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**Health Department, Harbor Springs students host Breast Cancer Awareness activities**  
***Funds raised, lap blankets made for cancer patients***

Students and teachers throughout Harbor Springs Public Schools and staff with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan recently participated in PINK OUT activities to help raise awareness for breast cancer.

Numerous activities were held, including a Mindful Movement afterschool yoga session hosted by the health department's Ram Wellness program, sessions where lap blankets were made and donated to McLaren Northern Michigan for patients receiving chemotherapy, and an opportunity for all students and staff to participate by wearing pink to school. In addition, students and staff held a coin collection and raised more than \$5,000 to disperse to families in the Harbor Springs area who are battling breast cancer.

"Pink Out helped remind all of us that one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime but mammograms do save lives," said Jennie Dodge, RN, Community Health Nurse with the Health Department's Ram Wellness Program. "With great treatment there are over three million breast cancer survivors."

**CUTLINES:**

Pictured are just a few of the lap blankets made by Harbor Springs Public School students and donated to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute at McLaren Northern Michigan. In addition, Blackbird Elementary secretary Jenn Wagner and Health Department of Northwest Michigan community health nurse Jennie Dodge carry one of the coin collections boxes that totaled more than \$5,000 donated to families in the area who are battling breast cancer. The events were part of Pink Out activities recently coordinated with students and staff to raise awareness of breast cancer.

*The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit [nwhealth.org](http://nwhealth.org).*

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