

The HCT

CONNECTED

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Justina Ketyer, Editor

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From the President's Pen



Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Hicksville Congress of Teachers,

My hope for you is a restful, retrospective, and peaceful Thanksgiving holiday and break. Aside from my family, health, and the well-being of those closest to me, in light of the current battles we face, this year I am also thankful for my UNION MEMBERSHIP.

When I reflect upon most good things in my life, a correlation can certainly be drawn to my union activism and membership. I'll wager there is at least one benefit supplied by your union connection for which you, too, are gracious.



To point out the obvious, I am grateful that the strength of our union was able to defeat the premise of a New York State Constitutional Convention, staving off pension attackers for the foreseeable future. With the might of our state affiliate, NYSUT, in particular, labor's potential and power was on full display for the nation to take note.

Finally, as I often recount to you, I am never surprised and always pleased to hear of the altruistic endeavors of those in our ranks. For all of you, I am thankful. Your contributions to those less fortunate, particularly above and beyond the call of the profession, are noted and appreciated.

With warmest regards for a healthy and happy Thanksgiving,

Tom Glenn

A Champion for Children with Cancer



It was almost 9 P.M. before **Meg McElroy** checked the donation totals for her annual **Give to the Max Day** last Tuesday, November 16th. McElroy, an 8th grade English teacher at Hicksville Middle School, has been raising money to benefit **Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF)** for nine years. On this special day each year, all funds are triple matched by an anonymous donor to CCRF. McElroy had been promoting it in person and on social media for weeks. In 2016, 38 donors (mostly family and friends) contributed \$2,565, an amount she described as "thrilling." This year, that number was surpassed by 11 A.M.. She reports 99 donors gave \$6,910 in one day-- an amount to be tripled to benefit her charity.



CCRF is a national non-profit organization at the University of Minnesota that contributes to research, education, and quality of life programs for childhood cancer families. This year's funds will be donated in honor of Mia McCaffrey, her friend's daughter who died of pediatric cancer on St. Patrick's Day at the age of six.

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McElroy began her philanthropic endeavor while witnessing a former student struggle with the effects of Cystic Fibrosis in 2006. Feeling she needed to do something, she raised \$1,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The next two years she chose St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, and raised \$3,600. After learning about the great strides it makes in scientific research to benefit childhood cancers, McElroy settled on CCRF. "The most rewarding part of this has been seeing the hopes and goals of CCRF scientists come to fruition over the years," she says. Certain treatments she read about as the hopes of these researchers are currently in animal trials and are set to begin human trials in 2018.

To recognize the generosity of her donors, McElroy hosts a festive holiday party complete with raffle prizes. It's a huge undertaking that she begins in August and works on for countless hours leading up to the event, which is December 2nd this year. "It's time consuming to finalize details around this time each year. But I think it's important to celebrate what we have achieved together." Since 2008, McElroy's efforts have netted CCRF a total of \$41,974, not including the \$12,000 raised so far this year. And with the holiday party quickly approaching, that is certainly something to celebrate.

**Contribute to the Fundraiser
or
Attend the Party**



SRPs-- Essential to Education



The HCT celebrated School-Related Professionals Recognition Day on Wednesday, November 21st to recognize the importance of NYSUT members who play an integral part our students' educational experience. SRPs are cafeteria workers, custodians, building and grounds workers, clerical staff, bus drivers, monitors and attendants, mechanics, teacher aides and teaching assistants, health care professionals, security personnel and many other members.

SRPs in each building received a small gift thanking them for their dedication and hard work.





YOU'RE A
LIFESAVER
THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!







We Must Do More to Protect Women



On Saturday November 25, the United Nations marks the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**. As the U.N. says: "Violence against women is a human rights violation." It is a consequence of discrimination against women and of persisting inequalities. It impacts, and impedes, progress in many areas, including poverty, health care, education, and peace and security. Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. Prevention is possible and essential, yet it continues to be a global pandemic.

Of course, one of the major obstacles to efforts to prevent and end this violence is the substantial lack of resources. **From November 25 through December 10, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence present an opportunity to raise public awareness and mobilize people everywhere.** This year, the U.N. Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign invites you to

"Orange the world," using the color to symbolize a brighter future without violence. Included in these links are ways to donate, latest news, and history of the campaign. Violence is only one of many issues facing women as a result of discrimination and inequity. Together we can start to make meaningful change.

As such, on **Friday, December 8th, 2017, the HCT will ask all members to wear orange in support of the 16 Days of Activism and as a culmination leading up to Human Rights Day.** A flyer will be forthcoming.

Tweet your support using the following hashtags throughout the 16 Days:

- * *Zero tolerance for gender-based violence in education! #16days*
- * *We all have a role to play in ending gender-based violence in education! #16days*
- * *No education, no progress! Help end gender-based violence in education #16days*
- * *Act to end gender-based violence in education! #16days*
- * *Make it a Reality - End gender-based violence in education! #16days*
- * *Gender-based violence in education is a human rights issue! #16days #GBVteachin*
- * *My life, my body, my education! #16days*
- * *Together we can end gender-based violence in education! #16days*
- * *A safe education is a basic human right! #16days*



**World Health Org page
for fact sheet on violence against women.**



The 30 Articles of Human Rights

New Security Benefit



Hicksville Schools offer new 403(b) Option - Security Benefit

Plan Details

Hicksville Public Schools, Hicksville NY

403(b) Plan

457(b) Plan

Looking for help in learning about your investment options? [CLICK HERE](#)

Every Drop Counts

OPERATION AGUA



hispanicfederation



OPERATION
BLESSING
INTERNATIONAL

The massive damage caused by Hurricane Maria and the lack of electricity and clean water on the island of Puerto Rico continue to threaten the health, safety and lives of millions of American citizens. This is a humanitarian crisis the likes of which we have never seen in our country.

HCT Partners with the AFT for the Operation Agua "Every Drop Counts" Challenge!

AFT President Randi Weingarten spent several days in Puerto Rico after the storm, where she witnessed the devastation and the tremendous need firsthand. In most areas, it still looks like the hurricane struck three days ago, not more than three weeks ago. People are resorting to collecting water in contaminated waterways, or from runoff, and there are reports of some even drinking from toxic Superfund sites. And the danger is not over for those with running water; because water-treatment plants are still not operational, tap water may be tainted with raw sewage.

The HCT has endeavored to raise funds for the people of Puerto Rico. A \$30 donation will provide a filtration device that will give a family clean drinking water! **This is a human rights issue**, and we can do our part to help alleviate some distress to families in dire need.

[Click here to Donate with the HCT](#)

Special Invitation Warehouse Sale



A "Closed Door" Sale for Invited Guests

DATE: Saturday, December 9th, 2017

TIME: 8:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Estee Lauder
80 Ruland Road
Melville, NY

Call (516) 937-1288 or email (hicksville_teachers@verizon.net) the HCT office for tickets.

STAY CONNECTED:



Hicksville Congress of Teachers, 535 South Broadway, Suite 212, Hicksville, NY 11801

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