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PRESS RELEASE

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May 6, 2004

HARTFORD STUDENTS TAKE CHARACTER EDUCATION TO HEART

Two Hartford Public Schools, Burr Elementary and Kennelly Elementary, recently made extraordinary efforts on behalf of Marlon Sandoval's family. Marlon Sandoval was a 12-year-old 5th grade student who died on Easter Sunday, after losing a courageous 3-year battle with leukemia.

Three teachers who head up Character Education at Burr: Mary Beth Vendetti, Kimberly Sass and Christine Gray, spearheaded a project to collect student contributions for the family of Marlon Sandoval. In total, the students collected \$208.62 for the family.

At Kennelly School, students were equally energized to collect money on behalf of Marlon's family. The Student Council, under the guidance of Christine Ladd, mobilized fundraising efforts in the school. The fourth and eighth grade representatives were especially involved in this project. The student body collected more than \$300.

In addition to these two schools, many other individuals contributed by generously donating through the HPS Health Services Department. In total, close to \$1,000 was collected for the family.

Marlon and his family recently came to this country from Colombia. Marlon was enrolled at Sanchez Elementary School. Because he was too ill to attend school and was hospitalized, the Sanchez 504 team recommended at-home instruction. Ginger Erdmann, a Batchelder physical education teacher, tutored Marlon. Marlon's family has little resources, having come to this country to seek medical care for him. There was, therefore, need for financial support for the family.

On Monday, May 3, 2004, HPS Health Services (Character Education and the 504 Program) presented copies of 2 of Marlon Sandoval's paintings to 2 groups of students at Burr and Kennelly Schools who raised funds to help his mom. The kids were terrific in their fundraising and Luz Sandoval (Marlon's mom) was very grateful and overwhelmed

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by the generosity of the HPS students and staff, who did not even know Marlon. As Mrs. Erdmann stated to them, “You’re part of the Hartford Public Schools family now.”

For additional information, please contact Jackie Hardy at (860) 695-8516, or Diane E. Dimmock, Coordinator of Health Services for Hartford Public Schools, at (860) 695-8793.



Burr Elementary School (above) and Kennelly Elementary School (below), along with many other individuals, raised close to \$1000 to help the family of Marlon Sandoval, a 12-year old Sanchez 5th grader who died of leukemia on Easter Sunday.



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