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# John Reid to Receive the 2020 Bob D. Schiller Memorial Cancer Research and Support Award

Indian Lane Elementary School (ILES) in the Rose Tree Media School District and Principal, **John Reid**, have been selected to receive the **2020 Bob D. Schiller Memorial Cancer Research and Support Award** (sponsored by Lincoln Investment Planning LLC) for their project, **“Comfort Bags for Chemotherapy Patients.”**

Instituted in 2007, the **Bob D. Schiller Memorial Cancer Research and Support Award** is designed to provide monetary assistance to schools that promote programs that support cancer research and the survivors of cancer. In order to be considered for this award, the principal must be a member of PA Principals Association and the school must demonstrate that their project engages students in raising funds for cancer research or providing support for the survivors of cancer.

The ILES staff and students create “comfort bags” to be delivered to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. This special project helps the school community remember and honor the ILES teachers that have lost their battle to cancer, support families currently struggling with this illness and allow students to participate in a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Each student receives a bag to decorate. The bags are decorated with pictures and messages of hope, filled with treatment necessities and have been extremely well received by the patients. Last year, ILES created nearly 500 chemotherapy comfort bags. “The response from the cancer patients was amazing! The



Students at Indian Lane gather in the gym to see what can be accomplished to help others when everyone works together. Nearly 500 comfort bags were created in a day filling an entire section of bleachers.

project is growing and ILES hopes to deliver the comfort bags to many treatment facilities in the future,” said Mr. Reid.

Donated items by grade for the comfort bags include: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades: puzzle books (Sudoku, Crosswords, Word Search, etc.); 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: lip balm/chapstick and travel-size hand lotion; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: travel-size games and playing cards; 1<sup>st</sup> grade: blank journals, pens and note cards; and Kindergarten: gum, individually wrapped hard candy and mints.

According to Mr. Reid, “Our students recite the Bobcat Pledge each day and one of the things they pledge is to ‘Offer a Helping Hand.’ This activity demonstrates why it is so important to offer that helping hand to others.”

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