

Urbana School District 116

Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
www.usd116.org

News Release

Contact Name: Mark Schultz
217-384-3650
mschultz@usd116.org

Date: November 21, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thomas Paine Elementary Families Donate Food to Those in Need

Members of the Thomas Paine Elementary School family recently got into the Thanksgiving and Holiday spirit by donating food to fellow families in need.

Thomas Paine Principal Sandra Cooper says all the food collected will stay in house. "Thomas Paine has traditionally collected food for the annual Eastern Illinois Foodbank drive. Several years ago, our students expressed an interest in collecting food for our own families who might need some support over the holidays or long weekends," Cooper says.

Cooper says several Thomas Paine families will benefit from their fellow school families. "We sent a flyer to approximately 20 Thomas Paine families who were identified as needing support or who have asked for support. The social worker followed up with a phone call. We are trying to have enough food to supply students with food they could fix for themselves if there isn't an adult at home over the long week-end," she explains.

The Thomas Paine food collection box was soon overflowing. Cooper says, "Kids say they like helping others. It is that time of year where those of us who are blessed can show our gratitude by helping others." Cooper also says this event helps build community at Thomas Paine commenting, "It is one small way that symbolizes the feeling of community among our staff and families. They are all 'our children.' We want all students and their families to feel they belong and feel valued at Thomas Paine."

Media wishing to report on the Thomas Paine Food Drive should contact Principal Sandra Cooper at 384-3602.

###

Outstanding schools in an outstanding community!

Urbana School District • 205 North Race St. • P.O. Box 3039 • Urbana, IL 61803-3039