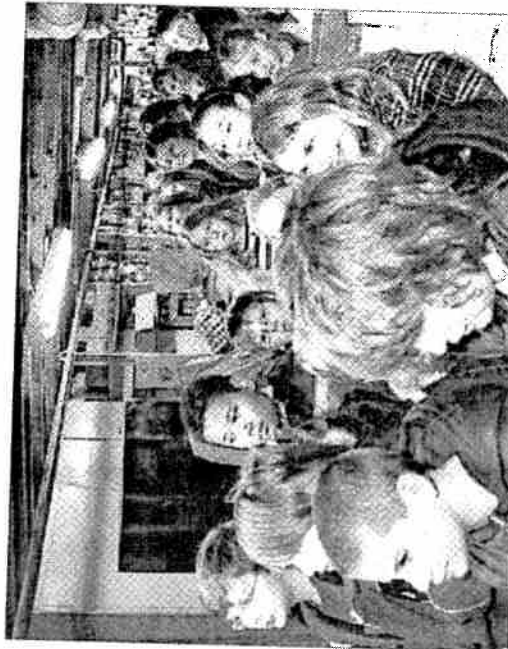




Gifted students in Kenton County School District's Project ASCENT program collected about \$5,000 worth of canned goods for Welcome House in Covington. Besides doing the actual collecting of the canned goods, Kenton County students helped package and put away their donations to Welcome House Friday Jan. 29.

REGAN COOMER/STAFF



Gifted students in Kenton County School District's Project ASCENT program collected about \$5,000 worth of canned goods for Welcome House in Covington. Students from all 11 district elementary schools participated. At the end of the drive, the students visited Welcome House to help shelve and put away all of their donations.

REGAN COOMER/STAFF

## Students organized food drive for social service

By Regan Coomer  
rcoomer@nky.com

Welcome House recently welcomed Project ASCENT students from all 11 Kenton County School District's elementary schools. Students dropped off \$5,000 in donated canned goods last week.

Project ASCENT is the program for gifted and talented students in the Kenton County School District.

"We were doing a unit on economics," said Beechgrove Elementary Project ASCENT teacher Tonya Brummer.

"We wanted this to be the culminating activity to show the drastic effects of the economy right now."

One of Welcome House's functions is to be a temporary shelter for homeless women and children. To really help students understand

the reality of homelessness, they not only dropped off the canned goods, but also organized and stocked the shelves themselves.

"They were really able to make the connection to not only the effects of the economy, but also what they can do to help," Brummer said.

While collecting the canned goods, the students designed flyers, did commercials on each

school's news and stopped by classrooms to collect donations, Brummer said.

"It was so kid-driven. That's why we had such a great response," she said.

Beechgrove Elementary fourth grader Iris Rokvic said she taped conditioner and shampoo together for Welcome House, which also gives food and toiletry to families in need.

"I feel really good right now," Rokvic said after her day of helping out at Welcome House.

Rokvic encourages the community to do what they can to help "because the economy is really bad and a lot of people don't have homes and they can't afford food and shelter."

For more information about how to help Welcome House, visit [welcomehouseky.org](http://welcomehouseky.org).