

Newsday's **FUTURECORPS**TM

Kids making a difference where you live.

YOUNG MOTHERS GET A HELPING HAND FROM PORT WASHINGTON STUDENTS

St. Peters of Alcantara Collects Toiletries for Momma's House

STUDENTS FROM ST. PETERS of Alcantara School in Port Washington are lending a helping hand to young mothers and their babies.

Eighth graders from the school's Student Council recently visited Momma's House in Brookville to donate toiletries and other items that the school's students had collected. Momma's House, which also has locations in Malverne and Glen Cove, is a home for unwed mothers, ages 17 to 21, and their babies.

The Momma's House project is a part of Newsday's FutureCorps, a student community service initiative serving Long Island and Queens.

Anne Schuessler, assistant principal and Student Council adviser, says her goal in involving the students in the project is "to let them know that there are people who have problems and they can overcome them with someone's help."

Approximately 15 Student Council students in grades six through eight began organizing the project in October by speaking to various classes throughout

the school, which includes nursery school through eighth grade. They solicited donations and organized school dances to collect money for the home.

"It shows how the school can work together as a team to help those less fortunate than ourselves," says eighth grader Liz Nuzzolese, 13.

"We also wanted to set an example for other schools," says eighth grader Joanna Giordano, 13.

During their visit to Momma's House, the students piled boxes of diapers, baby wipes and other toiletry items in the corner of the living room for its residents, who currently include four young mothers and their babies. The babies range in age from two months to two years.

"It's a positive gesture for the girls who live here to see that there are people that care about them," commented Pat Shea, director of Momma's House.

"No matter what you do, if it's positive, it will make a change for the better in someone's life," adds eighth grader Danny Kane, 14, "and that's the biggest gift you can give."



St. Peters students display some of the baby care items they collected for Momma's House.