

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **Students, teachers and administrators at Ann Street Elementary School raise money for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society during the month of January**

**Newark, NJ – January 2017** – The students, faculty and administrators at Ann Street Elementary School are making a huge impact in the world of blood cancers. During the month of January this exceptional school community held a month-long fundraiser to benefit individuals battling blood cancers through the Pennies for Patients program by collecting cash, checks, spare change and online donations. Led by teacher Sarah Remelgado and supported by principal Linda Richardson and Vice Principals Isabel Marques, Rosa Monteiro-Inacio and Gene Foti, the school was able to break a record in the LLS New Jersey chapter, raising \$28,714.39 for the organization. They are the first school in the program’s history to reach and surpass the \$25,000 mark, making them eligible to name an LLS funded research grant after their school.

Prior to the campaign, Student Series staff members held a meeting in December with the staff and administration team to set a goal of \$25,000. Subsequently staff member Michelle Lupo presented for staff at a December faculty meeting to garner support and share the upcoming goals. To kick off the campaign on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Student Series staff presented three school-wide assemblies for the students, including an interactive skit and a video featuring New Jersey student blood cancer survivors. Inspired by the aforementioned presentations, staff and students hit the ground running with their collection. The school definitely lived up to their mantra, which principal Linda Richardson repeats often, “We are Ann Street School, home of the Spartans, where power lies in unity.”

Of the fundraising goal, Vice Principal Gene Foti stated, “When we were presented with our initial goal of \$25,000 it seemed daunting and extremely ambitious to most staff members. Deep down inside, I knew that Ann Street faces all obstacles and challenges head on. I knew that if we broke it down into a smaller goal of \$500 for each classroom, together, in unity, we would meet our goal, and that we did. We are blessed with the finest staff and students anywhere who care deeply about one another.”

The Ann Street team watched their totals grow each week, inspired by the unity of the team while simultaneously fueled by friendly competition. Teachers and students went above and beyond to reach and exceed their goal. Pennies for Patients coordinator Sarah Remelgado spoke highly of her school community, saying, "Ann Street teachers are some of the hardest working, dedicated teachers I know. Our students are the best of the best. They are generous, caring, and respectful. Even though \$25,000 seemed to be a difficult goal to reach I knew Ann Street was capable. Our teachers and students worked hard every day to find ways to raise money and they did it for the cause, to fund research to save lives of cancer patients."

The school will be presented with a private awards ceremony in February, and the top fundraising classrooms will receive pasta parties provided by Student Series national sponsor, Olive Garden.

### **About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ® (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.

Founded in 1949 and headquartered in Rye Brook, NY, LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To learn more, visit [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org). Patients should contact the Information Resource Center at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.