

Sunday School children from Toledo church collect 28,000 pennies for Habitat for Humanity

By ASHLEY KULP

Staff Writer

Every little penny counts. Just ask the children from St. Andrew's United Church's Sunday School program in Toledo.

On Nov. 16, several children from the Sunday School presented the Thousand Islands Habitat for Humanity with a bucket containing more than 28,000 pennies; the result of a recent fundraiser held by the church. The presentation was made at the site of the newest Habitat for Humanity home in Newboro. The home is being built for area resident Rose Whelpdale and her children.

The children were originally scheduled to line the pennies up to see how far they would stretch around the foundation of the new home, but due to the soggy weather, that idea was set aside.

According to Sunday School teacher Jeanette Johnston, the church, which has a congregation of 30 to 50 area residents, wanted to take on a fundraiser which would benefit a local organization.

"We wanted it to be something that would provide a visual for the children," she said, indicating it was important for them

to see and understand the concept of where the funds were going. "We called the fundraiser 'Going the Extra Mile.'"

The Sunday School, which is comprised of 10 children, began collecting the pennies back in June, with the original goal of 56,000 pennies, which equals one kilometre. While they didn't meet the one kilometre goal, the more than 28,000 pennies donated complete half a kilometre.

"I think we were very successful," Johnston noted. "The goal of a kilometre was a pretty high goal, but it was fun to relate it to a measurement. Working for Habitat for Humanity was a really great goal as well. I'm happy with the result and as per usual, our community stepped up and donated."

Valerie Kines, public relations coordinator for the Thousand Islands Habitat for Humanity, which serves all of Leeds and Grenville, stressed how significant this donation was because it came from the youth of the area.

"It's important because these are children who are contributing and they're contributing at the level that they can," she remarked. "And it's much more exciting than a



EMC photo by ASHLEY KULP

The children with the Sunday School program at St. Andrew's United Church in Toledo, presented more than 28,000 pennies to the Thousand Islands Habitat for Humanity organization on Nov. 16. The presentation was made at the latest Habitat for Humanity

home in Newboro, being built for Rose Whelpdale and her family. From left, Sunday School children Megan Stickle, Dawson Fleming, Samantha Young, Liam Stickle and TJay Steacy. The Sunday School has been collecting pennies since June.

cheque!"

Those involved with the Sunday School and St. Andrew's United Church minister David Timpson were on hand for the presentation and also had an opportunity to meet Rose and members of the Whelpdale family, who will

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