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Ms. Lisa Watson
Farnsworth Middle School
6072 State Farm Rd.
Guilderland, NY 12084

Dear Lisa and Friends,

It is with a grateful heart that I thank you for your contribution to our community during the most difficult days following Hurricane Irene. The generosity of so many caring individuals was nothing short of amazing. In the weeks and months following the flood, donations poured into our community, easing the pain of the devastation caused by the flooding. These donations not only met the immediate needs of our families, but continue to bring relief and cheer to many of our flood-affected families as they work to rebuild their lives.

Because of your generosity, we were able to provide food, cleaning supplies, household items, school supplies and other essentials to our families in the weeks and months following the flood. A food/supply pantry was established in the gymnasium and operated until community sites were established. Clothing was distributed at the Carrot Barn and then from the Reformed Church. All of this was possible due to the kindness, compassion and energy of caring people such as yourself.

The holiday season was especially stressful this year as many families were physically, emotionally and financially exhausted. The generosity of many and the compassion of our staff helped to ease this burden and brought “tidings of comfort and joy” to our families. On Saturday, December 10th, our elementary school was transformed into Santa’s Workshop. Our gymnasium was brimming with toys, blankets, quilts, decorations, hand-made hats, mittens and scarves, wrapping paper, stuffed animals, stockings, games and home-baked goodies. Our hallway was filled with books and a gift-wrapping station. Our cafeteria was filled with refreshments, friendship and holiday cheer. Photographers from “Help Portrait” were in our other gymnasium, offering free family portraits to community members whose homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Irene. Student musicians shared their musical talents, filling the air with the sounds of the holiday season. Hugs, smiles and tears of joy surrounded our families.

Your generosity made this event possible. Although the final tally is not yet complete, please know that your donation helped us to adopt nearly ninety families and distribute thousands of dollars worth of toys, gift cards and cash gifts to our friends in need.

Our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year. You have forever touched our lives and our hearts.

Sincerely,

Maryellen Gillis
Elementary School Principal

~ Together, we touch lives forever ~