

# HELPING NOBODY BECOME SOMEBODY

## Students' good deeds give doll identity

BY TERESA LATCHFORD  
Staff Writer

With a little help from students, "Nobody" will become somebody by the end of the school year.

Mme. Brigit O'Boroc, a Grade 5 teacher at Lester B. Pearson Public School in Aurora, was the first teacher in York Region to pilot the character-focused Who Is Nobody program last year.

This year, with a new group of Grade 5 students, she has decided to run the program again, explaining it is a wonderful teaching aid for character education.

The kit arrives in a box addressed to somebody from Nobody consisting of a blue duffel bag, manuals for students and the teacher, posters and a scrapbook.

Nobody, a genderless, featureless denim doll with no personality accompanies the duffel bag, which will be taken home by each student throughout the school year.

"I want somebody to become a good person who helps people

when they need it," Grade 5 student Carla Danziger said. "I want it to be respectful and smart in a bad situation."

The first step in teaching Nobody how to become a somebody is for each student to pick a living thing in the community to help: a person, animal or the environment.

Next, depending on the student's talents or skills, he must decide the where, what and when of his plan to teach Nobody one of the many traits in the CharacterMatters! program by doing a good deed.

Some students have already had the opportunity to help Nobody and attach a memento to the doll representing what they have accomplished in the

community.

For example, Victoria Aldis cut off 12 inches of her hair, donated it to the Angel Hair foundation and attached hair to Nobody.

"I feel like I just pushed an obstacle away for someone," Victoria said. "Like I just came to someone's aid."

Another student sold jewelry she made and donated the money to the World Wildlife Foundation. She attached a necklace to Nobody.

Willamina Van der Vecht donated clothes and toys she outgrew to children in Africa, Sarah Russell is sponsoring a child in Africa and Iza Batko donated blankets to the humane society.

"The students really got a chance to display the character traits we push," Mme. O'Boroc said. "They have really done some wonderful things."

Students who have not had a chance to take the doll home plan to do a variety of good deeds, including donating clothes and toys to the Salvation Army, picking up garbage every day for a month, walking dogs at the humane society, donating to food banks, collecting pop can

tabs for the Hospital For Sick Children, making biscuits to sell and donating the proceeds to the humane society, giving toys to a local church, running to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society and asking for food donations for the homeless instead of birthday presents.

Along with adding character to develop Nobody's personality, students also create their own one-page visual of what they have done, which later will be compiled into a scrapbook.

"By doing this, I feel like I've been selfish because I could have been doing this all along," Grade 5 student Sean O'Donnell said.

"If everybody in Aurora, just Aurora, did one good deed, it would make a huge difference in the world."

The program, created by Kelly Clark, a teacher who has taught in more than 150 schools in Canada and England, has been donated to Mme. O'Boroc's class by the Aurora Rotary Club and The Printing House.

For more information about the program, visit [www.whoisnobody.com](http://www.whoisnobody.com)



### HAIR

Victoria Aldis cut 12 inches of her hair and donated it to Angel Hair, an organization that makes wigs for children with cancer.

### NECKLACE

Rachel Galbraith made jewelry and sold the pieces, raising \$175, which she donated to the World Wildlife Foundation.

### MONEY

Carla Danziger collected \$100 in Canadian Tire money and donated it to Rose of Sharon to allow young mothers to buy gifts for their children at Christmas.

### T-SHIRT

Willamina Van der Vecht donated clothes and games she no longer used to children in Africa.

[www.whoisnobody.com](http://www.whoisnobody.com)  
email: [info@whoisnobody.com](mailto:info@whoisnobody.com)  
phone: (416) 333 7774