

Mount Prospect Historical Society
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Students of Lions Park School do chores to save local landmark

Mount Prospect: The students of the second grade classes of the Lions Park School could teach many of us a lesson. They all pitched in and worked doing extra chores and collecting change to help raise money for a community project. The five second grade classes raised \$1,000.45 which they donated toward the preservation of Mount Prospect's first school, the Central School. The students are not just supporting any old school, this building is an 1896 one room schoolhouse and is one of the last one room schools left in Cook County. It was the first home of the Public Library, the fire department, three local churches, School District 57, and was the first school in Illinois to cross township lines, being partially in Elk Grove and partially in Wheeling. These students are not alone in their support for this project. Recently, both the Elk Grove and the Wheeling Historical Societies have made donations towards saving this building. "We have received donations from over 500 different donors, from 30 different towns in 10 different states. From Massachusetts to Iowa to California, this has become a great grass roots project" said Gavin W. Kleespies, Executive Director of the Mount Prospect Historical Society. "However it is a big project, moving the building is only part of the cost, we will have to pay to move the utility lines that cross the path, pay for plans and permits, and build a new foundation for it to sit on. The scale of the project is about the same as building a new house," he continued. People interested in learning more about this project or donating to support it can go to

www.yourcentralschool.org or call the Historical Society at 847-392-9006.

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