



For Immediate Release

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Warren T. Jackson's 2nd Grade Class Donates \$1200 to "My Sister's House"

Atlanta, GA: As she reflected on the difficult economic climate facing so many Georgians, Ann Offen, a second grade teacher at W.T. Jackson Elementary School came up with an idea. She knew the parents of her students would take up a cash collection for her Christmas gift, but this year she wanted to do something different – something that would make a difference and teach her students a valuable lesson in the process. In lieu of a present, she asked her students to do extra chores in order to earn money which would then be collected and donated to Atlanta Union Mission's "**My Sister's House,**" a local shelter for women and children. Parents and students alike were touched by Mrs. Offen's generous spirit and after some discussion, it was decided that a visit to "**My Sister's House**" would be a great way for the students to get a first hand look at the shelter and the people who would benefit from their donation. The date was set for Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

A week before their visit to the shelter, Mrs. Offen's class held a bake sale to raise additional funds for My Sister's House. On the morning of the sale, every item was completely sold out within the first 15 minutes. Because of the huge success of the first sale, a second sale was held. Once again, every item was sold and when all the money was counted, the students had raised \$450.00! Bake sale proceeds combined with all other contributions totaled \$1200.00!

After school on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, Mrs. Offen, 18 of her students, several mothers and siblings, loaded up and headed off to the shelter. They were met by Brandi Rae Hicks, Major Gifts Officer and Nick Bourg, Development Coordinator of "**My Sister's House**". Mrs. Offen and the students presented their check for \$1200.00 and received a full tour of the facility. Students asked many questions and learned the amount they donated would be sufficient to feed and shelter the 60 children who would be housed at the facility that very night. Most importantly, the students learned one of the most timeless lessons of all: it truly is more blessed to give than receive!