marketing Coord.

Farmers & Merchants Bank's Kindness Project Continues.

Help Us Help Ella

It began on a winter Sunday at church when the mother of a little girl with cerebral palsy struggled to lift her daughter into their van. The parking lot was ice covered and the van didn't have a ramp. It was at that moment that Bob, an 86-year-old parishioner, took it upon himself to start a campaign to help.

Ella Weiske was born prematurely at 26 weeks and developed Cerebral Palsy. She is confined to a wheel chair and has been learning to drive a power chair. In order for her to bring that power chair home, she needed a handicapped accessible van. That's when Homan Ford of Ripon stepped up and held a van for the family until a down payment could be made. Over the past few months, with Bob's help, funds have been raised to help make that down payment, and the van came home just before Easter.

But the story doesn't stop there. The 3rd Graders of Princeton Elementary heard of Farmers & Merchants Bank's Kindness Project—an extension of CHN's 'Read. Run. Reach Program'. They wanted their act of kindness to make a difference in Ella's life, especially since her cousin was a third grader at Princeton Public School. The whole class thought it would be great to help another third grader. Together with Farmers & Merchants Bank, the children were able to gift Ella \$500 to help towards the van payments. On Wednesday, we met with the 3rd Graders, Ella, her mother Debbie, and Bob—their guardian angel who started it all. Each of the children gave Ella a hand-made note welcoming her to their classroom and they toured Ella's new van.

The whole experience with Ella was quite amazing and gives the powerful message that whether you're 86 or 8, you can make a difference in another's life. We want to continue to help Ella by accepting donations at the bank.

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For Immediate Release
5-29-14

Contact:
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Farmers & Merchants Bank's Kindness Project Continues with Clay Lamberton Elementary

With a little help from Farmers & Merchants Bank's Kindness Project, Clay Lamberton Elementary School 2nd graders were able to bring some sunshine to the residents at Juliette Manor. Through the Kindness Project, the second grade team of teachers (Danni Bastian, Sue Calabresa, Tammy Goettl, Wendy Jacobson, and Anissa Kramer) and students requested the help of Farmers & Merchants Bank to fund their newest idea. The students wanted to purchase potted flowers, make and decorate the pots, and walk to deliver them to the residents in an effort to bring a little bit of sunshine to their day. "With the long winter, we thought a little bit of spring could brighten their day and ours," explains Danni Bastian. "The funds we requested helped us to purchase 125 flowers, 125 peat pots, and potting soil."

When the students arrived, they were met by Juliette Manor's Activities Director, Alyse Paulson. "It meant a lot to our residents and staff to see the kids smiling faces and to have them gift each resident with a flower wishing them a "Happy Spring"—that really made their day," says Paulson, "We cannot thank the Clay Lamberton 2nd graders enough for coming to Juliette Manor and blessing us with such a wonderful act of kindness."

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