

Local students learn the lesson of giving

When **Paulette Dutchak** got a call from Dana Kropf at Lifegate Christian School offering to bring a few dozen students to the Children's Miracle Network-Lions Patient Family Guest House to help clean up, "I was thrilled," said Paulette. "I started making a list of things I could ask them to do immediately."



From changing light bulbs to moving furniture and raking leaves, the chores are a way of giving back for 16-year-old Matthew. "At first I felt like I always do when I'm asked to do chores: not excited. Then I got started and passed a bulletin board of pictures in the hallway of premature babies and I realized we're helping their families at a time when they're really stressed out. I was a preemie and my parents always talk about how scared they were. I'm glad I can help fix up a place like this that helps parents like mine."



That's exactly the message teachers and the principal of Lifegate want their students to take away. "We do this project for local nonprofits three to four times a year," said Tom Gregersen. "I chose to call Sacred Heart because my wife died of leukemia several years ago and ever since then, it's been important for me to give back to hospitals and teach my students why that's important. This is an incredible place. It really makes a big difference to families."