

giving back

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DOING GOOD DE3DS

This spring, six Dwight-Englewood middle and high school robotics team students started an on-going initiative: Using the school's 3D printers, they've created thousands of face shields and ear savers for protection against COVID-19, and have donated them to Bergen County hospitals, first responders and other health care providers.

Sujan Munver, currently 15 and a freshman at the time, came up with the idea and, along with his peers, sought mentorship from one of their robotics team teachers. The school loaned Munver their high-quality 3D printer for use in his home and donated the raw materials necessary to make the shields and comfort-enhancing ear savers. Munver and his sister, Radha, created models and tested them out on their physician father until he was happy enough with their prototypes to share them among his colleagues.

The Munver siblings connected with four other students who were also interested in creating PPE — Maggie Yan, Ben Tausner, Asher Cohen and AJ Campbell — and they named their group DE3D (which, not coincidentally, resembles the word "DEED"). The teens' charitable work has been so well received that administrators at Dwight-Englewood have since requested that they make 3D print face shields for their students and faculty. "On average, it takes 1-2 hours to produce, assemble, and clean each face shield," says Sujan. "I run the printer nearly 24/7, to maximize production."

FRANCESCA PIZZA AND PASTA GIVES TEACHERS GIFT CARDS

Teachers were recently treated to a free Italian lunch, courtesy of North Jersey's Francesca Pizza and Pasta, as a "thank you" for their hard work this school year. The shop, which has locations in Elmwood Park, Glen Rock and Fair Lawn, is owned by Adam Vuksanic, Salvatore Reina and Jeff Lucca. They posted a call to all teachers on social media: Stop in and we'll give you a \$10 gift card on us.

"We decided it would be a good thing to do for our teachers," says Vuksanic. "They're doing the virtual thing now, figuring out how to adapt lesson plans and keep their kids on track. It's a lot. They can at least have a nice lunch."

Teachers could show their school ID or just use the honor system. In the week the men ran the giveaway, they wound up giving out about \$4,580 in gift cards. "The teachers always support us, ordering pizza whenever they have school events," says Vuksanic. "This is the least we can do."



COURTESY OF THE ORGANIZATION