

# Preschoolers donating nickels for neonatal unit

**GOSHEN** – For the past two months, students at the Helping Hands Christian Preschool in Goshen have been collecting nickels to raise money for families with babies hospitalized in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the new Orange Regional Medical Center in the Town of Wallkill.

Nickels for NICU Families was a fundraiser launched in conjunction with the Hailey's Hope Foundation, a local non-profit organization that supports families with premature and critically ill babies in New York area NICUs.

More than 100 students helped successfully raise more than \$500 (in nickels) as well as collect numerous baby-friendly items such as diaper bags, blankets, pacifiers and onesies.

"Hailey's Hope Foundation is an incredible organization that fulfills a great need in our community," said Helping Hands Christian Preschool Director Lori Soutar. "This cause is near and dear to our hearts, as one of our current families has been facing a lengthy NICU journey since December 2011."

"It is wonderful to see the children so excited to help others," said Debra Randazzo, director of Hailey's Hope Foundation. "They have searched high and low for nickels: in piggy banks, seat cushions, parents' wallets, on the playground and more."

Since its inception in December 2007, Hailey's Hope Foundation has raised more than \$400,000 and provided support to over 800 NICU families.

Hanson. Free. 562-5365. [ecunha@safehomesorangecounty.org](mailto:ecunha@safehomesorangecounty.org).

**"Learn How to Play Bridge"** – Pine Bush Library Community Center, 223 Maple Ave., Pine Bush, 10:30 a.m. June 14. Taught by experienced bridge players. Free. 744-3375.

**Hamptonburgh Seniors Helping**

**Hands "Stitching for a Cause"** – Hamptonburgh Senior Center, Bull Road, Campbell Hall, 1 p.m. June 14. Meeting every Thurs. Group will craft, knit, and crochet, then donate handmade items to good causes. Yarn donations are welcome. 427-2424, ext. 8.

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