

Kindness Project—Reaching Further

Farmers & Merchants Bank partnered with Community Health Network during their 'Read. Run. Reach.' campaign, a program encouraging kids to read 12 books, run a total of 12 miles and perform 12 random acts of kindness. In an effort to extend the reach portion, Farmers & Merchants Bank began the Kindness Project. The Kindness Project encouraged children to *reach further* by offering 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. The 'Read. Run. Reach' campaign and the Kindness Project both culminated at CHN's Helping Hands for Cancer 5K Run/Walk where students received "Reach Further" orange shoe laces. Below are summaries of all the Kindness Projects we were honored to be a part of. It's amazing how awesome our future leaders are! We hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we did helping with them.

Princeton Public School's 1st Graders (taught by Sarah Geisthardt and Katie Berndt) purchased fleece blankets for a classmate's family whose home was damaged in an electrical fire through funds donated by the bank. The students were also able to put together a basket full of games, movies for the family as well.



All Saints Catholic School 2nd Grade class room (taught by Jill Jensen) were able to gift a Berlin High School teacher who lost her home in a fire, \$500 in gift cards to major department stores. The students added a personal touch with hand painted note cards for the teacher to use. Jill Jensen and a few of her students delivered them to the teacher.



Clay Lamberton 2nd Graders potted 125 flowers and decorated the pots for residents at Juliette Manor. On Wednesday, May 14th, the students walked the flowers to Juliette Manor and hand delivered them to each resident. The 2nd graders goal was to “bring a little bit of sunshine” to the residents day.



The 3rd and 4th Graders of St. John Lutheran School of Berlin wanted to bring a little bit of happy to our soldiers in Afghanistan and asked Farmers & Merchants Bank for funds through the *Kindness Project* to help provide financial assistance to mail care packages. Mrs. Schram, the 3rd and 4th grade teacher, worked with Pam Alf of CHN to contact her son in law to get a list of some much wanted items such as beef jerky, magazines, candy, protein powder, and sunflower seeds. Schram then put a request in the school newsletter for families, congregation members and staff to donate items for the Airmen in Afghanistan. The orchestrated group effort all came together and St. John's School was able to send 5 boxes of goodies halfway across the world to a very remote base to some very appreciative Airmen.



Markesan Elementary School wanted to show kindness to another school in need. Mitchell Elementary School in Racine recently burned. The students were moved to another unused school building but teachers and students were not allowed back in to get anything. They were in need of many supplies. The Markesan Elementary students held a Penny Drive to raise money to donate to the school. Farmers & Merchants bank donated backpacks and a \$250 Staples gift card to the students of Markesan Elementary to help towards their contribution. (Pictures unavailable).

The 3rd Graders of Princeton Elementary heard of Farmers & Merchants Bank's Kindness Project and wanted their project to make a difference in the life of a child their age. Ella Weiske was born 26 weeks premature and developed Cerebral Palsy. She is confined to a wheelchair and had been learning to drive a power chair. Together with Farmers & Merchants Bank, the children were able to gift Ella \$500 to help towards van payments. Farmers & Merchants Bank met with the 3rd Graders and Ella where each of the children gave Ella a hand-made note card welcoming her to the classroom and 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.



