

—Slug:.....COMM-0843.bratt.Hilltop_applepies
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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Hilltop Montessori Middle School makes and delivers
2 pies for area food shelves

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The students of Hilltop Montessori Middle School have
6 been making and delivering apple pies to organizations that serve
7 people in need in our community since the program's inception
8 more than 30 years ago.

9 "Since that time, the number of hungry Vermonters has
10 only grown," the school said in a news release. "Making and
11 offering pies to those who feel hunger most acutely in our

12 community is an important part of our humanities curriculum,
13 which engages in real and tangible ways our overarching
14 question ‘What does it mean to be human in community?’ At the
15 core of this question is an examination of how we relate to, and
16 care for others.”

17 The pie-making process begins in the fall with students
18 making calls to donors for apples and crumble ingredients. This
19 engages them directly with local surrounding farms and
20 businesses, and helps them build the important skills of using
21 their voices to advocate on behalf of others.

22 Making the pies themselves teaches important lessons
23 around food safety and culinary skills, and offers plenty of
24 opportunity for them to develop responsible independence. It
25 also helps build social cohesion in the classroom by centering
26 their favorite piece of the Hilltop curriculum, engagement with
27 one another.

28 Delivering the pies puts students directly in touch with
29 organizations and people in the community who are often
30 overlooked, and who are certainly not served well by our existing
31 social safety net.

32 “This lesson lands deeply,” said school promoters, “and
33 helps students engage in the process of taking perspective, asking
34 meaningful questions, thinking about what is just and morally
35 right, and experiencing the singular nature of giving without
36 expecting something in return.”

37 To join students in their service at any time of year, reach
38 out directly to Loaves and Fishes, the Putney Foodshelf, St.
39 Brigid’s Kitchen and Pantry, Groundworks Collaborative,
40 Foodworks, and other local service organizations that serve
41 community members in need.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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