

A Newsday Community Affairs Department program engaging students in community service.



## Building Bonds, Helping Others

Every day for three weeks, sixth graders from **Jericho Middle School** and students from the **Brookville Center for Children's Services (AHRC Nassau)** met to work on a joint community service project. Using knitting looms, the students made "duduza" dolls. Duduza is the Zulu word for comfort. The doll pattern was originally created to comfort AIDS-affected children in Africa. These particular dolls were made for children at MercyFirst's St. Mary of the Angels Home in Syosset who have gone through traumatic experiences. Some of the dolls will also be donated to a local group of doctors who plan to visit sick children in South America. This experience was more than a community service project. The students learned valuable lessons from each other. For the Brookville students, the group interaction was an opportunity to strengthen their social skills. The Jericho students learned that everyone has something to offer, even though they may be different than you. "It made me realize that everyone can contribute something in life and we all can make a difference," added Juliette Matchton.

