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Arlington Elementary earns Champion Honors

Local The LEAGUE teams make a difference at home

Elizabeth Gist
Republican staff writer

Arlington Elementary students had the opportunity to light up the scoreboard, thanks to The LEAGUE and their own charitable efforts.

The LEAGUE, a national, youth-service organization that empowers kids to "get in the game" of giving back to their communities, sponsored a program called The Drive in order to allow kids this empowerment.

The Drive was conducted nationwide by nearly 40,000 students in more than 400 schools across the country. The result: More than \$668,000 worth of food and clothing was collected for community organizations.

Arlington students entered the Be Charitable program, a collaboration between The LEAGUE and The Pacers Foundation. The school placed first in the state by having the

biggest impact for their food and clothing drive.

In recognition of Arlington's outstanding work the school received a trophy presentation visit from representatives of The LEAGUE Indiana, the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP), The Pacers Foundation and Boomer, the Pacers' mascot.

"Both The LEAGUE and Pacers Foundation have teamed up in Indiana to encourage schools to 'Be Charitable,' and have developed an awards structure that recognizes schools making tremendous impacts in the state," Eric Hollister, Indiana State Director, The LEAGUE, said. "I can't think of a better way to usher in the holiday season than with results like these. We are so proud of the students in these schools, and across the state of Indiana, for they exemplify the true power of working together to strengthen our communities."

Arlington Elementary's collection efforts brought in over \$33,400 worth of food and clothing which went to benefit food pantries for local area churches and Goodwill.

"I never would have thought that our small school would earn a recognition opportunity like this. This is awesome and very encouraging for our kids," Mark Stanley, Arlington Elementary's The LEAGUE coach said.

Boomer helped the school continue their celebration efforts by pumping up the crowd, passing out "Be Charitable" T-shirts, and giving a



Contributed photos

(Left) **GIVIN' IT UP:** Boomer offers a high five to an Arlington Elementary School student. (Below) **ALTRUISTIC EFFORT:** Pictured (front row, left to right) are Jessica Miller and Regan Laker (Arlington sixth-graders); (back row) Jami Marsh (executive director of the Pacers Foundation), Betsy Williams (program manager for The LEAGUE), Julie Innis (Arlington principal), Mark Stanley (Arlington The LEAGUE coach and sixth-grade teacher), and Gerald Mohr (associate director of the Indiana Association of School Principals); (top back) Boomer (Pacers mascot).



table" T-shirts, and giving a congratulatory "high-five" to each of the students.

"The students were so proud of what they had accomplished. You could see it in

their little faces. We were just thrilled to be able to recognize them for their efforts," Jami Marsh, executive director of The Pacers Foundation, said.

Despite the celebratory at-

mosphere, the students knew it was the spirit of giving that was the real reward.

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