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**For Immediate Release:**



**GCMS Sixth Graders Give Back with Desserts from the Heart**

By Trish Roberts, teacher

Garden City Middle School sixth grade students from Mrs. Roberts' homebase class recently volunteered their time at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in New Hyde Park. Their passion for helping others was beautifully demonstrated when they participated in the RMH Little Hands Baking program.

The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island is a home for families who have a sick child in a local hospital facility. The "home away from home" philosophy of the RMH provides volunteers an opportunity to give back to the community in a very

rewarding way. Mrs. Roberts, a volunteer at the RMH for several years, knew that her students would welcome the opportunity to give back. Her students prepared and served delicious desserts to the family residents as they returned from nearby hospitals.

The Garden City Middle School's philosophy encourages community involvement and provides students with an abundant amount of volunteer opportunities. Throughout the year, many students share their time and talents to support such programs as the GC for a Cure, Toys for Tots, Pennies for Patients, and Saint Jude's Children's Hospital, to name a few.

Mrs. Roberts' homebase class spent weeks planning, collaborating, and preparing to bake at the RMH. Many students rearranged their schedules, and some even missed out on their after-school tennis and dance classes. As Sydney said, "It's good to give back to others because it must be hard dealing with a situation where a family member has cancer." Every student in the class purchased something from the extensive shopping list of baking ingredients needed to make the eight, planned, scrumptious desserts.

When the twelve students arrived at the Ronald McDonald House, the courteous, welcoming and appreciative staff greeted the boys and girls with a tour of the beautiful "home away from home." The children quickly realized the impact that their time and baking talents were going to have for these families - they were ready to start baking! They began measuring, mixing, melting and pouring. It didn't take long before the sweet and savory aromas of chocolate, cinnamon, and vanilla filled the 'house.' Soon after, delicious desserts started to emerge from the ovens. A few students carefully drizzled white icing on the mouthwatering cinnamon buns and decorated the Red Rockin' Rainbow cupcakes, while others dressed two cheesecakes with fresh whipped cream, strawberries, and blueberries. Others whipped cream for Grandma Connie's cream puffs, decorated delicious chocolate lava cakes, and put the final touches on a delectable crumb cake.

Everyone should be very, very proud of these students. They put an abundance of love into making these desserts and gave up their time to help others. Of course, activities like this wouldn't be successful without the continuous support from all the GCMS parents. Together, we can all make a difference!