

Middle School Students Contribute Time And Talent To The Community

For immediate release: December 3, 2007

Tampa, Fla.

At Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) a long-standing middle school tradition – Community Service Day – provides a practical opportunity for students to make a real difference in the lives of others while giving of their time and individual talents.

“Making donations is very different from working directly with people in need,” said Middle School Division Leader Betty George. “Community Service Day allows our middle schoolers to give of themselves, and we believe that is the greatest gift of all.”

During the school’s most recent Community Service Day, teams of teachers and students performed public service work at a number of organizations in the Tampa area. Several teams worked and played with children at school readiness programs such as Kid’s Clubhouse, Mt. Calvary School, and Headstart School as well as the Child Advocacy Center.

One team worked at Horses for the Handicapped, which provides recreational horse riding for children and adults with disabilities. They cleaned stalls, bathed and groomed horses and did general farm chores.

Another group created toiletry bags and goodie bags for children at Hillsborough County Children’s Services Center, a home for foster care children and school for special needs students. Some students visited the Westshore Senior Center where they greeted seniors and created crafts with those in the day care program while another organized a community food drive creating posters and food boxes for area businesses.



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continued

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Additional organizations that benefited in a variety of ways from the students' efforts on Community Service Day included: Achieve Tampa Bay, Alpha House and Life Treasures -- a Lifepath Hospice thrift store.

At IDS-CC, multi-age advisory groups plan, organize and complete two service day projects each year. The second Community Service Day, which will take place in the spring, will continue the students' tradition of giving to those in need and, in doing so, receiving some unanticipated rewards.

"The seniors we visited were just awesome," said eighth grader Mitchell Streu. "They were clapping and smiling and really appreciated that we were there. It made me feel great."

Classmate Deuce Gruden, who gave more than a few piggy back rides to young children at a Hillsborough County school readiness program agrees. "It really was a lot of fun."

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County. The school serves 550 students in PreK3 through 8th grade and offers the International Baccalaureate program of study for all middle school students. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 3,500 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers about the school's M.O.R.E. Approach to education. For more information about IDS visit www.idsys.com.

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