

PRESS RELEASE:

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Picture by Cheryl Muller

BATH-HAVERLING INTERACT CLUB PARTICIPATES IN HOLIDAY PROJECTS

Although living normal, active lives has been challenging during the coronavirus pandemic, the Bath-Haverling Central School Interact Club, sponsored by the Bath Rotary Club, is still serving the community and the world. Two of the club members, Raegan Faulkner, Treasurer, and Katelyn Mascherino met recently with Cheryl Muller, Rotary Advisor, at Dunkin Donuts and decided to send monetary donations to the Greater Bath Area Thanksgiving Project and Operation Christmas Child.

According to Bob and Mary Dunham, two of the Co-Chairs of the Greater Bath Area Thanksgiving Project, gift certificates to Save-A-Lot were issued to those families who preregistered for the project this year instead of receiving food baskets. When the families picked up their gift certificates, based on family size – small, medium, or large, they were also given a meat selection, provided by the Foodbank of the Southern Tier. With funds left over from the Thanksgiving Project, eligible families may receive gift certificates to Save-A-Lot and/or Family Dollar for food and/or Christmas gifts as part of the project's Cold Hands/Warm Hearts program. The Dunhams thanked the local Interactors for their generosity and praised them for their unselfish dedication to helping those in need.

Since 1993 more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have received simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse. These gifts are delivered to children of needy families around the world before Christmas. The shoeboxes are given to children based on need, regardless of their background or religious beliefs. The gifts are an unconditional gift of love.

Hopefully, next year the club can involve the entire Bath-Haverling Central School and other community organizations in this service project as they have done in the past. They again plan to collect coloring books, crayons, small toys, stuffed animals, school supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, other small necessities, and gifts which they themselves will wrap in shoeboxes and have some distributed to local families and others sent to Samaritan's Purse. They look forward to seeing many students, faculty, and staff as well as community members come together for a greater cause.

Interact, established in 1962, is a service club for youth ages 12 – 18 and one of Rotary International's fastest growing programs. These student clubs benefit from the sponsorship of individual Rotary clubs which provide support and guidance. The organization has a membership of approximately 400,000 youth in more than 17,000 clubs worldwide; with Rotary clubs in over 135 countries and geographical areas Interact is truly an international phenomenon. Its global youth network provides an opportunity for young people to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding. The clubs are self-governing and self-supporting and can be either school or community based.

The local Interactors eagerly pursue the goals of this international student organization which are: to recognize and develop constructive leadership and personal integrity; to encourage and practice thoughtfulness of and helpfulness to others; to create an awareness of the importance of home and family; to build respect for the rights of others, based on the recognition of the worth of each individual; to emphasize acceptance of individual responsibility as the basis of personal success, community improvement, and group achievement; to develop life skills, including self-development, time management, and personal finances; to recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations as opportunities to serve society; to provide opportunities for gaining increased knowledge and understanding of community, national, and world affairs; to open avenues of personal and group action leading to the advancement of international understanding and goodwill toward all people.

When schools and extracurricular clubs can return to normal activities, the Bath-Haverling Central School Interactors plan to participate in the school yard cleanup, a veteran star donation project at the Veterans Administration's National Cemetery in Bath, and a water station during the Wineglass Marathon.

On behalf of the Bath Rotary Club, Muller noted, "The Bath Rotary Club, the Bath-Haverling Central School District, the community of Bath, and the members' families can be most proud of these young men and women who continue to display the Rotary International motto of 'Service Above Self'".

(Picture and cutline are on the next page.)



Members of the Bath-Haverling Central School Interact Club recently met with Cheryl Muller, Rotary Advisor, to discuss sending monetary donations to the Greater Bath Area Thanksgiving Project and Operation Christmas Child. Standing left to right are: Raegan Faulkner, Treasurer, and Katelyn Mascherino.