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**Press Release**

**For more information contact  
Barbara Esteves-Moore  
292-5134, ext. 272 or  
[estevesmooreb@dominican-campus.org](mailto:estevesmooreb@dominican-campus.org)**

## **Overbrook Student Council brings lunches to St. Thomas Hospital's families in waiting room**

Each week, members of Overbrook School's Student Council bring sack lunches and a little cheer to families who are spending long and anxious hours in the waiting room at St. Thomas Hospital.

Each Tuesday, Student Council members bring specially made sack lunches containing a sandwich, bag of chips, and bag of cookies or fruit to school. The students then deliver the lunches to St. Thomas during their lunch/recess hour. Overbrook School is located on The Dominican Campus which sits next door to St. Thomas Hospital on Harding Road. Academic Dean Phyllis McGee initiated the project so the students could interact with the families at the hospital and hopefully provide them with a few minutes of peace and respite from their worries. Mrs. McGee got the idea when she was on the receiving end of a similar gesture at Vanderbilt Medical Center last year.

"My brother-in-law stayed in Vanderbilt's ICU for 50 days last year. We had visitors come constantly and we didn't want to leave the waiting area. I was there on occasion when a group would bring sack lunches to the ICU waiting area," Mrs. McGee said. "I guess when you experience something like that, it stays with you.

"I called St. Thomas – since we could walk over there – to see if we could start doing it for them," she said. "The Student Council members were thrilled to get to do the service project. They all bring a sack lunch every Tuesday with what is in it written on the sack itself or an index card. Some put words of encouragement on it, too."

When Mrs. McGee and the junior high students arrive, hospital employees announce that the Overbrook students have brought sack lunches and they will be in the kitchen area. "Several people have stopped to thank us and talk to us," Mrs. McGee said. "The students have been really great about it when they have."

The school has also received several thank you notes in the mail from people who have benefited from the sack lunches.

Overbrook School, which opened in 1936, is owned and operated by The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. Overbrook is a co-educational, Catholic school for pre-k through eighth grade students where children grow in grace and knowledge. It shares The Dominican Campus with St. Cecilia Academy and Aquinas College. Each year every class participates in a service project from prekindergarten through eighth-grade. The Student Council service work is in addition to the classroom service projects.

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