

NHS collects food for local pantry

by Naomi Prale
 Staff Writer

The annual Niles West food drive, sponsored by National Honor Society, started Monday, Nov. 26, and will end Friday, Dec. 7.

According to sponsor Tricia Woods, the proceeds will go the Niles Township Food Pantry. "The drive is right in time for the holidays. The cans are given to families, and they are divided so that every family receives one meal, with a starch, a vegetable and a meat," Woods said.

Last year, around 11,000 cans were donated. "It's a grade level competition," Woods said. "Each homeroom brings in cans and competes for a prize." Last year, the prize was a free breakfast. This year, Woods said winners may receive free Chipotle instead.

"We hope to reach around 15,000 cans this year," Woods said, "but it is in the hands of the school. It depends on how well students and teachers bring in cans, and how well teachers promote the food drive in their homerooms."

Senior Katherine O'Connor, one of the organizers of the food drive, looks forward to helping others. "It is always good to help out people in the community," she said. "Everyone should donate; a little effort can make a big difference in someone else's life."



Canned goods collected by NHS await delivery. Photo by Ian Simon

Tech committee awards annual grants

by John King
 Staff Writer

District 219's Technology Committee for School Improvement (TCSI) recently approved nearly \$50,000 in technology grants to teachers in order to allow student and teachers to have new educational experiences.

According to district Director of Technology Guy Ballard, the largest grants went to the science department with over \$7,000 in new equipment. Biology teachers Ruth Glechier and Britt Czupryna received new interfaces and pH sensors for their classrooms that would allow classes to become mobile. They also will be able to conduct more sophisticated experiments with greater scientific accuracy, Gleicher said.

Astronomy teacher Elizabeth Ramseyer's classes will benefit from a new professional grade observation camera that will allow telescopes to sync up to modern computers. Now students can pick stars and have computers follow them through the sky and display them over a computer monitor, according to Ramseyer.

Chemistry teachers Autumn Penney and Cindy Protus-Edelstein and math teacher David Reinholz's classes will benefit from new document cameras that allow teachers to display images over the computer projector without use of an overhead projector.

Andrew Fowler's English classes received new Graphire™ wireless tablets. These interfaces will allow students to write using a stylus onto a computer screen and then have teachers display the text over the classroom's projector. Text can also be saved and edited via computer, allowing students who are absent to catch up quickly.

Jessica Fliman's science classes received a new Smartboard™-airliner tablet, which will allow her to write on the computer screen using a stylus in much the same way that football announcers can draw lines over images on a television.

Tim Richmond's autos classes received a new OBD scanner, which is a computer program that can synch up to a car's engine and display different statistics over a display.

Also among granted items were new presentation remotes for the social studies department, a new DVD camera for the AV lab and new laptops for the math department.