



QuEd up for Education

People and programs impacting our QCSD community

March 15, 2019

Junior Girl Scouts' project seeks students' help

From March 18-29, each QCSD school will have a bin in the area of the main office to collect toiletry items.

Three students in three different Quakertown Community School District elementary schools are teaming up for a community service project to earn a Bronze Award, the highest honor for a Junior Girl Scout.

Megan Gera (Pfaff), Kara Kelly (Trumbauersville) and Riley McGinty (Richland) have developed a "Take Action" project. They will collect and distribute toiletries to people who are less fortunate and cannot afford these items. They are working directly with the Quakertown Food Pantry, Quakertown Community Outreach, Upper Bucks Code Blue, and Quakertown Cares to distribute these items to children and families in the district.

The items include things like shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, feminine hygiene products and body wash. From March 18-29, each QCSD school will have a bin in the area of the main office to collect these necessities.

The girls got the idea for the project after each put together five toiletry bags for the St. Isidore's Food Pantry for the MLK Day of Service. They had previously discussed a service project for their Bronze Award, and decided a larger scale toiletry drive would make the kind of positive impact on the community that they were looking for.

According to Megan's mom, Mrs. Gera, they began by writing letters to friends and family that were posted



Junior Girl Scouts, from left, Kara Kelly, Megan Gera and Riley McGinty, are teaming up on a community service project. The QCSD students are collecting toiletries to help those who can't afford these items. Beginning March 18, each QCSD school will have a bin to help collect these necessities from fellow students who make donations.

on social media. They also created an Amazon Wish List so that out-of-town people could donate conveniently. In early February, they learned of an immediate need by the Code Blue Shelter (a largely homeless shelter that opens when temperatures drop below a certain temperature).

Originally, the project was broken into a collection phase, followed by a sorting phase, Mrs. Gera said. But after learning of the Code Blue need, they quickly realized that specific population couldn't wait until the collection phase was over, when temperatures would be warmer. They quickly made

arrangements and looked through the donations they'd already received, and were able to fill the Code Blue need within 24 hours.

Recently, they were invited to tour the Quakertown Food Pantry and discussed the specific needs of the population they serve. They were also selected to be the charity at the Southern Lehigh Service Unit's World Thinking Day. Now, they're seeking help from their peers with donations in each of the district's school buildings. Please consider sending in full or travel size toiletries with your student between March 18-29. Thank you!