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## Newark school's Big Give project

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Bank of America's sponsorship of Oprah Winfrey's *Pay It Forward* project inspired Trevor Lewis of SA&SAS to create a Big Give project at his son's school, helping to empower the next generation of community leaders.



**Trevor Lewis**, pictured to the left, with some of the teachers and students at Newark Center for Creative Learning (NCCL) School in Newark, Delaware.

The twenty-five 7th and 8th graders at Newark Center for Creative Learning (NCCL) School, in Newark, Delaware, have called it the "NCCL School's Big Give". The 13 and 14 year olds were given \$50 to give away to help others. They researched and selected suitable community causes, developing ways to solicit additional

donations, and personally donated the money and/or goods collected. The students are making videos of their entire process.

NCCL's project is providing a hands-on educational experience involving research, fundraising, and community awareness while simultaneously benefiting needy causes in the Newark community. Some of the causes the student chose include:

- Bayard House - serving homeless or transitional pregnant minors in Delaware.
- An Art Summer Camp program for disadvantaged children.
- Environmental improvement for local Parks and Recreation.
- Ronald McDonald House.
- A family of a child with cancer being treated at A.I. Dupont Hospital.
- Sojourner's Place – helping Delaware's homeless population return to self-sufficiency
- Forgotten Cats – a cat and kitten adoption and re-release program.

Kate Kerrane, one of the teachers, says the students are energized and excited about making a difference in their local community. "They are calling me at home and jumping up and down at school. They are asking during break and lunch if they can make phone calls. They are very enthusiastic."

The students have been contacting businesses and organizations, writing proposals and requests for donations, and sending faxes. Kerrane points out that "they are learning skills they will use throughout their life. I'm impressed with how comfortable they are becoming talking to adults, even for some of the kids who are shy. It's really empowering for them."

The project was partially funded by the TBOA volunteer grant program. NCCL received \$500 for this project in the form of 2 grants; for Trevor's volunteer hours and those of **John Mecca** from Supply Chain Management, another NCCL parent.

"This Big Give project is Big Kudos for Bank of America and Team Delaware for sponsoring Oprah and for the volunteer grant program", says Trevor. "It is paying back two fold into the local community; not only supporting local causes but also helping to establish the next generation of community leaders!"

[Back to top](#) >>