

## School lunch market supports Make-A-Wish

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By Junette Reyes Contact Reporter



Fourth grade students at NSU University School recently came together for a good cause.

The students organized and participated in an annual lunch market to help raise funds for Make-A-Wish Southern Florida.

Ana Rodriguez, the school's fourth grade team leader, said the philanthropic project had been a month in the making, beginning with the kids being introduced to the foundation and its mission.

"It really pulls on the heartstrings because it's helping children that have threatening diseases," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said the event ties into a segment of the curriculum that focuses on entrepreneurship, with this example specifically showing the students how nonprofit businesses operate.

The first step in raising money for the charity prompted the students to design T-shirts that would represent the fourth graders. The shirts were sold with all proceeds going to Make-A-Wish.

Students also campaigned for leadership positions, with their peers later voting for the project's president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

The kids eventually started collecting items for the lunch market, including anything ranging from bicycles to gaming consoles. Once all the items were collected, the market finally began, with the entire school participating during lunch time.

Items were sold from \$1 to \$5, whereas big ticket items were raffled off for \$1 per raffle ticket. The goal was to raise enough money to grant two to three wishes, with each wish costing approximately \$5,000. About \$2,300 was collected in just one day.

"I hope that we raise a lot more money and we can reach our goal of three wishes because we want to make this year one of the best years for our Make-A-Wish Market," said Chloe Shapiro, the project's secretary.

Shapiro and her fellow team leaders were tasked with counting the money coming in daily and maintaining the market. She said she was happy being able to work together with her friends and helping others.

President Alanna Frier was especially excited to lead because of her previous experience with giving back to the foundation.

"I've met some of the wish kids and I really want to help them," said Frier. "I want to get them out of their normal lives and just go and have some fun because they're really sad in that place, I bet."

The school eventually presents a check to the foundation once the total amount collected has been calculated.