

Chippewa Valley team seeks to provide wig for child in need

Team remembers those lost to cancer and aims to help others

- By Nicole Tuttle For MediaNews Group
- Feb 16, 2020



The Chippewa Valley Schools Destination Imagination high school level team is working on a community service learning challenge project. They have partnered with Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan to provide a wig for a child suffering from hair loss. Pictured are team students Kyle Crego, Abe Bazzi, Allison McGraw, Darcy Moran and Adam Trubey at Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY DESTINATION IMAGINATION



A Chippewa Valley Schools Destination Imagination high school level team is fundraising to provide a wig for a child suffering from hair loss through Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan. Pictured are Adam Trubey, Kyle Crego, Allison McGraw, Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan CEO and Founder Maggie Varney, Darcy Moran and Abe Bazzi.

A Chippewa Valley Schools Destination Imagination team is envisioning a world where one less child is bullied because of baldness due to disease, one less child feels helpless to cope with the emotional effects of hair loss, one less parent worries about where the money will come from to get their child a needed wig.

The high school group is not only putting their collective imaginations to work on the problem, but also their team and fundraising skills. The group is collecting money with the goal of paying for the cost of an \$800 wig through one local organization.

"That was a big goal, for a team to try and raise that much money," said Kristen Kummerl, coordinator for the district's Destination Imagination.

Destination Imagination is a global educational non-profit program that seeks to showcase the problem-solving skills of students.

Chippewa Valley Schools offers Destination Imagination teams through the district's community education program as an extracurricular activity. Kummerl assists in formation of teams, which are managed by volunteers.

The program is open to students K-2 with the Rising Stars program, and to third through 12th graders in the Challenge Program. Students pay a fee to register.

The season begins in the fall. At the Challenge Program level, teams of four to seven students are matched by grade and age range. The teams then select from one of seven challenges offered by Destination Imagination. Challenges center on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, fine art, theater, and service learning or community involvement. Teams generally meet once weekly.

Students work on a team chosen challenge to develop solutions and present their findings at a regional tournament in the spring. Top scoring teams advance to a state tournament. Those who achieve high scoring marks at the state level advance to global finals.

One of the high school level teams in the district is made up of students from Chippewa Valley High School in Clinton Township and Dakota High School in Macomb Township. This particular seven-member high school level Destination Imagination team chose a primarily service learning/community involvement project.

"They learn how to go through a project and how to address a need. Most of the time they do fundraisers or awareness for this. And for the tournament, they have to put together a story where at least one character is in a race against time," Kummerl said.

Dakota junior Darcy Moran, 17, has participated in Destination Imagination for seven years.

"You have until the regional competition to meet all the requirements and present a seven minute skit," Moran said. "We decided to do the service learning challenge this year. We got to choose a local charity to fundraise for and bring awareness to."

The team was inspired to choose to assist Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan due to the 2019 cancer-related deaths of Chippewa Valley High School student Anthony Verdezoto and teacher Nichole Wouters, as well as the death of Sulochana Shah, a team member's grandparent.

Moran said students collect returnable bottles and cans to raise funds, and also online through givinggrid.com/cvdiwigs. The skit the group has developed for the Feb. 29 regional tournament at Henry Ford II High School in Sterling Heights is symbolic in nature, depicting a tree losing leaves.

Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan is a non-profit organization that provides wigs and support services to Michigan children ages 3 to 18 at no charge. Services are available to children who have experienced hair loss due to cancer, alopecia, burns and other disorders.

The organization is based at 30126 Harper Ave. in Saint Clair Shores. The team visited the organization on Jan. 29 and met with Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan Founder and CEO Maggie Varney.