

# Nazareth Hall programs heighten awareness

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Reading, writing, arithmetic — and enlightenment.

Two recent programs at Nazareth Hall Elementary School, 180 Raines Park, have gone a long way toward transforming the grade pre-K through fifth-grade students into well-informed young women and men.

One project, "READ for N.E.E.D." (Nazareth Elementary Enables a Dream), raised funds for St. Martin's Place, a soup kitchen located at 55 Ontario St. The money was donated by Wegmans Food Markets, which pledged five cents for each book read by Nazareth Hall students and family members.

The book-reading drive, which began in February, was overwhelmingly successful. According to Catherine Kress, assistant director of the elementary school, students and families read more than 15,000 books — far exceeding the \$500 limit set by Wegmans. An awards ceremony on Friday, May 13, will recognize students who completed the program.

Kress noted that the students could earn extra points by reading designated material. "They didn't just read any books," she said. "We encouraged them to read quality books. They were really reaching for quality literature."

Some youths, such as 7-year-old Steven Smith, didn't need much prompting to get involved in READ for N.E.E.D. A self-described avid book reader, Steven reported that he and his parents devoured 147 books during the drive.

"I used to always read a lot, so it's not a big jump," commented Steven, a second-grader. He added that the project was fun.

Sister Melita Burley, SSJ, librarian at the elementary school, remarked that "the best part is that we're helping others as we're helping ourselves."



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
**Kameron McMillan, a pre-kindergarten student at Nazareth Hall, decorates a T-shirt with imprints of his hands. The activity was part of the school's celebration of the Week of the Young Child, a nationwide event celebrated April 17-23.**

School principal Sister Mary Ann Laurer, SSJ, added, "By helping others, they're increasing their own sense of giftedness — God's gift to them."

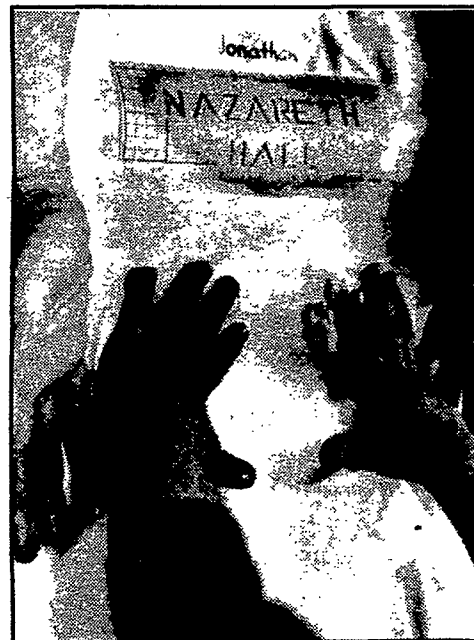
Nazareth Hall also recently celebrated the Week of the Young Child from April 17 through 23. This national event, begun in 1971 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, serves to direct public attention toward the needs of young children and their

families, and to support programs and services that meet those needs.

In keeping with this year's theme, "The Future Is In Our Hands," pre-K and kindergarten students — with the assistance of older Nazareth Hall students — designed T-shirts painted with their own hand imprints. The youngsters displayed these shirts at an April 22 concluding assembly entitled "Hats Off to the Young Child." All other students wore hats of their choice that day, and — not unlike a graduation ceremony — launched their headgear into the air during the assembly.

Also during the week, staff members from Pet World brought a variety of animals to the school for pre-K and kindergarten students to see. In addition, a breakfast was held for the pre-K and kindergarten youths and their parents.

Kress acknowledged that activities such as READ for N.E.E.D. and Week of the Young Child are "certainly making (the students) more aware of their community and their world. This makes them more aware of their responsibility."



**Nazareth Hall youngsters displayed their T-shirts at an April 22 concluding assembly celebrating this year's theme "The Future Is In Our Hands."**

## Finalists selected for volunteerism recognition

ROCHESTER — Four students from diocesan high schools were chosen as finalists for the "Varsity Volunteers" awards sponsored by Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc.

These finalists were Philip Nawrocki, a student at McQuaid Jesuit High School; Ann Ognibene, from Our Lady

of Mercy; Theresa Ladrigan, from Bishop Kearney; and Christa Muratore, from Aquinas Institute.

"Varsity Volunteers" began in 1990 to encourage volunteerism among youths. This year's 20 finalists were selected from nearly 700 applicants, all high-school juniors in the Rochester area.

## School honors Dr. Seuss with month's worth of activities

IRONDEQUOIT — Christ the King School, 445 Kings Highway S., celebrated the writing of Dr. Seuss during March.

Activities culminated with a March 29 field day titled, "Dr. Seuss on the Loose."

This event featured student participation in several skits and games, based on Dr. Seuss's writings such as *Horton Hatches the Egg*, *Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham* and *Yertle the Turtle*.

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