

German Club aids pantry in — where else? — Germantown

By Nicole Jenet
Staff Writer

Just in time for Thanksgiving, Springfield Township High School's German Club concluded its second annual schoolwide canned food drive Nov. 18.

The club chose to donate the canned goods to Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, a coalition of church congregations from Chestnut Hill, Germantown and Mount Airy.

This organization runs a food pantry and also offers help with rent, utilities and medical needs. The German Club donated goods from its food drive to the same organization last year as well.

When deciding where it wanted to donate the canned goods, the club chose to focus on the Germantown section of Philadelphia, since that area was founded by German settlers from Krefeld, Germany, in 1681.

See **German Club**, Page 3



Staff photo by NICOLE JENET

Members of Springfield Township High School German Club collected canned goods and other nonperishables for a food cupboard in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Preparing to pack up the contributions are, from left, Brigid Clark, Scott Vierick, Lina Sorg, Danny Anderson, Alex Vierick, Billy Sorg, faculty adviser Kevin Martin and Ian Jones.

High school German Club holds annual food drive

■ **German Club**, from Page 1

"We wanted a tie to the German Club but also wanted to make it accessible to our school," German Club President Lina Sorg said.

Throughout November, club members advertised the initiative through morning announcements and posting flyers around the high school.

"I think it's important to raise awareness of the small things we can do to contribute," Sorg said.

"I think it's noble that our

group did this," club member Erin Agnew said. "It's been great," member Scott Vierick said. "It's been a great way to get our club's name out and while making an effort to help members of the community that are less fortunate."

The group felt it was important to hold the food drive to coincide with Thanksgiving because "it's a time to be thankful while also thinking of those who are less fortunate," Sorg said.

Springfield teachers hit professional milestone

By Nicole Jenet
Staff Writer

Two more Springfield Township Middle School teachers achieved National Board Certified Teacher status this week.

Peggy Vosseler, a sixth-grade math teacher, and Linda Hammond, a seventh-grade language arts and social studies teacher, joined middle school teachers John Waters, Ro Becker, Marcy Klugman and Lori Pinelli as National Board Certified Teachers.

"We're real excited that two more people have joined the ranks of the teachers that have achieved the certification in the past," middle school Principal Alice Snare said Monday.

"These two are most deserving of this honor and have worked hard to get there," Snare said of Vosseler and Hammond.

A National Board certification is an "advanced teaching credential" and "complements a state's teacher license," as stated on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards website.

The certification is achieved by completing a voluntary assessment program, which is designed "to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do," as stated on the website.

Candidates complete 10 assessments throughout the certification process, which are reviewed by trained teachers. The assessments include four portfolio entries, which feature teaching practice, and six "constructed response exercises that assess content knowledge."

"It requires a lot of work on the part of teachers to identify strengths to build on," Snare said. "It requires teachers to submit evidence of best practice, both written and some videos, and there are tests they must take to prove their proficiency in the subject matter they teach."

"For the middle school it means that our students are being taught by nationally recognized excellent teachers. My staff is probably the most highly qualified staff I've ever worked with. It doesn't surprise me that we have two more."

Snare added she believes all of the middle school's teachers could be accepted for the certification.