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### Mount Mercy Students Demonstrate Compassionate Service

Mount Mercy Academy is dedicated to educating young women not only for academic excellence, but also for compassionate service, Christian leadership, global awareness and life-long learning. Rooted in Foundress Catherine McAuley's vision for women and those who are poor, Mount Mercy affirms the uniqueness and dignity of individuals and fosters faith with a commitment to the challenges of building a just society.

Mount Mercy students perform many acts of service throughout the year. One instance of service took place last week. Eight students, along with Campus Minister Mary Colby, made dinner at the Ronald McDonald House after school as part of the Cooks for Kids program. The group prepared chicken enchiladas, a green salad, and chocolate chip cookie cups for the guests staying at the house. The Ronald McDonald House provides housing for families whose children are receiving treatment in local hospitals.

Junior Julia Acosta of Buffalo believes that this opportunity is something that more students should experience. "Volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House felt very rewarding. Making dinner for the families was the least that we could do," Acosta commented. "It was also a great experience to have girls from three different grades work together as a team. Giving back to the community helps us feel more connected with the community."

Madelyn Bentkowski, a sophomore from Buffalo, also enjoyed her time at the Ronald McDonald House. "I really enjoyed volunteering. Knowing that we were cooking for families who are going through a challenging time in their lives was rewarding. The people who were staying there were very thankful for our help," Bentkowski remarked.

Sophomores Bridgit Hayes of Buffalo and Madeline Szwed of Cheektowaga both look forward to continuing and expanding their volunteer service to the Ronald McDonald House. Certainly this selfless service reflects the high ideals set by Catherine McAuley.



Bridgit Hayes, Morgan Bentkowski and Madelyn Bentkowski prepare dinner at the Ronald McDonald House.

**Mount Mercy Academy**

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