



Westwood Commons residents present a thank-you card to students at Fairbanks Road Elementary School. Pictured on the front row, from left, are teacher Jennifer Ritchie, Austin DeVries, Julie Adams, Ava Bianchi, AJ Ippolito, Daniela Morales-Negron, Liam O'Brien and resident Mary Ann Comstock. Back: resident Gerald Yazback, Romeo Lancaster, Carol Cambell, Stella Anderson, Ella Klotch and Principal Todd Yunker. [PHOTOS PROVIDED]

Small gestures net big thanks at Westwood Commons

Messenger Post Media

A random act of kindness recently came full circle at Westwood Commons, a senior living community in North Chili. Over the holidays, residents received nearly 100 blankets from students at Fairbanks Road Elementary School in the Churchville-Chili Central School District. In return, residents delivered a Valentine's Day card to the school. Fairbanks has donated the blankets and books to students in the city of

Rochester for the past 10 years. This year, they decided to give the blankets to area senior citizens. The school participated in a Caring Coins campaign, where students donated coins for weeks. Second graders collected the money to purchase fleece for the blankets. Staff volunteers cut the fabric into blanket-sized pieces, third graders made the blankets, and fourth graders wrapped them in ribbons and delivered them. Fairbanks teacher Jean Long said the outreach

program is aimed at creating a sense of community and charity among students. She said students enjoyed engaging with the seniors and listening to their stories, and appreciated the Valentine's Day thank-you card. "The residents love the blankets so much," said Cathy Toney, activities director. "Everyone has been using them faithfully on the end of their bed for extra warmth, as a lap blanket while sitting in their chairs watching TV or as a shawl on the back of their wheelchair."



Fairbanks Road Elementary student Lilianna Negron presents a dog-themed blanket to Westwood Commons resident Tina L'abate.



Westwood Commons resident Louise Tantalo accepts a blanket from Fairbanks Road Elementary student Alaina Moldanado.



Fairbanks Road Elementary School students read the Valentine's Day thank-you card with Westwood Commons resident Mary Ann Comstock.