

What Happens to Everyday Heroes?

Last year, when Past Governor Joe Corace suggested the "Everyday Hero" part of his Governor's project, many people thought it would be a one-time award. This was not the case, however, at Windom Elementary School in Orchard Park, NY. The "Everyday Hero" award has turned into a gift that keeps on giving at Windom Elementary. Teachers have extended the award by passing it around the school as a way to recognize acts of volunteerism and thoughtfulness of staff members.

Jim Waack - the gifted and talented specialist for the school- received the "Everyday Hero" award last year from the Orchard Park Kiwanis based on his commitment to students, family, church and community, as well as many civic activities "It was a tremendous honor to be recognized," Mr. Waack said.

Mr. Waack, however, didn't keep the medal long before he and a few staff members had a better idea to pass it along to recognize others who carry out "every day" acts of kindness. Through an e-mail message and an informal ceremony, Mr. Waack passed his medal to fourth grade teacher, Nancy Buck,

for her special efforts on behalf of area service families. Mrs. Buck, the mother of a soldier in Iraq, instigated a Wall of Heroes at the local Town Hall honoring service men and women serving in Iraq.

It then was Mrs. Buck's turn to find the next recipient. She, in turn, passed it to Resource Teacher, Judy Schaner, who works tirelessly for overseas charities, local shelters and caring for special needs of students at school. Mrs. Schaner passed the medal to Mary Vesneske, the school's Computer Teacher, for her caring attitude and for her rescuing efforts of another staff member was in a car accident. Then a Resource Teacher, Bonnie Platt, received the award for managing the school's "Sun Shine" fund and starting a message quilt for a staff member battling cancer.

"It was a spontaneous act that grew out of our relationship with Kiwanis," commented Wendy Gloss, Principal of Windom Elementary. "Compassion and generosity aren't just lessons taught. They are words our staff lives by. Passing the medal became an outlet to



(Left to Right) Orchard Park Kiwanis President Joe Czarnecki, Mary Vesneske, Nancy Buck, Bonnie Platt, Judy Schaner, Jim Waack, and Orchard Park Secretary Sue Tober.

recognize people's giving. And, at the same time, it models to students how to take a

proactive role in our community," Mrs. Gloss added.

Monticello Names Tuno Everyday Hero



(L to R) Joy Tuno, Senior Detective Doug Tuno and Monticello President Henry Good.

The Kiwanis Club of MONTICELLO, Hudson River West Division – bestowed it's annual Everyday Hero Award to long time Monticello Police office Doug Tuno. Doug, with 35 years on the force is the Senior detective and youth officer. He has served thousands of local youngster, teens and there families. He started the local Youth Court 20 years ago which gives local high school students real

courtroom experience. He was instrumental in starting the School Resource office program and has been the department liaison with the school district. He is also the Head Firearms instructor and the range master.

The NYS Police named Doug last year as their Youth Officer of the year. He just recently headed three gang awareness seminars for local officials.

