

Alternative Appeal inspired Blanket Drive

BOISE — A dinner conversation has led to new blankets at a local homeless shelter.

Marianne White, principal at St. Mary Catholic School attended the Oct. 16 Loaves and Fishes benefit sponsored by Catholic Charities of Idaho. She spoke to a representative of Interfaith Sanctuary, a homeless shelter for families in Boise, and felt inspired by CCI's Alternative Christmas Appeal.

The Alternative Christmas Appeal seeks traditional and non-traditional forms of support for CCI's programs. White challenged her students to

hold a Blanket Drive to help the shelter's efforts when the beds are full and people need to sleep on the floor.

At the school's weekly Mass Oct. 23, 75 blankets — more than double the goal of 30 — were given to a shelter representative. White said that she had only unveiled the idea four days earlier when, during a school prayer service, she had asked a student to lie on a blanket on the floor to present the idea and help visualize the need.

"The students really got the message," White said. "I wanted this to be a campaign driven from the bottom up, not the top down."



Marianne White