

Grade 3 student inspires school's AIDS fundraising

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Cole Gunathunge, a Grade 3 student at Summitview Public School, wanted to help African children with AIDS by donating a week's allowance.

He ended up doing much more.

'I have to do something.'

Cole Gunathunge
age 8

Cole became the inspiration for a schoolwide fundraiser at his Main Street school.

"I have to do something," eight-year-old Cole told his mom, after learning at school that the equivalent of the population of Stouffville is wiped out every three days in Africa due to AIDS/HIV.

After Cole talked to his class, the other children began making posters. His class then challenged the whole school to raise money for the Watoto Children's Villages in Uganda.

Originally, the fundraising target was set at \$200; but

with the help of the whole school and a \$200 gift certificate from the local Wal-Mart, the total came to almost \$1,500.

The gift certificate was arranged by Wal-Mart manager Charles Harvey, who has a child at Summitview.

Students in Cole's classroom and their teacher, Sharla Comartin, shopped at Wal-Mart for baby clothes, toys, blankets, creams, diapers and other supplies.

They were presented to members of the Watoto Children's Chorus last week, after the choir, made up of children who have lost their parents to AIDS, performed at the school.

Among the young performers is Stephen Kyegera, who is being sponsored by Summitview teacher/librarian Nancy Clark and her husband, Bill.

The clothes and supplies will be added to the donations received at a giant baby shower hosted by EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church, among others, and will be shipped by container to the Bullrushes Babies Home in Kampala in the spring.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

The Watoto Children's Chorus, made up of African AIDS orphans, performs at Summitview Public School last week.

Leprechaun visits downtown during St. Patrick's Day event

Everyone will be Irish in downtown Stouffville March 17, during the Luck of the Irish Sale and Celebration hosted by the Business Improvement Area.

A leprechaun will be strolling the street during the event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and participating merchants will be offering specials and contests.

Watch for shamrocks and St. Patrick's Day decorations in store windows.

Call 905-640-0749 for more information.

Wear green to bazaar

The Silver Jubilee Seniors Club hosts its annual St. Patrick's Day Bazaar next Saturday, March 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The event features a bake sale, attic treasures and crafts. Lunch is available. The club is at Market and Main streets in Stouffville.

EVERS

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