

ELMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elmont Students and Dads Give Back to the Community

Elmont, N.Y., Jan. 7, 2009 — Elmont students and their fathers, who are members of the Elmont Dads' Club, are dedicated to working together to better the community. This is especially important during the holiday season. That's when they spread cheer through two special events — the annual food drive and a visit to a local veterans' home.

The club's food drive made the holidays a little brighter for 20 of the community's less fortunate families who received baskets filled with the makings of a holiday feast. An army of 60 dads and their children sorted through a gymnasium full of more than 46 cases of boxed and canned foods. With the help of the Elmont School District's Transportation Department the group hopped on a bus and delivered the yummy goods.

For their next community service the Elmont Dads' Club joined forces with the Elmont School District's student musicians and local veterans who served our nation. The dads helped youngsters load up their school bus with instruments, cards and gifts and the group headed to the New York State Veterans' Home in St. Albans, Queens. Under the direction of Music Teacher Anthony Pino, the group performed jazz and holiday favorites, as well as a spirited musical tribute of "When the Saints Go Marching In."

"Thank you for allowing us to come here and for giving our young musicians the opportunity to perform for you," said Dads' Club Vice President and Elmont School Board Trustee Michael Jaime. Elmont School District Superintendent Al Harper, Elmont School

Board President Frank Ragona and Dads' Club Coordinator Dennis Cowan along with other members of the club were all on hand to spread holiday cheer.

The Elmont Dads' Club was created to foster the bond between parents, grandparents, relatives and their children. This is accomplished by involving the child and his/her family in service-related activities that benefit the Elmont community. An Elmont School District based organization it promotes optimal social development and positive emotional growth for the children of Elmont. Through active parental involvement in family service activities, the club strives to build closer relationships and works toward the betterment of the community.

The mission of the Elmont Union Free School District is to "reach and teach for excellence," which means continually improving instruction and increasing student achievement. Dedication to this goal is what has earned Elmont New York State recognition for its "High Performing/Gap Closing Schools," and as a state "model for school success." In partnership with the community, the district holds its students to the highest standards while maintaining one of the lowest per-pupil expenditures in Nassau County.

Captions

1. Members of the Elmont Dads' Club, from left, Dads' Club Secretary and Elmont School Board Trustee Anthony Maffea, Dads' Club President George Atkins, Elmont School Board President Frank Ragona and Dads' Club Vice President and Elmont School Board Trustee Michael Jaime help sort through more than 46 cases of food for Elmont's less fortunate families.
2. Elmont students help sort and pack the donated goods to make the holidays brighter for those in need.
3. The Dads' Club arranged for talented musicians from Elmont Elementary Schools to spread some holiday cheer to veterans in St. Alban's, Queens.
4. Dads' Club member retired United States Army Sargeant Herbie Mickens told the veterans they were his "inspiration" and thanked each one of them for their service. His son Herbie (not pictured) distributed cards and gifts to the veterans.