



NEWS

'Beattie helping Haiti' fundraiser to help quake victims
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Fundraiser continues Friday morning
by Paula Kasprzyk, Reporter, Highland Community News

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Students from Beattie Middle School's Chain Links Club braved the cold and rain this week to gather donations that will benefit the earthquake relief effort in Haiti.

Each morning before school, from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., the students and their advisors took up positions along the driveway of the drop-off line to ask arriving students and their parents for donations. The group will be out there again on Friday morning, Jan. 22.

"Beattie helping Haiti," they chant as they hold out the collection containers. "Even one dollar will help," some students holler.

Advisor Melissa Anderson, who teaches sixth grade math and science, said there has been a positive reaction to the Club's efforts. "The parents and teachers have been so generous," she said. Parents have been thanking the students for helping and students have been bringing donations to Anderson's classroom throughout the day.

So far, the Club has collected nearly \$1,200. Anderson said the donations have ranged from a handful of change to a \$200 check.

All donations will be given to the American Red Cross on Monday, Jan. 25. The Club is asking donors to make checks out to the American Red Cross. Student Ashley Regnier said. "It makes me feel good to know we are helping out people with the disaster."

Student Katie Lizotte said helping the people in Haiti is in line with the mission of the club, "to spread kindness and peace, like Rachel did."

Advisor Anderson said the Club is hoping to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion in the school and in the community. "If people see that the Club is doing something kind for others, hopefully they will do something kind for others as well.

The Chain Links Club was inspired by Rachel Scott who was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for Rachel's Challenge and the Chain Links Clubs in middle schools across the country.

The Chain Links Club at Beattie Middle School currently has 50 students and they meet twice a month.



(Highland Community News photos by Paula Kasprzyk) Beattie Middle School student Henry Widdicombe accepts a donation Thursday from an unidentified student as student Lindsay Clayton looks on.

The Beattie Middle School Chain Links Club advisors are Melissa Anderson, Peytra Becker, and Kim Luim.

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