

A Partnership That was Meant to Be

By Ilene Hayes, Mt. Washington CLC Resource Coordinator

As a new resource coordinator at Mt. Washington school I was excited to learn about the Adopt a Class program. After our Principal and I met with Bill, our school signed on right away. I was eager to get the ball rolling so I took on the task of finding leads immediately. I must admit, I used my family's connections to generate a lead that turned out to be a chock full of surprises. My cousin's wife Linda Schwartz is partial owner of Globe Insurance Agency, a small family owned insurance company. After I spoke with Linda and her sister, Judy Steelman, Globe signed on to work with a 2nd grade class. Judy said that they were looking for a way to give back and the Adopt A Class program was ideal.

I set up a meeting with the teacher, Mary Davis, and Linda and Judy. When Mary walked into the meeting room Judy immediately recognized her—apparently Mary's mother has had insurance with Globe for ages and visits their office fairly often. It was a great little reunion (although I have to admit I felt a little left out!). I learned during our meeting that most of the family members that run Globe Insurance grew up in Mt. Washington and attended Mt. Washington School so there was already a strong connection. Then to top that off their office is only two blocks from our current school location in Hyde Park. When the reminiscing was complete, we moved ahead with developing a plan.

Mary was left speechless when Linda and Judy asked if there was anything she needed for the classroom. Globe was happy to get any supplies she needed. Many public school teachers have little money to spend on classroom supplies and often



L-R: Linda Schwartz (Globe Ins.), teacher Mary Davis, and Judy Steelman (Globe Ins.)

find it necessary to purchase supplies out of pocket.

Globe employees decided to visit their class every Friday to read to the students and bring snacks. Plans for a spring event are in the works. Globe Insurance Agency sets a great example of a truly engaged Adopt A Class partner. Their commitment and involvement with the class is hard to match. The students have enjoyed writing letters to the Globe employees and look forward to their weekly visits. We are so grateful to have them on board!

Rockdale Students Have an Art Lesson at the Zoo



On May 23rd, Ms. Yankowski's 3rd grade class at Rockdale Academy had the opportunity to become art collectors. The artist? My-Thai, an 8,700 pound elephant at the Cincinnati Zoo. The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden partnered with

Rockdale Academy last year when Rhiannon Hoeweler, Senior Project Manager, was introduced to Bill through another Adopter. Hoeweler says that the partnership between Rockdale and the Zoo benefits students by affording them the opportunity to have an up close and personal interaction with the rainforest animals they are learning about in school. Students get to experience a "micro version" of a rainforest in the Zoo's Discovery Forest. Not only are students able to have an experience that brings their studies to life, they also gain exposure to a wide variety of career choices. Hoeweler says that staff members in a variety of positions—from zookeepers to the Zoo's Chief Operating Officer—are active participants in the program. But the benefits go both ways: Hoeweler says that Adopt A Class has been a good cross-departmental way for zoo staff to work together for others. The spring outing included a visit to the Elephant House to watch My-Thai paint, a train ride, and the opportunity to feed the zoo's giraffes. When the day was over, Ms. Yankowski's class brought My-Thai's painting back to hang in their classroom.