

# Community Bulletin Board

## Kids helping kids

**A**LEC ALBRIGHT, a seventh-grader at St. Mary School in Milford, spearheaded a Halloween costume collection at his school in early October to help the children at NeighborWorks New Horizons of New Haven.

Alec and his mother, Megan Albright, collected 78 costumes, all in good condition, from school, friends and neighbors. Alec sorted the costumes.



Alec

The family even bought clothes racks and hangers to organize and hang up the costumes to be displayed easily.

Jill Dotlo, community development director at the non-profit agency NeighborWorks, 235 Grand Ave., said the Albrights' work inspired the staff.

"Once we saw how many costumes Alec had collected, we felt empowered to expand our Halloween offering to even more of our residents. I contacted Race Brook School, a grammar school in Orange, and their Student Council immediately voted unanimously to help. In one week, the Race Brook students had



Students at Race Brook School in Orange show some of the costumes that were collected and donated.

collected another 75 or more costumes," she said.

Dotlo, community organizer Olivia Davis and Jennifer Levine, of Americorps VISTA, brought the costumes to three NeighborWorks developments along with Halloween candy, and the kids chose their costumes. There was heavy demand for princess dresses for the girls, and Spider-Man, Ninja and other action heroes for the boys.

What's next? NeighborWorks would like to collect clean winter coats, hats and gloves. Call 562-4514.



Paige Garrett, 10, far left, and Payton Garrett, 5, model their costumes. They are the daughters of Sharrarra Garrett of New Haven. Their brother, Pierce Garrett, 7, not shown, dressed as Spider-Man.