

Excerpt from

MOMS Club® Cranberry Township–North

News & To-Dos

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Zack Packs Stuffed With Generosity

By Andrea Tucker, Newsletter Editor

Some of us are in this group to make mommy friends. Some are in it for the MOMS nights out, and others are here for the playgroups. But all of us are eager to help struggling families in our community.

MOMS Club International distinguishes itself from other support groups for mothers through active charitable involvement. Typically, MOMS Club chapters support causes that benefit women and their children.

Each year, members of our Cranberry North chapter suggest community giving and volunteer events to support as a group.

One of the charities you selected this year is Zachary's Mission, a nonprofit organization Patricia and Robert Vince founded in memory of their son Zachary Hunter Vince, who died because of a congenital heart defect just over two weeks after his birth in June 2008.

Inspired by Zachary's brief but impactful life and hospitalization, "Zachary's Mission supports families of medically fragile children by providing basic necessities, financial assistance, and programs that nurture emotional well-being" in the Pittsburgh area, according to the organization's website.

Zachary's Mission's signature program is Zack Packs, which are durable, attractive backpacks inspired by a design Zachary's father created and full of items to comfort families staying with their sick children in a hospital.

Twenty-seven members donated items for the packs, and nine members gathered to assemble 75 bags at the home of [REDACTED], our chapter's president, who said, "A huge 'thank you' to all the awesome members who came to help stuff the Zack Packs."

Many of the moms who volunteered to stuff the packs brought their children along.

This was a "great opportunity to teach [our] children about giving back to the community," said Administrative Vice President [REDACTED].

Zack Packs are distributed to families at Children's Home and Lemieux Family Center, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Children's Institute of Squirrel Hill, and West Penn Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

If you would like to further help Zachary's Mission or simply learn more about it, visit zacharysmision.org.