

## TOMS RIVER PRE-SCHOOL HOP-A-THON BENEFITS MD

BY RAY D. • READER SUBMITTED • FEBRUARY 24, 2009



*Pre-school children from the "Rockin' Rainbows" class demonstrate their "Hop-a-Thon" techniques last week at the Route 70 Goddard School to Teacher Assistant Ms. Bluette. Courtesy of Ms. Dana Chibbaro*

**H**opping up-and-down and all-around isn't really an unusual activity for most young children. But, hopping around to help other children who are affected by neuromuscular diseases is a whole different story!

The pre-school and kindergarten children of The Goddard School®, located at 255 Route 70, in Toms River, NJ, <http://www.goddardschool.com/Schools/Toms-River-II-NJ/Schools.gspix>, did just that on Thursday and Friday this week (Feb 19-20) as they took part in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association's Hop-A-Thon event held at the school.

In this classic MDA event, the children (with their parents' help, of course) obtained pledges from family members, friends, and neighbors for the number of pogo-like hops they might make in a 2-minute period about 300 for most youngsters. At the end of the event, the children received validation of their hopping

efforts from school officials in order to collect on the pledges - and then donate the funds to MDA.

The Hop-A-Thon is part of MDA's national disability awareness initiative, organized by child-care centers and schools across the country.

Top performers at the school this year were Jonathan Qualy, age 5, and D'maari Brown, age 4, with 1500 jumps each! In the process of training for the event, all of the children not only learned a lot about self-discipline, but also about diversity and disabilities.

All the monies raised by the MDA event are used to fund summer-camp getaways for children with neuromuscular disease, assist with buying and repairing wheelchairs and leg braces, fund research seeking treatment and cures, provide support programs for families, and more.

Ms. Dana Chibbaro, owner-operator of the Route 70 Goddard School explains: "Our annual Hop-A-Thon event for MDA helps us teach children about the joy and importance of helping others."

The Goddard School for Early Childhood Development is a co-educational facility providing a preparatory school education to students of varied religious, social and academic backgrounds.

The Route 70 Goddard School is a family-owned and independently-operated franchise of Goddard Systems, Inc., with headquarters in King of Prussia, PA.

With more than 40,000 children currently enrolled nationwide, The Goddard School is the fastest growing preschool franchise in the United States.

Goddard was recently recognized by Entrepreneur magazine as the "#1 Childcare Franchise" for the seventh consecutive year (January 2008). You can visit the Toms River Goddard School on the internet at: <http://www.goddardschool.com/Schools/Toms-River-II-NJ/Schools.gspix>