

# **School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario**

**School: St. Joseph's CSS, Cornwall**  
**Date: October 3, 2007**  
**From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer**  
[bob.perreault@cdsbeo.on.ca](mailto:bob.perreault@cdsbeo.on.ca)



Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0  
613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206

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## **St. Joseph's CSS Bracelet Sales Help Peruvian Women**

**Cornwall, ON** – There's a growing fashion trend at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School in Cornwall: woven bracelets made by women in Peru.

The fundraising idea was brought to the school by the Sisters of Holy Cross who have an ongoing mission in Canto Grande, Peru. They learned that Peruvian dealers were purchasing the bracelets from the women at a cost of approximately eight cents, and then re-selling them for one dollar each at local markets.

The sisters decided that they would purchase the bracelets from the women for about fifty cents, and provide all of the materials. The bracelets are then forwarded to other members of the congregation to be sold as fundraisers.

Sister Terry Wilson, school chaplain at St. Joseph's CSS, is a member of the congregation. The bracelets she receives are sold in the school for two dollars each. One dollar from the sale helps pay for the school's March break mission trip to the Dominican Republic, while the other dollar is sent to the women in Canto Grande to help them provide for their families. A small portion of the funds goes toward educating young Peruvian women.

St. Joseph's CSS Student Council Co-Prime Minister Scott Sanderson said the school has embraced the idea of helping the women. "The conditions in which these women are living are deplorable. The money that we send truly means the world to them. All of our students are so proud to be helping."

Fellow Co-Prime Minister Katherine Bakker said it feels great to know that the school's efforts are making a big difference in the women's lives. "By selling their beautiful bracelets here and sending the money back, we are truly giving them a chance at freedom."

Everyone at the school who purchases a bracelet is signing a piece of cloth to be sent to the women as a sign of solidarity.

To date, the school has raised close to one thousand dollars for the women.

**Attached Photo:**

St. Joseph CSS – Peruvian Bracelets.jpg : St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School Co-Prime Ministers Susan Cameron, Scott Sanderson and Katherine Bakker (from left to right) model the bracelets that are being sold at the school

