

West New York students raise \$20,000 for Haiti relief efforts



Students from West New York's Early Childhood Center presented a check, raised by ECC staff for Haitian relief efforts to United Way at Public School No. 2.

The girl's volleyball team at School 2 had been raising money for new uniforms and equipment for several months. But when disaster struck in Haiti, the team members decided to donate all they had raised to the victims of last month's earthquake in Haiti, instead. And their generosity got the ball rolling.

On Wednesday, Mayor Silverio "Sal" Vega announced that the students of the West New York public school system have raised \$20,224.50 to donate to the relief effort - \$1,215 earmarked for Doctors Without Borders and the rest of the money to the United Way of Bergen County for disaster relief in Haiti.

The students raised money through "denim" and "Crazy Hat" days, donating money for the privilege of not having to wear their uniforms.

Students at the West New York Middle School created hibiscus flowers - the national flower of Haiti - out of colored paper and sold them for \$2 each.

"It's great to see young kids take the initiative to help others," Vega said. "If we can raise this kind of money in a small town like West New York, with the help of the world, there's lots of hope for the people of Haiti," he added.

In addition to the schools, the West New York Women's Club raised \$1,000 and the Friends of Sal Vega Association raised \$1,500. [Click here](#) to view more pictures of this event.

As published by the Jersey Journal Feb 5, 2010