

## Summary:

My class worked with three other classes in order to provide Christmas Cheer to the residents at Healthwin. Healthwin is an Assisted Living Center for senior citizens in South Bend. Mr. Comerford's class made Christmas cards, which our students delivered. My class and Mr. Collins's/Mrs. Smith's classes made decorations. Our students went to the nursing home to deliver the cards and homemade decorations.

Our students visited with the residents, decorated the common areas, delivered the homemade cards and decorations, and sang Christmas carols. They brought numerous smiles to the faces of the residents. They gained compassion and understanding for the elderly. They learned very valuable "life lessons" that day.

For example, many of our students have never encountered a person with Alzheimer's. Sometimes, people with Alzheimer's can be very combative and hard to handle. Students learned that Alzheimer's is a difficult disease to deal with, as a victim of it AND as person who encounters those suffering from the disease. The students learned that, even though the Alzheimer's patients may be "mean" and hostile, they should still smile, be polite, and at least TRY to make these residents happy! ☺

-G. Owen