MORE Summer Camps & Programs – Part 3!
See pages 8-11.

Mascara, Old Friends & Other Superheroes: The Final Chapter

Happy Mother’s Day on Your Terms

Ask Dr. Kate Q&A: Does My Son Have a Gaming Obsession?

Education Feature: Shore Country Day School

Preventing Heart Disease – Part 1

Aaron’s Presents: Spotlight on Not a Simple Piece of Rope

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MAY 2015
Raising Compassionate Children

Teaching Kids to Give Brings Happiness, Healing and Purpose

Spotlight on Grant Recipient:
Nathan; 7th grader from Chelmsford

Project: Not a Simple Piece of Rope

by Leah Okimoto

Nathan learned about Aaron’s Presents this past fall from a flyer that a friend had picked up for him at a community event. His mom told me that he was immediately interested in applying to do a project and spent the evening reading our website and brainstorming. His family had participated in projects to benefit soldiers, organized by Operation Gratitude (www.operationgratitude.com), so Nathan started looking on their website for some ideas. Posted on the site was the need for bracelets made out of paracord, as soldiers use this material for many purposes, some life-saving.

This project felt like the perfect choice to Nathan, and he then set about researching how to make the bracelets and the cost of the materials needed.

He calculated that he could make 400 bracelets with the money from the grant. It was an ambitious goal, but he was determined to make it happen! He first enlisted his family members to help over winter break, and then organized a voluntary event at his synagogue to bring members together to spend an afternoon making more bracelets.

Our next issue is our 2-month Summer issue, which covers June AND July!

Contact Suzanne by May 13 if you need to advertise in June and/or July!

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Not only did he learn how to make paracord bracelets, but he also learned how to teach others how to make them.

Just about 3 months after he had applied, he had surpassed his goal and started packing up his 440 bracelets to ship to Operation Gratitude!

In his post-project survey, Nathan wrote that he learned that “People can do a lot when they come together, and I want to help others more.” In a thank you letter to his supporters, he expressed his appreciation for all the help his family and volunteers had given him and then added, “Thank you everyone. You have inspired me to work harder to make a difference in this world.”

Because of his initiative and leadership, Nathan directly impacted the lives of hundreds of soldiers as well as his family and community members. Thank YOU for your awesome efforts, Nathan!

This project received a total grant of $470.65, which was funded by The Dr. Alan Metwally Presents Fund, established by Dr. Metwally’s loved ones in his memory. 100% of Presents Funds contributions are used solely for project expenses.

Please visit www.aaronspresents.org to learn more about how a child you know can apply for a grant or to support our work in some way. We hope that this story will inspire other kids to think of how they might give of themselves!

Leah Okimoto is the Founder and Executive Director of Aaron’s Presents, a grants program designed to empower children in 8th grade and below to dream up and carry out positive projects that benefit others. She is also a North Shore mother who lives with her husband and 6-year-old and infant daughters. Her son, Aaron, lives on in her heart and through her work with the amazing Aaron’s Presents grant recipients who bring her and others joy and inspiration every day.