

## Albion Elementary throws a baby shower

By **SHERI STAFFORD**

*Contributing Writer*

Traditionally, baby showers are thrown by a close family member or friend to help an expecting mother. But when an entire school sponsors one, the generosity extends throughout the community to help others in need welcome their new bundle of joy. Last month, Albion Elementary School hosted a

baby shower to benefit the Berea Children's Home and Family Services and filled the school lobby with the most adorable baby fashions and other helpful necessities needed to care for an infant.

"School service projects help support our behavior plan, which teaches children to Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be a Friend," says Cathy Javaras, Guidance

Counselor, Albion Elementary School. "This project helped reinforce January's word of the month, "respect," teaching students to respect others, including those who are less fortunate, and to show consideration by helping those in need."

She added, "Albion students really enjoy participating in service projects. When they are presented with the opportunity to help other children, the projects seem to heighten their interest even more. The children loved giving me their baby gifts!"

Albion Student Council spearheaded the project and had a terrific response with donations. Baby supplies collected included diapers, bottles, cereal, pacifiers, cups, spoons, dishes, baby wash, baby powder, baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby books, blankets, coats, socks, onesies, bibs, washcloths, towels, under shirts, receiving blankets, blanket sleepers, dresses, lots of boy and girl outfits, hats, booties, gloves, rattles, baby toys, sweaters and more!

Brady Maciak, a fourth-grade student, joined Student Council because he wanted to be helpful to his school. "I feel so happy about helping people through our service project, because the items brought in by the students will make other people's lives better and easier," says Brady. "I think it is kind of exciting doing things to help people that we don't even know and hope they are thankful and always have respect for Albion Elementary."

Student Council students organized and packed the donated items in boxes, and Javaras delivered the gifts to the Berea Children's Home and Family Services, who serve more than 13,000 children and families annually throughout the state of Ohio.

"We appreciate Albion Elementary School's tremendous generosity, which will go a long way to support the children and families we serve," says Alyssa Evanoff, Director of Communications, Berea Children's Home and Family Services. "Many of the individuals we serve are struggling and cannot afford these basic necessities for their babies. On behalf of Berea Children's Home and Family Services, we are grateful to Albion students for going the extra mile for our clients."

If you are interested in learning more about giving opportunities for Berea Children's Home and Family Services, please contact Laurel Wirtanten-Siloy, Special Gifts Officer, at 440-260-8357 or [lwirtanten@bchfs.org](mailto:lwirtanten@bchfs.org).

Albion's upcoming service projects include a carnation sale for Valentine's Day, with the profits going to the North Royalton Office on Aging. Students also will have the opportunity to make other children's Easter brighter with a collection of Easter baskets benefiting the Berea Children's Home and Family Services. The school has been participating in this project for the past three years, donating baskets filled with school supplies, toys and wrapped candy.



Is it a boy or girl? Student Council members from Albion Elementary proudly show off donated baby items to benefit the Berea Children's Home and Family Services.