



## Cardinal Gibbons Press Release

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From March 16 - 23 students at Cardinal Gibbons High School (CGHS) will collect money through the Penny Challenge fundraiser that will be donated to various charities and non-profit groups. The theme of this year's Penny Challenge, long a tradition at Cardinal Gibbons, is "If Not Us, Then Who; If Not Now, Then When...?"

"It is energizing to see the faculty's and staff's overwhelming enthusiasm for the Penny Challenge, and inspiring to see our Mission of faith, service, and leadership come alive in this community endeavor," said Jason D. Curtis, principal of CGHS.

The Penny Challenge is just one example of the ways students at Cardinal Gibbons reach out to the community. Indeed, each of the school's 1,187 students participates in an Outreach Service Program, which results in over 10,000 hours of annual community service. In that time, students assist disadvantaged children as well as the elderly, homeless and working poor. Students, faculty, and staff also man the local Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen 52 Mondays per year, and they support and contribute to over 50 local, regional and national community service agencies each

Among the myriad other ways CGHS students are supporting the community this year alone are:

Students have been selling bowls of soup during lunch periods each Friday during the Lenten period. The money raised from this year's soup sales will be given to the Haiti Relief Fund.

Earlier this year, students held a fashion show that raised over \$3,000 that was donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

In April, CGHS students will host two Senior Citizen Day Proms at two Total Life Center in Raleigh as well as a Senior Citizen Night Prom at the Covington in Raleigh.

National Honor Society students are involved in the Easter Basket Drive, which serves hundreds of families, and especially children, who are economically disadvantaged.

The Penny Challenge, however, has long been a favorite among students at Cardinal Gibbons High School, and it involves the entire student body. The event is designed as a competition between the different classes, from freshmen to seniors, to see which class will raise the most money.

The class raising the most money wins the competition and is honored with a breakfast given by the school's Lancer Club, which sponsors the fund-raiser. The club offers students the opportunity to do service for community or church organizations.

Patricia Gallagher, moderator of the Lancer Club, said from 2003 to 2009 students

have collected over \$75,000 through the Penny Challenge that has been given to 85 charities and non-profit organizations. This year, she said the hope is that “we will raise more than the \$27,000 the students collected in 2009.”