

A valentine gift for vets

◆ Several Brockport schools are sending homemade valentines to veterans and active soldiers.

By Amy Cavalier
Messenger Post Staff

Using glue, a doily and paper hearts of various sizes, Andrew Johnson made a very special valentine butterfly for veterans in the Batavia Veterans Hospital.

Andrew, a kindergartner, went one step further, though. He named it. He said he hopes "Bunny butterfly makes an Army guy happy."

Many students from Ginther Elementary School personalized their valentines with a special message scrawled across the pink, heart-shaped, butterfly wings.

Those messages ranged from the traditional "Happy Valentine's Day" to messages as unique as "love soldiers."

The consensus from the children seemed to be that they hoped the cards would make their recipients "happy."

The group of about 70 Ginther students who made valentines for veterans last Friday are all in the Caring Kids Club.

Ginther teachers choose two students in their class each week who they believe are best following the "I-Care Rules." These rules include listening to one another, using hands for helping and not hurting, respecting one another's feelings and accepting responsibility for one's actions. Evans said the club is the school's version of character education.

"It's our extension of the
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STAFF PHOTO/CARRIE ANN GRIPPO

Glenn Post, 5, a kindergartner at Ginther Elementary School, prints out the words "Valentine Day" on a construction-paper heart last Friday. The Caring Kids Club made "Valentines for Veterans" in the Batavia VA Hospital and for men and women currently in the service.

Valentine's

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school's code of conduct here at Ginther," Evans said.

The Caring Kids Club has made valentines for vets for 10 years now. School Counselor Donna Ray Evans said the valentines will also be going to on-duty soldiers stationed overseas.

"Some of the cards will go to friends and family members of the staff that are currently serving in the military," she said. "We're even sending a bunch to a whole platoon."

First-grader Josh Bailey said it makes him feel good to send valentines to soldiers and sick people who were in the war.

Making valentines for veterans is just one of many different community service activities that the Caring Kids Club does each week.

"That community can be the school, the environment or Brockport," Evans said.

Throughout the year, the Caring Kids Club create cards for shut-ins, welcome bags for new students, name tags for

the animals at Lollypop Farms and tray favors for hospitals.

Shane Bartlett, an eighth-grader at Oliver Middle School, has been volunteering to help with the Caring Kids Club for two years.

He said he was also chosen to participate in the club when he was a student in elementary school.

"Making valentines for veterans teaches the children that it's important to help their community," he said.

Another middle school volunteer, seventh-grader Sarah Wilson, said the kids were "very excited" to make the cards for veterans.

Students at Oliver Middle School also sent homemade Valentine's Day cards to veterans at the Batavia and Canandaigua VA hospitals. The event was organized by the Student Council, but all students were invited.

Oliver Middle School's Student Council advisor, Amy Gaesser, said a couple of hundred valentines are usually sent out each year. "The students have a good time doing it, and the veterans really appreciate it," she said.

Hascomb, 20, a SUNY Brockport student, was charged with criminal impersonation, disorderly conduct and use of another's license after an identification stop at Canal Side Pub.

• At 12:02 a.m., Andrew J. Hawley, 20, a SUNY Brockport student, was charged with criminal impersonation after an identification stop at Canal Side Pub.

• At 4:14 a.m., James M. Galihier, 21, a SUNY Brockport student, was charged with an open-container violation after being observed walking on

Holley Street with a cup of beer.

• At 2:02 p.m., someone attempted to purchase food in the cafeteria of Lakeside Memorial Hospital using a counterfeit \$10 bill. The suspect is described as a 5-foot-7-inch unshaven white male in his late 60s with salt-and-pepper hair. The crime is one of many reported to the Secret Service's Rochester office involving a suspect of similar description. Anyone with information may call Brockport police at 637-1101.