

EDUCATORS TOTALLY COMMITTED

STEPHEN C. ASH
744 Park Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
USA



Dear Educator:

WANT TO HELP THE LESS FORTUNATE IN YOUR OWN AREA?

Every first Friday of February since 1988, a group of employees known as Educators Totally Committed (E. T. C.) has addressed the *ongoing* needs of the poor with *ongoing* efforts. E. T. C. emphasizes a three-point program of awareness, commitment, and action. Our focus is to make our school communities aware of people in need, show that we are committed to help them, and take action.

WHAT WE DO

School personnel in both the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda and the Clarence school districts call public attention to the plight of the less fortunate. We involve students in a socially-relevant project, and raise funds for organizations which care for the poor in the Western New York area.

We do this by sponsoring an annual sleepout to collect donations of cash, food, clothing, personal care and household items.

Sleeping out means staying outdoors in cardboard refrigerator boxes and obtaining as many sponsors as possible that pledge cash donations for the 10-hour event. This sleepout engages students from grades K-12, as well as teachers and staff, in this program of social awareness. Students participate in a manner appropriate to their grade level. This extends from making contributions to support the activity to actually sleeping out. The first Friday of February is designated because of the sharp drop in charitable donations after the holiday season.

All donations are given to those in need. To date, about \$1,010,000.00 dollars have been collected and distributed to those in need. *Nothing* goes for administrative costs. **Every penny collected is given to the less fortunate.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO

E.T.C.'s **immediate** aim is to see New York State public, private and parochial schools--as well as colleges and universities--participate in similar programs. Our **long-range** goal is to have schools in *other states and countries* do the same. The impact that schools *throughout the world* could have would be immense. Imagine! Students and school personnel worldwide would come together on this day to help those in need IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

The event can be *anything* that would encourage teachers, administrators, librarians, secretaries, counselors, security personnel, custodians, transportation employees, aides, students, and their families to come together in a common effort to help people:

Athletic-a-thon	Dance	Pizza party
Bowling party	Ice cream social	Pool party
Canned food drive	Movie	Sleepout
Car wash	Penny drive	Spaghetti dinner

If your district / school already has activities in place which help those in need, would it be possible to schedule at least one of those activities on the first Friday of February? The combined effect of school communities throughout the world participating in an activity of their choosing ON THE SAME DAY would be significant. Wouldn't it be inspiring if, at some future point in time, the first Friday of February would be designated by the United Nations as . . .

A WORLDWIDE SCHOOLDAY TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED

This is E.T.C.'s goal.



THE PERSON TO CONTACT

If your school system or individual school or teacher would like more information, call Stephen C. Ash, in the Buffalo, New York area, at (716) 694-4492.

If your group feels comfortable calling itself Educators Totally Committed (E.T.C.) please feel free to do so. You are under no obligation to do this, but we welcome the use of a common name for this focused and organized effort. It will help to make the impact greater.

Finally, if your group chooses to do an activity on the first Friday of February, please consider making your event known to your local media and to your community-at-large. By seeing what you are doing, school-related personnel in neighboring districts might follow your lead. In this same regard, would you also consider forwarding this letter to other educators worldwide? This will help to accelerate our collective efforts to offer *all* students in *all* countries an opportunity to help those in need. Increased awareness, commitment, and compassionate action can make our world better for all.

WE ARE EDUCATORS TOTALLY COMMITTED!

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Ash
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Retired Secondary Math Teacher
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