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## Poughkeepsie Club Program: Catching Kids Caring

Too many times, as parents and educators, we catch kids doing bad things. But what if we caught them doing good things and awarded them for it?

That's the premise of the Poughkeepsie club's Catching Kids Caring program.

Now in its third year, with schools in three large districts participating, Catching Kids Caring has honored students for doing what comes naturally: good deeds.

Taken from a member's experiences in a middle school where bullying was a big problem, the club adopted it to all good deeds such as returning a stolen

item, helping out in the classroom, making friends with a student from another school or country, and, of course, mediating and anti-bullying activities.

Each month, teachers, administrators, or guidance people are asked to keep a look out for these students and contact Kiwanis and the parents. Five local businesses have signed on as sponsors and help pay for the awards, usually gift cards to Barnes and Noble. Then, twice a month or so parents, students, and teachers gather at one of the sponsors' locations and are awarded the gift cards.

Most students bring friends and family and the sponsors supply refreshments.

This has been a successful program for Kiwanis, as well as the local schools. These awards are not based on academics; just good deeds. So the students honored usually are not recognized at any other awards ceremony.

Poughkeepsie Kiwanis is expanding the program to include more schools and more sponsors.

This program has brought attention to Kiwanis, recognition in the community, and the ability to attract new members.

### Collecting Treats for Troops

On Oct. 26, the Bowling Green K-Kids collected items to become part of its Treats for Troops project at the East Meadow Walgreens.

The items were used on Nov. 2 at the K-Kids and Builders Clubs Mini-Convention at WT Clark to put packages together to be sent to troops overseas as part of this year's First Lady's Project.

