



SJS Student Council Towel Blanket Project

January 2017

Dear Parents,

In 2009, we had a kindergarten student who was a patient at Tufts' Floating Hospital for Children. When Chloe had to stay overnight, her mother would pack a "towel-blanket," which was polar fleece for comfort and warmth on one side and a bath towel on the other side for coming out of the shower. Her grandmother had made one for Chloe and her twin sister, Cailey. The nurses and staff at Tufts admired it so much that grandma made some more to distribute. By the time the girls were in kindergarten, grandma was no longer able to make them, so their mother asked if Mrs. Lyons would make them. She agreed to do that as a service project.

Jump ahead to May of 2016, the count was up to approximately 1700 blankets! Both the school and the parish have been very generous in donating materials to be sewn together. A few people helped to sew too. Last year the Student Council became involved and the project grew again. The Student Council moderators took about 10 children to Boston to deliver 100 blankets to Tufts' Hospital. There was plenty left over to sew over the summer, and donations have been coming in this school year already!

An update: Ms. Simard and her daughters took 113 completed towel-blankets to Tufts on December 23rd. The staff is SO appreciative! So now our grand total is about 1800 towel-blankets! You are so generous!!

St. Joseph School of All Saints Parish has a mission statement that says, in part, "We strive to develop an awareness and concern for the less fortunate through the practice of the Corporal Works of Mercy." One of those works is to care for the sick. The towel-blanket project is an easy, safe way to teach your children how to fulfill that work of mercy, even if the recipient is a complete stranger!

To make one towel-blanket, all you need is one yard of polar fleece (bought at Joanne's Fabric or

Walmart, etc.) and one bath/beach towel. We will accept donations of either/or and both. The approximate cost of one is about \$10 if you would like to donate that way. Take your child shopping and have them pick out the fleece-there are so many beautiful ones! And then pick up a matching bath towel, or let Mrs. Lyons pick one out.

Last year, Mrs. Lyons filled out raffle tickets for each piece donated (two if you sent in a towel and fleece) and will do it again. She picked two winners in June and sewed blankets for two students over the summer.

Won't you help out? We realize that sometimes it seems we are asked for donations too often. There is always a need. But we realize that you send your child to a Catholic school or attend church for a reason and know that you teach your child compassion for the less fortunate.

Any donations should be given to Mrs. Lyons in the kindergarten. If you are donating at church, just drop them off at the rectory. Mr. Louis Fogel will deliver them. Make sure Mrs. Lyons knows who it is from so she can fill out raffle tickets.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!
Ms. Maureen Cocchiaro, M.Ed. - Principal
Miss Brittany Fitzgerald - Student Council Moderator
Mrs. Rhonda Kurto - Student Council Moderator
Mrs. Teri Lyons - Student Council Moderator