

# NEWSRelease

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

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## ***HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS ACROSS SARNIA-LAMBTON TO BENEFIT FROM 'NOELLE'S GIFT'***

Donations continue to pour in to *Noelle's Gift*, a charitable fund for cash donations in memory of Noelle Paquette, a former Kindergarten teacher with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, who died suddenly and tragically in January 2013.

"Noelle enjoyed life – she had the deepest love for her family and friends," says her mother, Lynn Paquette. "This is such a difficult time for us; but we want the public to know that we are overwhelmed by their heartwarming support for *Noelle's Gift*."

Since the charity was begun, more than \$80 thousand has been collected. The Paquette family has met with the Directors of Education for both the St. Clair Catholic and Lambton Kent District School Boards, whose students will be the beneficiaries of the donations.

"Noelle never wanted to see any child go without food, clothing or school supplies," says Lynn Paquette. "*Noelle's Gift* will help to provide these basic needs and will continue to honour her compassion for children, which will be her legacy for years to come."

"We are deeply touched by the generous support of the Paquette family through this tremendous charity," says Paul Wubben, Director of Education for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. "Noelle's Gift will help the very students Noelle reached out to in life – those who are most needful."

"On behalf of the students and families who will benefit from this great gift, we say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the Paquette family," says Jim Costello, Director of Education for the Lambton Kent District School Board. "The love Noelle had for students and for teaching will live on through this important charity."

Funds dispensed through *Noelle's Gift* will be managed by a committee of community members, which will operate outside the purview of the boards. The committee will oversee the expenditure of funds, with a goal of expediency to handle urgent funding requests.

Most of the \$80 thousand already collected has been through personal donations; however, corporate donations and fundraising through community events are being planned for the future, including "Noelle's Gift for Fitness" later in April and a golf tournament in July.

More details will be forthcoming as the events draw closer.

Donations to *Noelle's Gift* can be made at the Scotia Bank branch on Waterworks Road in Bright's Grove. For more information regarding donations, please contact Jackie Major-Daamen, Branch Manager at 519-869-4299.

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***For more information regarding this release, please contact:***

Paul Wubben  
Director of Education  
St. Clair Catholic District School Board  
519-627-6762, Ext. 241

Jim Costello  
Director of Education  
Lambton Kent District School Board  
519-354-3775, ext. 31230