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GNA students make lunches for the homeless



First row, from left, are Calista Walk, Katie Ward, Alicia Pacheo and Carliegh Keene. Second row: Andrew Stratton, Tyler Kuscavage and Breayna McDonough. Also participating are Bella Czeck, Madison Hoover, Tyler Skoniecki, Gabrielle Rakowski, Lauren Krause, Gianna Donahue and Jordan Spencer.

A group of students from the Greater Nanticoke Area High School recently teamed up with an Instagram initiative called Food and Thought along with the Wilkes-Barre Police Department to make lunches for the local homeless.

Food and Thought is the brain child of Instagram poet Jared Presser, a Las Vegas resident who began reaching out to other poets for permission to use their uplifting quotes or poems on brown paper bags, which would then be prepared with lunches for homeless in cities all over the world. So far, these lunches have been delivered in India, Pakistan, Ireland, New Mexico, Singapore, and to many points in the United States: Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Portland, Oregon, Long Island, Staunton, Virginia, and Philadelphia. And now, thanks to students at the Greater Nanticoke Area High School, Wilkes-Barre has been added to the list.

These students, who donated the food and their time this project, met on April 9 to make sandwiches, pack bags and decorate 30 bags with the poems sent to them by writers from all over the world. Then, with the help of school resource officer Ray Whittaker, the boxes of bagged lunches — complete with food, drinks, snacks and toothbrushes and toothpaste — were taken to the Wilkes-Barre Police Department, which volunteered to distribute the bags to the homeless in Wilkes-Barre.

To join the initiative on Instagram or become a local contact point in the future, follow the pages #we_together_love and #forget_it42.