

Woman's Club of Lacey, Inc.

P.O. Box 777
Forked River NJ 08731

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN- 2022

The chairperson Mariana Marzacco runs 50/50's at each general meeting and the club always has used the proceeds to support Special Needs students in our high school. (Last year the club funded converting a classroom to a studio apartment so students 18-21 transitioning to independent living could practice necessary life skills.) This year a need was presented to us by the District Special Education Supervisor. He told us that a real pressing need was for the autistic students in the Cedar Creek Elementary School. This school serves the needs of children with autism in the whole district with four classes. What was need was a "sensory decompression room" with wall pads, fiber optic lighting, sensory seating pads and toys. The estimated cost of the project was \$1800 more than we usually raise. However, the membership, some of whom have grandchildren with autism, was fully onboard. When it looked like we were going to be short with the 50/50 proceeds, our members stepped up with incredible generosity donating \$5 here, \$20 there until we reached our goal. We are certainly proud to provide this needed place for our children. When Mariana and I presented the check to the supervisor, principal and psychologist we saw both beaming smiles and wet eyes.

Advocates for Children also partnered with **Arts Creative** as they fashioned 60 Spider Candies for Halloween, 50 Turkey Lollipops for Thanksgiving and 30 Gift Wrap Candies for Christmas/Hanukkah for distribution to Lacey Foodbank for Kids and Providence House for battered women and their children.