

# ARE YOU PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN?

## Small middle school helps in big way

By Kevin Kruthers

Students of Emmons School had a unique way of raising money for the relief funds for New York City. On Fri., Oct. 5, the 401 students completed their Kids Helping Kids Marathon Walk down Main Street in Antioch, raising not only plenty of red, white, and blue, but plenty of money to donate to four New York City elementary schools. The final amount of pledges collected by the school totaled to \$14,806.98.

The money was divided equally into four checks and delivered to the schools by Emmons School Board Secretary, Stan Livermore. Livermore was coincidentally going to New York on business, so the school had him take the money.

"We were excited to have a more personal approach," said Tabar. A videotape of the march was also delivered for the students to watch."

A teacher suggested the idea, but it wasn't long before students wanted to get involved.

"I wanted to help people out for once," said Emmons seventh grader, Adam Stuckrath.

Stuckrath also constructed a box to place in the school's lobby to collect additional donations. The students at Emmons expressed sympathy for those students in New York City who were affected by the destruction, which took place on September 11. The schools were covered in the soot and dust, ruining textbooks and other materials.

"I really don't know how the kids in New York are getting their education, and I thought that it [helping them] would be a good idea," said Emmons seventh grader Chris Dille.

Emmons Principal Cindy Vandrush accredited Dille and Stuckrath with being involved in the organization of the event. The march began at the Strang Funeral Home. Students

unloaded the busses, proudly displaying their patriotism for the occasion.

Flags, hats, ribbons, face paint, balloons, and several banners composed the sea of red, white, and blue seen that day.

Dr. Ed Abderholden of the Antioch Rotary Club was Uncle Sam for the day, and along with Emmons Band Director Beverly Kramer, led the students proudly down Main Street.

Many of the students' parents were there to participate, taking pictures and escorting the march. The students continued on to the corner of Main and Depot Street, then turned right and ended the march at the band shell on Skidmore Drive.

The day was far from finished. Kramer led the students in the singing of "My Country", and "God Bless America".

Following this moving event, Tabar and Vandrush spoke to the crowd of parents and students ceremoniously gathered before them, still waving flags. Vandrush was deeply moved by the event.

"I have never felt so moved, not only through the patriotism displayed here today, but by your concern for your fellow Americans. You are all such wonderful students and parents," said Vandrush.



**"I write today to ask you to join me and students, teachers, parents, and other proud Americans across the country in showing our patriotism by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at a single time and with a unified voice in your classrooms on Friday, October 12, 2001," said Rod Paige, Secretary of Education**



## Americans pledge their allegiance

By Michael Cohen

Celebration USA, a nonprofit organization created to instruct the basic values of democracy in American classrooms, organized *Pledge Across America*, an event that offered an opportunity for students, parents, and teachers all across the country to join together and show their patriotism by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Pledge Across America* was organized as a response to the acts of terrorism of Sept. 11. On Oct. 12, at 1:00 CDT, Antioch Community High School, with almost 100,000 other schools across America, participated in a synchronized Pledge of Allegiance.

Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, wrote a letter to all public school principals on Oct. 9 asking them to participate in the synchronized Pledge of Allegiance.

"I write today to ask you to join me and students, teachers, parents, and other proud Americans across the country in showing our patriotism by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at a single time and with a unified voice in your classrooms on Fri., Oct. 12, 2001," wrote Paige. "I hope you will join me in making this a national celebration on Friday... Together, we can send a loud and powerful message that will be heard around the world: America is 'one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'"

Dr. Jim Love, ACHS principal, said that it was important for ACHS to participate in this event, "the Pledge of Allegiance helps unify Americans by remembering the ideals and values of our country and the importance of the flag as a symbol of these values." Love went on to say, "Along with remembering the lives lost in the terrorist attacks, saying the Pledge is a declaration of support for our country."

When asked if ACHS would continue to say the Pledge throughout the rest of the school year, Love said, "It is my plan for students to say the Pledge of Allegiance on Fridays as a sign of support for our nation."

Beckie Tobiascki, an ACHS junior, agreed with Love, "Yes, we should be proud to say the Pledge of Allegiance."

Shanna Casey, an ACHS junior, thought the idea of continuing to say the Pledge of Allegiance was good.

"I think it's important that our country fuse together and show the terrorists they can't separate us," Casey said.

Tobiascki and Casey think that the Pledge means more now than it did when they would recite it in elementary school.

"It means more because now we realize how strong our country is," said Tobiascki



## Enlistment rises with youth

By Andy Pruski

You're 18 years old, you've just graduated from high school and along with pretty much everyone else your age, you have no idea what you're going to do next.

You could get a job, go to college, or possibly even enlist in the Armed Forces. That's exactly what Antioch Community High School graduate Jim Spence did.

He enlisted in the Army Infantry unit after he graduated from ACHS. Spence enlisted in the army for four years. On Jan. 7 he will depart to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he will undergo basic training in Army Infantry for 13 weeks.

For the first three months of basic training, his only means of communication with his relatives will be writing letters. After the initial three months, communication is open.

The main reason for Spence enlisting in the Armed Forces is because of several relatives that have enlisted in the past.

"Most of my family is there [in the army]," said Spence.

Spence along with many other new recruits in the area, have gone through the Round Lake Beach U.S. Army Recruiting Station to enlist.

"There's been a noticeable increase in people coming by," said Sergeant First Class Tom Janis. "Before the Sept. eleventh tragedy there were about 6 people coming by a week, now, we get about ten per week."

Janis is a U.S. Army Field Recruiter at the Round Lake Beach Recruiting Station.

One of the main advantages of enlisting is the \$50,000 towards education available.

According to Janis, the armed forces are particularly a good opportunity for high school graduates who cannot afford college tuitions to eventually attend college after their service in the military.

Janis also points out that every American, in some way, wants to serve their country. "Deep inside, most Americans are patriotic," said Janis.

However, Janis discourages joining for the wrong reasons. "Do it for the right reasons, not because your buddies are doing it," he said.

Janis, who is originally from Alabama, joined the army when he was 17 years old, because he could not afford college and needed the money. Janis is now in his mid-twenties and he is still proudly serving his country each and every day.

"I originally joined because I needed the money for college," said Janis. "It just kind of stuck with me and now I'm very happy with my decision."

In an attempt to rally the ground troops, which have recently been called up, General Richard Myers said "There's no option but succes."

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