

FEATURE



Karin von Voigtlander/Photo intern

Cassie Bledsoe, 10, sings to the music at the dance marathon.



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Donna Lee Kelsey, a teacher at Parley Coburn School, Elmira, dances with Felicia Reep, 10, at the public school's first dance marathon Oct. 26. Students in third-fifth grades received pledges for the Catholic Charities Samaritan Center, next door to the school. They raised \$1,500 to buy Thanksgiving turkeys for families in need. In addition, Holy Family Primary School students marched to the center with 220 cans of food, and joined in songs with Coburn students.

Week features faith in action

Volunteers danced, bowled, raked leaves, collected food, visited migrant camps, and played bingo with seniors. But there was one more element to the Works of Love week staged the fourth week of October.

The Catholic Charities program, the diocese's first Works of Love, in many cases involved someone from Catholic Charities going out to talk with volunteers about the people they serve and the church's social teachings.

"Lots and lots of volunteer stuff is going on out there, but it's building in the reflection piece that can transform," said Ruth Putnam, Works of Love coordinator.

And in some cases, there was an about-face. For example, volunteers for Mercy Rural Ministry based in Wayland were served a meal by people the ministry has served. In Elmira, students whose families are helped by Catholic Charities, pitched in with their classmates to help the agency.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Billy Strassner (center left), 11, and Tim Tramontana, 11, laugh at Nick Prinzing (left), 11, dressed as Buffalo Bob, and Michael Chatt (right), 11, dressed as Howdy Doody at the Just Friends Senior Center in Rochester Oct. 26. The sixth-graders from Christ the King School, Irondequoit, put on a "comedy act" for the seniors. They also sang, played bingo, and had lunch with the seniors.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Paulene Pallister laughs after winning the 50/50 raffle twice in a row at the senior center. Jay Spinnichia, a Catholic Family Center volunteer who came with the Christ the King class, checks her ticket for her.

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