



**U**niting all students to learn about our  
**N**ation and other nations  
**I**n a manner that empowers them  
**T**o serve and accept all people with  
**E**mpathy and compassion

Three North Glendale (NG) Elementary students presented to their peers a “Big Idea” on a school wide service-learning project where students make a hospital feel more like a home for the children who are unable to leave the hospital due to illness. Out of the presentations and brainstorming sessions, NG students developed a project called “North Glendale Superstars: Making a Hospital Feel Like a Home.” The project involved students earning money to donate and contribute towards a donation to St. Louis Children’s Hospital where funds would be used to purchase video games, books, DVDs and stuffed animals to provide comforts of home during their hospital stay. The students brought in their earnings the week of Jan. 23-Jan. 27. A \$500 collection goal was established and was shattered the first day. By the end of the week, students collected \$2,381.23 and the students presented the check to a St. Louis Children’s Hospital representative at a check presentation ceremony on Tuesday.

Students earned money different ways including hot chocolate stands and selling newsletters while other students took a direct donation approach and tapped into piggy banks and saved birthday money funds to contribute to the fundraising. NG first-grader Jorie Amos was a former patient at Children’s Hospital. She always wanted to give back to the hospital but didn’t know how. Over the past few years, she has completed chores around the house and collected the money in a jar. During the NG fundraiser, Amos brought in her bottle and donated all of the money to the school’s fundraiser.

The NG effort was spearheaded by fifth-graders Meredith Lang, Jerry Sanchez and Lizzie Stobbe with support from teachers Amy Potsou and Elizabeth Stickley. The group attended The Big Return conference in November and came up with project ideas on how NG could participate. The Big Return is a campaign created by the St. Louis community to leverage the power of local youth to create big change in the world. During the conference, over 100 St. Louis area schools came together for the full-day workshop to think creatively about social enterprises or projects that could be launched to address problems students see around them.

As a result of the school’s fundraising goals, students and staff enjoyed a “PJ Day” where everyone wore their pajamas to school. Students will also be treated to a “teacher scramble” later this semester where teachers will be guest teachers in each other’s classrooms.