Suffolk East Receives Tobacco Action Coalition Awards

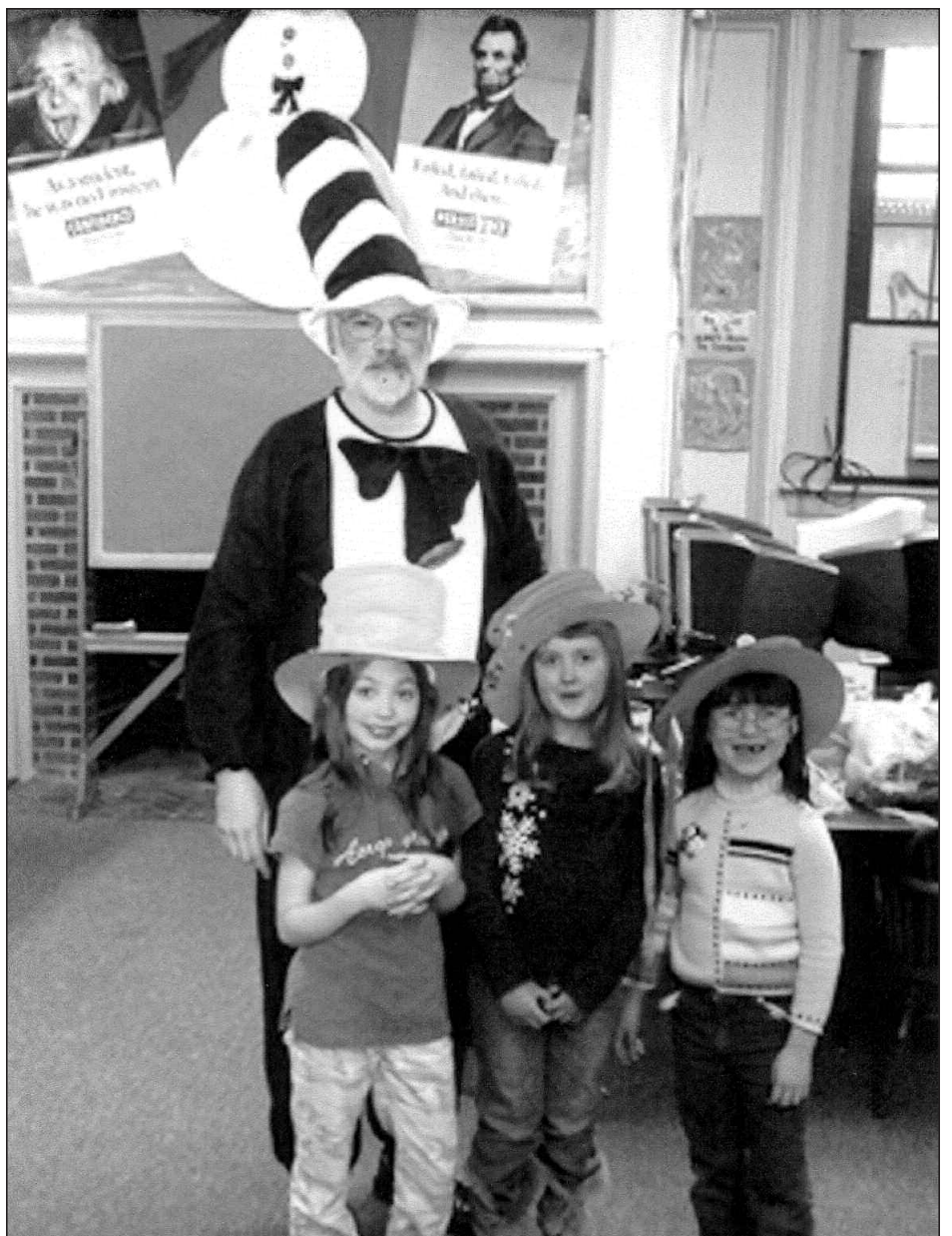


Director of Public Information and Education Patricia Bishop-Kelly, Dept. of Health Services, Suffolk East Health Education Chair Walter Ladick, Jr., PG Glenn Hollins and PLG Frank Virno.

SUFFOLK EAST DIVISION – receives awards from the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island. The project, a partnership with Suffolk County to promote health education regarding the grave dangers to children with smoking parents and caretakers in a contained environment, is a training program to and subsequent intervention by physicians and nurses

in emergency rooms and health centers. The nationally recognized program is in response to the thousands of children with second smoke related illnesses who appear in health care facilities and emergency rooms throughout Suffolk County. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to serving one community and one child at a time.

LeRoy Pavillion Stafford's Cat in the Hat



The Kiwanis Club of LEROY PAVILLION STAFFORD – newest member of the Genesee Division, held its first Read Around the World event this past March. In conjunction with the local library, Woodward Memorial, and the children's librarian, the club supported and participated in a Dr. Seuss Birthday Party for 24 children from the LeRoy community.

The event was held from 3:15-4:15 and the children were engaged for this hour in Dr. Seuss activities. A fifth grade student read Dr. Seuss' book, Happy Birthday to You! After the story, the Cat in the Hat paid a visit to the children and helped them play a game of Seussical chairs. Each child was given a paper top

hat to decorate as they saw fit and the Kiwanis members, including the Cat, helped them with this activity. The event ended with Kiwanis members distributing copies of The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, and One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish to each child in attendance. The Cat agreed to sign each child's copy.

The members of the LeRoy Pavilion Stafford Club felt strongly about donating books to the children as part of this event. The club also provided the top hats, a snack, and, most importantly, the Cat in the Hat.