

'United we stand' – 'Love for All – Hatred for None'

Muslim, Jewish and Christian children combine their efforts to bring hope to the community.

Around 150 Children from Congregation Agudat Achim Jewish Community, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, St. Luke's, St. Joseph's and St. Helen's Roman Catholic churches, came together for an 'interfaith Service Workshop' on Monday, November 15th 2010 at Notre Dame – Bishop Gibbons school. Children presented their faith communities and lead in prayer from each faith tradition, shared dessert together and made Thanksgiving placemat for Bethesda House, City Mission and Salvation Army.



While recent stories in the news regarding Muslims, Christians and Jews have been filled with anger, confusion and distrust; this Thanksgiving Placemat project offered a different narrative, sending a message of unity, care and hope to Schenectady and ultimately to the world.

'While working together on service projects like these we hope not only to get to know each other and build relationships with each other but also tear down the walls that keep us apart', said Doreen Wright, Coordinator of St. Luke's/ St. Joseph's Faith Formation.

The leader for the women's' auxiliary of the local Ahmadiyya Muslim community adds "The face of real Islam is of love and compassion regardless of race, religion or creed. Our Community's slogan is 'Love for All – Hatred for none'. This unique partnership gives us, a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and address some of their valid concerns."



The children from Ahmadiyya Community emptied their piggy banks and a little help from their parents were able to present a 500,- check towards the Thanksgiving dinner at the Bethesda House.

In addition to these faith groups joining together to support our community, Schenectady County Roman Catholic Churches were a part of these collaboration efforts. Collectively the groups will have made over 300 Thanksgiving placemats for the members of our community, who will enjoy a Thanksgiving meal at City Mission, Bethesda House and Salvation Army.

