



For Immediate Release

Contact: Alyce Penn,
Director of Marketing and Special Events
(703) 533-9711 X317 apenn@bach.csov.org

FALLS CHURCH – As we enter the season of giving, one group of families in Northern Virginia is working to bring cheer to the lives of chronically and critically ill children. On the evening of November 16th a group of more than 100 children, parents, and staff volunteers from The Congressional Schools of Virginia worked under the guidance of representatives from Glories Happy Hats to turn yards of fabric, ribbon and embellishments into fun-hats for sick children.

Students ranging in ages from 4-14 worked alongside their parents on a 12-step assembly line creating the soft, colorful, jester-like caps. The children matched patterns, sewed, and decorated the hats and had fun making the cheerful creations. Even those too young to join the production process helped in the efforts to bring smiles to others by creating homemade cards offering well wishes.

“This is a wonderful learning opportunity for children on many levels,” commented Hisham Kamal, President of the Congressional Schools Parents Organization, which sponsored the event. “The children learned something about manufacturing processes, as they participated in the assembly line. They learned to work cooperatively as part of a team, and most importantly experienced the good feeling associated with helping others.”

“It was wonderful to see families working together to help others,” offered Haley Henriksen, a 5th grade student at Congressional. “I saw parents and children using sewing machines and I saw little kids learning to use a thread and needle for the first time. The whole room was filled with people thinking happy thoughts while they made happy hats. I am really proud of what our school families have done and am excited that our efforts will bring smiles to so many sick children in our area.”

The volunteer families advanced several hundred hats through the assembly line. The hats completed during the event will be delivered by Congressional students early in January to children at Inova Fairfax Hospital who are suffering from serious illnesses as a gesture of support and to help bring them cheer.

Happy Hats is operated by Glories Happy Hats, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support children suffering from serious illness and their families. Glories Happy Hats hopes to fill requests for more than 10,000 Happy Hats a year. Information about Glories Happy Hats can be found at www.glorieshappyhats.org.

The Congressional Schools of Virginia is located on Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church, VA. An independent, coed day school founded in 1939, Congressional enrolls 375 children from pre-school through grade 8. As part of the schools' mission to educate the whole child, its teaching goes beyond academics to enable students to become productive members of society. Giving back to the community is an important part of the schools' values. For more information visit: www.congressionalschools.org.

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