

In an effort to prevent bullying and encourage children be kind to one another and include each other in activities, the Zonta Club of Greater Sandusky has started a Buddy Bench Project. If children are taught the kindness qualities at a young age maybe domestic violence and human trafficking will disappear as their generation ages.

The Zonta Club of Greater Sandusky gave their first Buddy Bench to Margareta Elementary School on October 23, 2017. The school began participating in the "Start with Hello" program, founded by the Sandy Hook Elementary School of Newtown, Connecticut, last school year, but did not have a Buddy Bench. Therefore, when guidance counselor, Heather Wiley, was contacted by the Zonta Club about a Buddy Bench she was "all in." Christine Opelt, principal, and Keven Wise, assistant principal, were also part of the planning meeting for the bench.

The local Zonta Club, a part of Zonta International, wishes to give Buddy Benches to each of the public elementary schools in Erie County who wish to have them as long as the schools are willing to install them and educate staff and students as to how to use them. The benches are made of recycled milk jugs and are purchased locally from JDM Structures. There is an application process. Information may be obtained by sending a letter requesting such to:

Zonta Club of Greater Sandusky  
P.O. Box 1222  
Sandusky, OH 44871-1222