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## Profile of a newsmaker: Girl aims to raise \$5,000 baking to help missing children

**In the news:** Abbie Shimer, 11, a sixth-grader at Brooklyn Middle School, is once again baking and selling homemade peppermint pies to raise money for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Shimer started baking pies once a year for Valentine's Day in 2003.

**Background:** Shimer wanted to raise awareness about giving beyond the Christmas season, when she noticed that was the time of year most people gave time and money to charities. She wanted to continue awareness once that season was done. So she researched several organizations and settled on missing children efforts in February.

**Success:** In the first year, Shimer, with the help of her sisters, Julia and Hannah, raised \$500. The goal in 2005 was \$1,000, but she doubled that amount. This caught the attention of the Paul Newman Foundation, which matched her contributions with another \$2,000. The goal this year is \$5,000.

**The pies:** The whipped cream, marshmallow peppermint pies with an Oreo cookie crust cost \$12 each. To order a pie, go to [ajhkids.org](#), or call Greg Shimer at 774-7088. Shimer will stop taking orders Wednesday.

**Quotable:** "I want to help the kids that were less fortunate than I am, who were missing from their homes," Abbie Shimer said. "It's been a great experience; I love doing it. I kind of feel like it brings my family together a little more because my grandmother (Paula Walsh) and Auntie Katherine (Walsh) come and over and help us make the pies."

**Profile of a Newsmaker runs daily. If you know a newsmaker to profile, call us 887-9211, fax to 887-9666 or send an e-mail to [news@norwichbulletin.com](mailto:news@norwichbulletin.com)**

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