

# Girl Scouts at Queen's Elementary School collecting pajamas for Jackson children

By [Joanie Hauglie | Jackson Citizen Patriot](#)

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For many children, "bedtime" means stories, prayers and goodnight kisses — all enjoyed in the warmth and comfort of their favorite PJs.

So when the first- and fourth-grade Girl Scouts at Queen's Elementary School learned that even some local children go to bed at night without these things, they decided to take action.

Queen's first-grade Daisy Girl Scout leader Monica White offered a suggestion: Why not launch their very own Pajama Program?

"I had watched an episode on the 'Oprah' show a year or two ago about Genevieve Piturro, who started the Pajama Program, and it has always stuck with me," White said. The New York City-based nonprofit donates new pajamas and books to kids in orphanages and shelters. The program was formed in 2001.

"As soon as they heard about the Pajama Program, the girls were excited to get on board," said Brook Manchester, fourth-grade Junior Girl Scout leader at the school.

Manchester said the girls decided to collect and donate new pajamas and children's books to the AWARE Shelter, 706 W. Michigan Ave. They had delivered mugs and cocoa to AWARE last month, so they're familiar with the organization.

They're also familiar with the enormous need. "They get that they are helping give someone else a bit of comfort," White said.

For participating in the program, each Girl Scout will earn a badge, but "that sewn-on piece of fabric" isn't what they will remember.

"We as leaders talk to the girls about why we do our projects for others, and you sometimes wonder if these young ladies are truly listening," White said. "It's a great feeling to know they get the values we are trying to instill in them."

Donations of new pajamas and children's books for the Queen's Girl Scout Pajama Program drive are being accepted through Friday.

Drop-off locations include Queen's School, 811 S. Wisner St.; CP Federal Credit Union branches; and Anna's Unique Gifts, 401 N. Mechanic St.

To learn more, call 517-206-3556.

## **Toys for Tots**

Five-year-old Carson Clark of Brooklyn died of cancer in October. His mother, Susan Clark, is hoping to help give needy children in the area a good Christmas by encouraging people to donate to this year's Toys for Tots drive in her son's name.

New, unwrapped toys are being accepted through Dec. 18 at Art Moehn Chevrolet-Honda, 2200 Seymour Road; all CP Federal Credit Union locations; Toy House and Baby Too, 400 N. Mechanic St.; Toys "R" Us in Jackson Crossing; area fire departments; McDonald's restaurants; and all Jackson District Library branches. Cash donations also are accepted. Checks should be made out to "Toys for Tots" and sent to Art Moehn Chevrolet-Honda