



PRESS RELEASE

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Grieving Children Benefit as 6th Grader Practices the “Art” of Giving

(Moorestown, NJ) Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice announced today that Joy Dickson, a sixth grade student at Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill, NJ, has made a generous contribution of arts and crafts supplies to the organization’s Camp Firefly, a grief support camp for local children who have lost a loved one.

As part of a community service project at her school, Joy spent weeks collecting four large cartons of arts and crafts supplies to donate to the campers. Students and their families from the Rosa School contributed paints, brushes, markers, pipe cleaners, and complete arts-and-crafts kits for use at the camp. Camp Firefly will help grieving children from Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties explore ways to express their feelings through a variety of art projects that will utilize Joy’s donated supplies.

Following a severe car accident and surgery last fall, a member of Joy's family received home care from Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice to help him get back on his feet. After reading an article about Camp Firefly in the agency's newsletter, Joy decided to "give back" to the agency by supporting their bereavement camp for children. She believes that collecting art supplies was the perfect community service project for her to embark on, to reflect both her love of art, and her desire to share the good feelings that art can provide with other children.

Joy publicized her project to the Rosa Middle School community by designing posters to hang in the school's corridors, by making presentations to all of the classes and by speaking on the school's "morning announcements" on several occasions. She is already planning to repeat her success next year and collect even more supplies for Camp Firefly. In addition to art, Joy's interests include a love for animals. She envisions a future that may include teaching art or working with animals.

Camp Firefly is the only bereavement camp in southern New Jersey helping children, ages 7 to 14, from Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties to cope with feelings of grief following the death of a loved one. 2008 marks the third year for this special camp, which will be held this summer at Camp Okanickon in Medford, NJ, from August 23rd to 25th.

Founded in 1904, Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice is a non-profit organization that provides home and community based health care services to families in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties. For information on how to register a camper, to volunteer, or to make a donation, please call (856) 552-1300, or visit www.moorestownvna.org. (PHOTO ATTACHED)



Joy Dickson, a sixth grader at Cherry Hill's Rosa International Middle School, displays some of the art supplies she collected and donated to Camp Firefly for bereaved children. A program of Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice, Camp Firefly is offered free each summer to local children who are having difficulty coping with grief following the loss of a loved one.

Photo courtesy Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice