

Japhet School Third-Grader Sets up Stand to Benefit Audubon Society

After watching President Obama's speech Tuesday night regarding the Gulf devastation caused by the oil spill, a concerned third-grader from Japhet School decided to take action. At 7:30 Wednesday morning, young Grant Partridge set up a lawn stand with a hand-drawn poster pleading for donations to the Audubon Society to help clean the oil-stricken birds. "Watching the President talk about the oil spill, I felt sad," Grant says. "I decided I needed to do something to help."

"We watched the telecast as a family," says his father, Ty Partridge, "and my son, who loves animals, wanted to research the Audubon Society to see what they were doing for the waterfowl. Afterward, when I thought he was playing in his room, he announced he needed a piece of posterboard and some crayons. He told his mom and me his plan, and has been sitting outside with his colorful 'Save The Birds' poster and a plastic shoebox since early this morning. We had planned on going to a movie today, but he's still out there [at 3 PM], collecting."

Ty posted his son's philanthropic gesture on Facebook, and it resulted in a viral posting that brought friends — and friends of friends — to the Partridge home in Royal Oak.

As the word spread to Grant's elementary school — the award-winning Japhet School in Madison Heights — the school's Board of Trustees became involved and immediately issued a declaration that it would match Grant's collection in part or in full, depending on the size of his total collected funds. "We are so lucky to have Grant at a school like Japhet where children's natural willingness to help is supported and fostered, so it becomes a part of who they are," says Ty.

Cathy Mohan, Japhet's Head of School, shares the school's pride for Grant. "His expression of initiative and desire to remedy a wrong-doing is pure character in action. He was motivated to help, had the confidence in knowing he could make a difference, and set up camp on his front lawn with hope and courage. Grant sets an example for us all."