

Mills Elementary Student Coin-Drive [\(from Klamath Voice Mar. 14, 2018\)](#)



Elementary, who helped organize the coin drive, presented the check to Carmen Pena, the IYS Youth Center Manager, at Mills Elementary today.

“Every year Mills does a coin drive and we always pick a place or an agency to donate money to, and because of the Youth Centers situation, and because so many of our kids utilize the youth center we decided to donate to them.”

Danskin confessed that once they reached the thousand dollar mark, she stopped counting. “I did not count all of the coins, but when we reached a thousand dollars for the youth center, then whatever was left over I just gave to them as well,” she said and added, “I think it’s amazing that all these kids came together from kindergarten all the way up to fifth grade. Some of them brought their piggy banks, which could have been their whole life savings. I’m just really pleased that Mills came together to help our community.”

Over a thousand dollars was raised primarily from the kids at Mills, but an anonymous donor matched the kids’ funds to double the donation to just over \$2,000.

The student senate and students at Mills Elementary School began a coin drive to help support the IYS Youth Center across the street from their school on February 7, 2018.

Lisa Danskin, a special-ed para-pro, at Mills



From left to right: Courtney Earl, Owen Earl, Leilani Lopez

10-year-old, Courtney Earl, a fourth-grade student senate member, stated they chose the IYS Youth Center, “Because they need money to stay open.” She added, “We raised \$1,000 with the coin drive and a random person matched the money we raised.”

Leilani Lopez, also in fourth grade and on the student senate, chose the Youth Center, “Because they do a lot to help parents after school because some parents can’t pick up their kids exactly after school, they help pretty much babysit.”

11-year-old, Owen Earl, a fifth-grade student senate member was asked, ‘Why did you choose the IYS Youth Center for your coin drive this year?’ He replied, “Because that’s where almost half of the kids at school

go after school.” He added to those that donated, “Thanks for the money!”

Owen, Courtney, and Leilani all frequent the Youth Center after school. Owen admitted that he has been going there for the past two years.



Larry Zeilstra, the Executive Director at Integral Youth Services, attended the check presentation. "I am blown away by both the kids that raised that money, that really pushed and that made it happen, and for the person that matched it. The kids raised a thousand dollars, and she came in and gave us a thousand dollar check, in honor of Mercedes Rasdal, a young girl who attended the Youth Center, that passed away last year. It is just amazing to me of how well they did," he said and stated, "All the donors, the people who are stepping up for monthly donations, and sponsorships of the youth center; I mean we are at a hundred thousand dollars now, eight weeks ago we were at zero. That, to me, shows just how

much the youth center is appreciated by this community," he said.



Mercedes mom Tyra and brother Zachary depositing coins



Mercedes and her brother Zachary