

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brigade's Welding Club Gets a Boost**

Thanks to the efforts of Boys' and Girls' Brigade board member, Margaret Murphy, welding is no longer a spectator hobby for some students that participate in the welding club at the Boys' & Girls' Brigade in Neenah. More students will get to work on welding equipment thanks to the donation of a 3-in-1 welder with equipment, plus three auto-darkening helmets donated to the Boys' and Girls' Brigade from Thermadyne Industries, Inc.

Hobby club members had been limited by the equipment available making it difficult for multiple students to hone their welding skills at the same time. The recent Thermadyne welding equipment allows hands-on learning experience for more Brigade hobby club members.

"The 3-in-1 welder provides an additional workstation so more kids can work on projects instead of standing and watching while others work," says Jeff Raash, Boys' and Girls' Brigade volunteer and welding club leader.

Hobby clubs at Brigade offer children opportunities and exposure to skilled trades that they may otherwise have never considered trying. In a technology driven society where video games, the internet, and texting are favored pastimes for children, taking a break to spend time with a mentor sharing a gifted skill like welding provides a positive environment fostering good leader and character development.

"Keeping the equipment current is always a challenge, but doing so gives these kids an opportunity to find their interest in fields they may have never had exposure to," says John Dery, Executive Director of the Boys' and Girls' Brigade in Neenah.

Welding club is just one of many clubs offered at the Brigade each year. Other hobby clubs include woodworking, fly fishing, archery, rifle, winter skiing/snowboarding, knitting and ceramics. Hobby clubs are created based on the gifted skills and talents of volunteers.

“We are ever grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who step in to mentor with their gifted skills, like welding, to share with kids,” adds Dery.

The Brigade mission is: We Build Leaders. Character development and leadership programs are offered for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth at the Brigade building located at 109 W. Columbian Avenue in Neenah, Wisconsin. Summer camp experiences are offered at Onaway Island in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Youth are served by hundreds of adult volunteer leaders. For more information on how to join or become a volunteer visit Brigade’s website at [www.bgbrigade.com](http://www.bgbrigade.com) or call (920) 725-3983. Follow **Brigade Neenah** on Facebook.



**Photo caption:** Brigaders in the welding hobby club excited to use the recently donated 3-in-1 welder from Thermadyne Industries, Inc.