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## MES WINS SPECIAL KING'S DAY AWARD Milroy Elementary presented trophy during Pacer game

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Five Milroy Elementary School students gained access to the mid-court of Conseco Fieldhouse during half-time of Friday's Indiana Pacer win over the New Jersey Nets: Alexis Thompson, Ethan Duncan, Kyle Bacon, Maddie Turner and Haley Riddell. They were joined by Milroy principal Sue Lebo, Jami Marsh of the Pacers, Milroy teacher Mary Duncan, and Betsy Williams of The League.

Nearly 85 students at the rural elementary school participated in a variety of events during the past six weeks by choosing to show acts of kindness and be charitable to others.

Student acts of kindness and fairness spread through the rural community as the youngsters baked cookies for shut-ins, visited the elderly and assisted senior citizens with their grocery shopping.

According to Duncan, a number of other students also were found helping more around their own homes, while others offered their assistance pet sitting for neighbors.

"The students really did a great job with this project. We left a lot of the work and what to do to the students. We discussed acts of kindness and fairness and respect along with Martin Luther King Jr. and his mark on our world today," Duncan said.

According to principal Lebo, five students were chosen as a result of a blind draw from those participating in the school event.

Shortly before half-time, the group of locals were met by Pacer representative Jami Marsh. After donning special T-shirts they were ushered through the south entrance of the court. A short time later, on behalf of the entire MES student body and staff, Ethan Duncan and Kyle Bacon held the prestigious award and were flanked by the rest of the local contingent at center court as cameras flashed and those in attendance applauded their efforts.

Duncan, The League "coach" for the



Republican photo by Frank Denzler

**AWARD WINNING SMILES:** Pictured (left to right, front row) are Alexis Thompson, Ethan Duncan, Kyle Bacon and Maddie Turner; (second row) Jami Marsh, Milroy teacher Mary Duncan, Haley Riddell, Milroy principal Sue Lebo and Betsy Williams. The local students and educators accepted the "King Day" award during half-time of Friday's Indiana Pacers game on behalf of the entire student body of the rural Rush County school.

school, kept a tally of the students' acts of exceptional kindness to others.

It is believed that each of the four Rush County elementary school participated in the event, as did schools from throughout The League which, according to Duncan, includes schools from as far away as New Jersey.

With the award came 250 tickets to Friday's Pacer game so family and friends could share in the moment; the school also shared tickets with Arlington Elementary School.

AES won a contest earlier in the 2007-2008 school year and, according to Duncan, inviting some of their students to Friday's game seemed appropriate and was a small way to extend a congratulations to those rural school students for their efforts.

"We got some good feedback from the students. Not only did some say they had fun, but that they are continuing some of their acts (of kindness). I am so proud of our students for doing so much more than we expected," Duncan said.