

J. H. Moore Students Stage Uganda Fundraiser

November 25, 2009

Last month the students and staff of J.H. Moore Elementary School in Lashburn had the pleasure of listening to Terra Moore, a woman who has been volunteering her time to help the children of Uganda. Terra shared pictures, stories, and video clips that showed the students the many obstacles that the children of Uganda are forced to face every day. Students came to understand the nature of some of the many problems, like lack of water, food, and access to education that students throughout the developing world face on a daily basis. The students were so inspired by her message that they decided to host a fundraiser to lend their support to the people and community that Terra works with in Uganda.

The students participated in three different fundraising activities to help improve the quality of life for the children. Students got pledges from friends and family for two challenges: the water walk and bedtime blankets. The water walk challenged students to carry containers of water around the gym for ten or more laps. Students who participated in the bedtime blankets challenge were encouraged to sleep on the floor with only a light blanket for 5 school days. Students also raised money by paying a small fee to have the privilege to sit on a chair at a desk for the day.

In total, the school raised almost \$3000.00 for the children. Following the fundraiser it was decided that the money should be spent on things that related to the activities the children participated in. In consequence the students of J.H. Moore School will be purchasing 37 mattresses, 37 sets of bed sheets, nutritional food (such as fruits, vegetables, rice, and milk) for 3 months, basic school supplies for an entire school for one year, one milking cow, and two goats.

“This effort was not just about raising money for the children of Uganda,” said teacher Carmen Peasley, “but also about helping students to realize what they have to be grateful for. As a community, it is easy for us to take the little things like our comfy beds and blankets, our easy access to fresh drinking water, and even our desks and chairs for granted. Many students were able to use this opportunity to really appreciate the things they have.”

And what did the children who participated in the activities think?

“I think they [the children of Uganda] deserve help and really need it too,” said Colby Sandberg. “I truly appreciate what I have and I also want to give lots of stuff to those children. Those kids work for hours just to survive. If anyone deserves healthy food and water, it’s them.”

Deighton Beamish remarked “ I kind of liked sleeping on the floor for a week. I feel that I am very, very spoiled and I appreciate what I have and being able to be here.”

“The water walk was fun for some of us,” said Austin Hope, “but it would not be fun for them because they have to do it every day. That was a learning experience for us.”

"I appreciate what I have more now than I ever did," said Coby Jakubowski, summing the experience up for everyone. "Sleeping on the floor wasn't fun. When I woke up I was really sore- but sleeping on the floor for only a few days isn't that bad. They have to do that painful thing every day. So we are very lucky to have what we have."

Article and photo by Carmen Peaseley



Photo by: Kim Tom

