

Raising Awareness for Poverty

Feinstein students achieve goal at pasta dinner Friday night

Wanted to raise \$1,000 for poverty awareness; 'They'll beat that, no problem,' says faculty member and co-organizer of the event

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COVENTRY — Three Feinstein Middle School students, who were studying the effects that poverty has in their community as well as surrounding communities, decided to step up and make a difference by planning and hosting a pasta dinner.

Sydney Norbrega, Jamie Nadigar and Sara Coria explained how the idea to hold a fundraiser pasta dinner came to them during lunch (of course) after they were discussing

poverty in their community as part of their ELA curriculum.

The dinner was held in the middle school cafeteria Friday, with a first seating at 4:30 and another at 5:30.

According to their teacher and co-organizer, Kathleen Delaney, of the 185 tickets printed, only 44 were remaining by 4:45.

"Our goal is to raise \$1,000," said Norbrega.

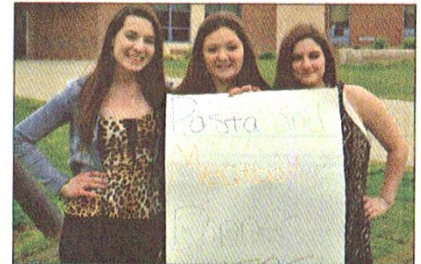
"They'll beat that, no problem," said Delaney.

Kristin McCarthy, an eighth-grade teacher

who was among the many volunteers who served the meal, called it a "great thing."

"We have been studying the topic of poverty in our classroom and these students just wanted to help, so they asked Mrs. Delaney how they could do that and the four of them came to us to see if we would be interested in volunteering in some way," she said.

"These are our kids and they're wonderful," said another eighth-grade teacher, Mrs. Wendy Bettez.



Kendra Leigh Miller/Daily Times

(L-R) Sara Corai, Jamie Nadigan and Sydney Norbrega, who organized a pasta dinner to raise awareness for poverty Friday.

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Dinner raises awareness in Coventry

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The Rozzi family enjoyed the dinner with their daughter, eighth-grader Alli Rossi.

"It was great and it's for a great cause," she said.

The students said the hardest aspect of planning the event over the past month and a half was the coordination but they learned a lot by doing it.

"Though class discussions, we have come to learn that of the poverty that exists in our community and in order to make a difference, we decided to hold this dinner," said the girls.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of these students," Delaney said. "They want to change the world and they wanted to start here and all the other kids got behind them and wanted to help too," she said. "It's amazing."

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Assistant Principal Jennifer Roy said the middle school has a constant theme of helping others.

"They're constantly giving back and are always in search of ways to do so," she said. "Here these kids are, on a Friday night of a long weekend – huge. These are great kids loved by great teachers."

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School



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With parents and teachers volunteering and classmates and members of the community coming to the school to enjoy the pasta dinner, Feinstein Middle School in Coventry was a hive of activity Friday.

Principal Arthur Lisi agreed.

"These students step in whenever they can and it was all their idea."

The fundraiser also featured raffles for prizes including gift certificates to Ronzio's Pizza, The Bead Sting Gift Shop, Vera Bradley, The Dragon Palace,

car wash supplies, a three-month membership to Answer Fitness and more.

Funds raised will go toward helping middle-school aged children who attend camp during the summer as well as provide hygiene products to middle school students who are in need.