

# Coffin School Students Collecting Change in Blue Buckets for Teddy Bears

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Coffin School students in Brunswick have had a month long drive of “spare change” in April to support the Mid Coast Hospital Teddy Bear Club, helping to comfort children like themselves in tense times.

Each classroom has a Mid Coast blue bucket and a bear and the “spare” change is buying the bear. The buckets were partially donated by Home Depot. Donations from students started at one cent, and went up from there, but every child can participate, help other children, joyfully give back and learn the gift of giving.

Principal Steve Ciembroniewicz said, “I know when my daughter was in the ER at Mid Coast Hospital, the comfort of receiving a friendly stuffed animal from the Teddy Bear Club greatly reduced her anxieties. Four years later, her stuffed puppy dog Milo is still a cherished friend. What a wonderful reminder of how a simple kindness in the midst of challenging time can make such a positive difference. Our family is most grateful to the Mid Coast Teddy Bear Club, and I’m happy to have the chance to support this worthy cause.”

The tally is not in for 2013, but in 2012, 425 children donated \$521 for stuffed friends of patients. School counselor Rachel Bradley said “The Mid Coast Teddy Bear Club is a great cause. The contributions from our young students gave them a perfect first opportunity to learn about reaching out and helping others.”

Kindergarten teacher Stephanie Lucas said, “Collecting coins for Teddy bears proved to be quite the learning experience in our kindergarten classroom. Math activities included sorting, counting and even patterning with colors. But most important was the discussion to the question, ‘How might you feel if you had to go to the hospital?’ The children easily expressed possible feelings and concurred that having a soft stuffed Teddy bear to hug would make things a lot better. It’s comforting to witness, at such a young age, the act of kindness for others—the Coffin School Cubs are “beary” proud to help out.”