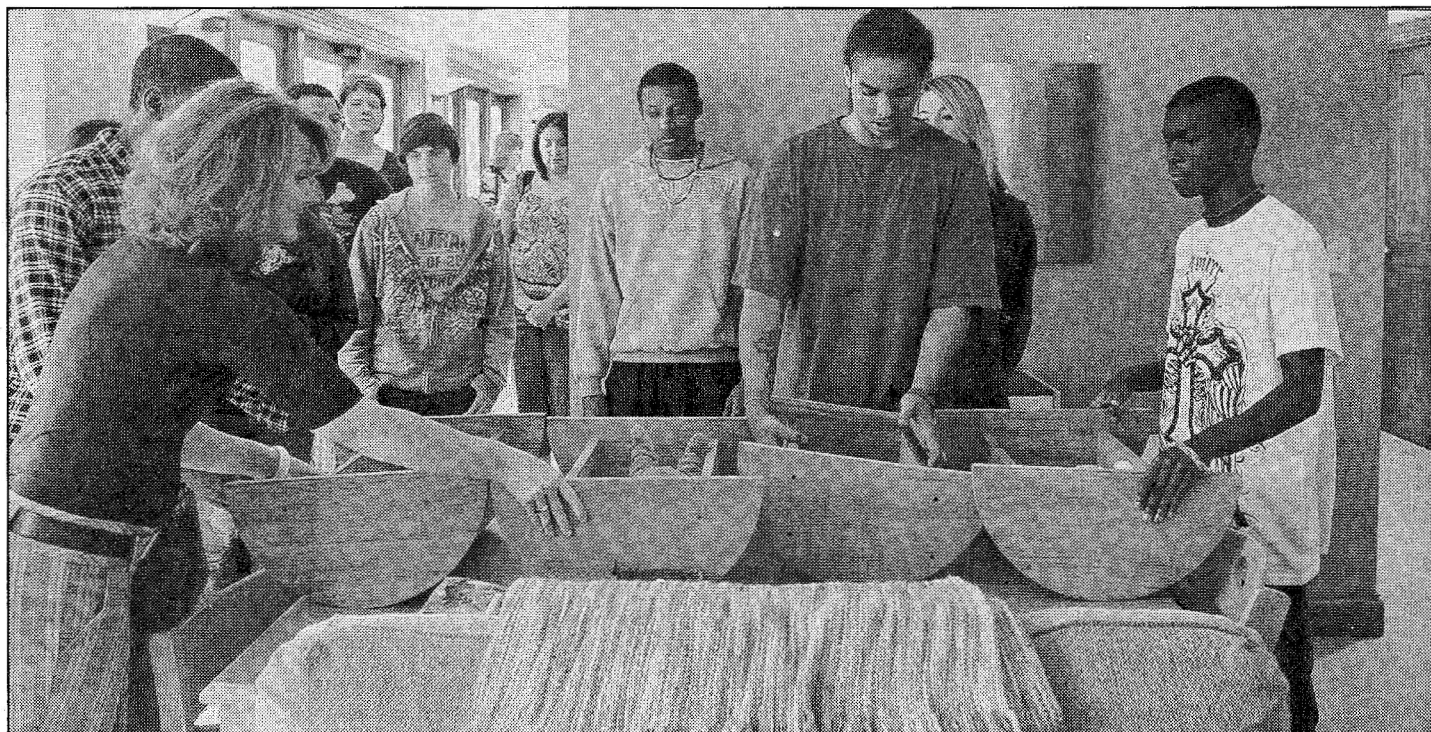


Cradling collaboration



BOB GWALTNEY / Courier & Press

Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Kathy Scheller, left, receives four doll cradles on Wednesday from the Harrison High

School leadership class. The students made the cradles with the assistance of the school's advanced manufacturing class.

It feels great to make a difference, especially for kids who are sick. It's a great feeling."

— Austin Owens, a Harrison senior in the leadership class

Grant teams school, businesses to help kids

JOHN MARTIN

STAFF WRITER / (812) 464-7594
martinj@courierpress.com

Harrison High School students brought a special delivery Wednesday to the Ronald McDonald House at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Students in leadership and advanced manufacturing classes teamed up on a project to provide doll cradles for the children staying at the home, which is used by the families of seriously ill children admitted to area hospitals.

"It feels great to make a difference, especially for kids who are sick. It's

a great feeling," said Austin Owens, a Harrison senior in the leadership class.

The project was made possible by an \$1,800 Learning Exchange grant to Harrison from the Southwest Indiana Network for Education (SINE).

Learning Exchange fosters collaborations between schools and businesses, said Donna Taylor-Bouchie, a SINE project director.

As a part of Harrison's project, students visited assembly lines at Total Interior Systems America and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, both in Princeton.

They manufactured the wooden cradles in assembly-line fashion.

Harrison leadership teacher Angie Greenwell applied for the grant. About a dozen such grants were awarded to Evansville public schools this year, Taylor-Bouchie said.

Besides dropping off the cradles, the Harrison students also toured the Ronald McDonald House.

Since opening Jan. 18, the house on Washington Avenue has served more than 300 families.

Executive Director Kathy Scheller told the Harrison students that just about everything they saw in the facility had been donated, and that volunteer opportunities are always available.

Because of the building's use of natural heating and cooling, no monthly utility bill has exceeded \$225 since it opened, Scheller said.

And she pointed out to the students that there are only a few "strategically placed" televisions in the Ronald McDonald House.

"We want the families staying here to come out and meet one another," Scheller said.