

Press Release

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BISHOP BARAGA SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL IMPLEMENTS FUNDRAISER FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

CHEBOYGAN, MI: After learning about Social Justice, the Bishop Baraga Catholic School Student Council adopted a school-wide fundraiser to aid Heifer International. The Student Council reviewed many community service ideas before approving the Heifer International project.

The mission of Heifer International, according to its website, "is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth." It accomplishes that mission "by giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out," through gifts of livestock and training.

The Student Council considered many fundraising ideas before deciding to have a Dress Down Day with participants paying \$1.00 to the Heifer International project. Sixth grader Gemma Darr, Student Council President, obtained the approval of Principal

Kitty LaBlance for students, faculty, and staff to participate in the Dress Down Day. The Student Council also voted to contribute money from its own budget for the project.

The next step was to present the project to the student body. At a school-wide assembly, Student Council President Gemma Darr, along with the 6th grade teacher Jill Kwiatkowski, told the students about the work of Heifer International to assist people in poor countries to help themselves live better lives. The pair also explained that the students could assist that work by participating in the School's Dress Down Day.

Dress Down Day saw \$137 raised from the participants. The Student Council supplemented that amount with another \$163 to bring the project total to \$300.

The final step in the project was determining the types and number of animals to purchase with the School's donation. Over the course of two meetings, the Student Council reviewed a list of livestock and farm animals available through Heifer International. Ultimately, the Student Council decided to purchase two goats (\$120 each) and three flocks of chickens (\$20 each). The Student Council's deliberations impressed Charles Taylor, Superintendent of Education for the Diocese of Gaylord, who observed one of the meetings.

Bishop Baraga Catholic School was established in 1856 by Bishop Frederic Baraga. It has been in its new building located at the corner of Western and Lincoln Avenues in Cheboygan since September 2005.