



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *Wednesday, March 10, 2010***

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### ***Sibley students raise \$15,000 for charities during annual GOFA week***

*(Mendota Heights, Minn.)* --- Once again, Henry Sibley High School students and staff made sure the annual GOFA (Give Once For All) Week events lived up to its history. For over 35 years Henry Sibley has held this annual fundraising campaign in which students take part in a week's worth of activities, all to raise money for select charities. The 2010 GOFA week raised enough money for Henry Sibley to donate \$15,000 to three different charities, receiving \$5,000 each.

The whole emphasis of GOFA week is on charity, volunteering, and donating. "It is a great way for kids to experience the benefit of giving," says Allison Footh, this year's GOFA advisor. "Students get such a strong sense of pride after they work so hard to accomplish something as important as this."



Seven charities applied to receive the donations, and student council members voted to make the final selections. This year all donations are split evenly between three local organizations: Dakota Woodlands (the only shelter for homeless families in Dakota County), Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (an organization dedicated to getting specially-trained dogs to the disabled), and Insulin Independence (an organization that helps people with diabetes, founded by Henry Sibley graduates). These are all charities that Henry Sibley students have been involved with, and will continue to work with this spring.

"As a high school student, it is important to step back and realize that people need help," says GOFA chair senior Alyssa Garr. "GOFA is a really good opportunity to participate in charity in high school while we're in a tight-knit community with so many activities to participate in."

Highlights of GOFA week include a taco night, a student talent show, and a whole-school carnival. Each student pays for admission to the events and for the various activities within them, and then all of the proceeds are donated. Another student favorite are the "buy outs" that happen on the Friday of GOFA week. This is when students can bid money to get out of class for a period to go to special events like a hypnotist, a show from Comedy Sportz, and a performance by the talent show winners.

GOFA week is a very valuable experience for Henry Sibley students, as it raises awareness to the importance of philanthropy. "I think it opens peoples' eyes," says GOFA chair senior Ben Saxon. "It helps kids understand that many people really don't have what we have in life, and that they deserve our help."

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