

# WHITE PLAINS EXPRESS

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Carucha L. Meuse/The Journal News  
Gabrielle Bussi and her classmates from Purchase Elementary School look at 10 inches of hair that she had cut off last week at Vasken Demirjian Salon in White Plains. About 17 girls decided to donate their hair to Locks of Love. For more photos, see Page 6.

## Salon, girls join to aid hair charity

Salon in White Plains last week as mothers watched their daughters lose their ponytails. Seventeen Purchase Elementary School girls, from grades kindergarten to four, and one physics teacher together donated their hair to Locks of Love, a charity that makes wigs for cancer patients under age 21. The event was organized by Liz Cahn, who reached out to her daughter's school. "I was getting my hair cut from Paul LaBrecque in New York City, when he told me about a whole school in the Midwest donating ponytails. I thought, wouldn't it be wonderful if Purchase Elementary School could do this?" said Cahn, whose daughter Anna, is in third grade. Demirjian provided the haircuts for free. "I think if you're going to be

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## HAIR: Girls donate to Locks of Love

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benevolent, then you should be benevolent all the way," he said.

Snacks were served and Demirjian's modern salon was decorated with balloons. Several stylists welcomed the girls as they came in.

Located at 12 City Place, the salon was filled with gleeful mothers taking pictures.

"The girls look beautiful and it's for a good cause," said Stacy Orseck, mother of another third-grader, Jamie.

Principal Robert M. Kalman was there, also taking pictures and assisting moms.

"This is an extension of what we teach in our schools," he said. "We are teaching these children to care about others and themselves. They are almost like an organ donor."

Cahn gave the girls a pep talk and then the first ponytails were cut, drawing "woos" and "awws" from the moms.

Stylist Liz Colabella was especially drawn to the cause after losing a friend, Peggy Kelly, to cancer three years ago. Before her death, the two would shop for wigs together,

Colabella said.

"I thought it was really sweet to give my hair away," said third-grader Ava Judelson.

The arrival of their gym and health teacher enthused the girls.

"We first talked about this in one of our faculty meetings," said the teacher, Sara Gonzalez. "I thought, if they are able to do this then I am as well."

The girls had been growing their hair at least 10 inches long.

"After my daughter's haircut she said to me, 'Mommy, before I looked like Sleeping Beauty and now I look like Dora the Explorer,'" said Sandra Stewart.

Her daughter, Isabella, is in kindergarten.

When the clipping was done, the ponytails went into separate vacuum-sealed bags.

"We sort it by length and it's completely custom for the child, based on color," said Lauren Kuikkamaa, spokeswoman for Locks of Love. "It takes six to 10 ponytails for one piece and, for several months, it goes through many fittings."

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### Express in White P

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## Girls donate locks

**Right:** Alexandra Gresham, 7, shows off 10 inches of hair she had cut off June 16 for Locks of Love at Vasken Demirjian Salon in White Plains. About 17 girls from Purchase Elementary School donated their hair to Locks of Love.

**Below:** Isabella Stewart, 5, the youngest from Purchase Elementary School, watches as 10 inches of her hair is cut for Locks of Love.

**Below, right:** Girls from Purchase Elementary School play around the cutting stations at Vasken Demirjian Salon in White Plains. The salon gave the girls new styles for free.

Photos by Carucha L. Meuse  
The Journal News

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