



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Catholic Memorial High School juniors Anna Nowakowski, Josie Beres and Edmond Kayiwa present their ideas to a group of people with Parkinson's disease at the Brookfield Regency.

CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

# Students developing invention to help Parkinson's patients

By Lauren Anderson  
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WAUKESHA — Catholic Memorial High School students Josie Beres and Anna Nowakowski have seen firsthand the toll that Parkinson's disease can take on those who have it.

Tremors associated with the disease can make it difficult to complete everyday tasks.

Now, Beres and Nowakowski, along with fellow CMH student Edmond Kayiwa, are on a mission to make one of those tasks a little easier.

The trio is part of CMH's Engineering Design and Development class, which has students work on a year-long engineering project.

After some conversations with Parkinson's patients, the students brainstormed a few ideas that could improve everyday functions. They included a cup with a swiveling handle so it doesn't spill, a bowl designed to prevent spills, and a glove/wrist brace that would help steady the hand and could have attachments added to make daily life easier.

Ultimately, they settled on their idea: an anti-tremor mug.

They are currently in the building phase of the project, testing out different designs and weighted bases so the cup will stay steady and resist hand tremors.

On Thursday, the students presented to a group of people with Parkinson's



Catholic Memorial High School juniors Josie Beres, Edmond Kayiwa, and Anna Nowakowski are working on a project to help people with Parkinson's disease.

at Brookfield Regency seeking input on the idea, which they will take back with them as they continue refining their product.

The students said presenting to people affected by the disease helped show them how their product could make an impact.

"I've seen it with my grandpa, but I don't get to see him as much because he lives in Illinois," Beres said. "So it was really interesting to see how it affects other people here and how it's unique for every person. To have that broader perspective has been helpful."

Teacher Mary Petrie said the capstone engineering course is unique because it is the culmination of everything the students have learned in the Project Lead the Way

course series up to this point and allows them to apply their knowledge. In this course, Petrie said, the teacher is more of a mentor, as opposed to an instructor.

"To see the direction they're taking, the initiative — it's very neat," she said.

Wisconsin Parkinson Association Executive Director Gary Garland said the project not only is going to help those with Parkinson's, but also provide a valuable opportunity for younger and older generations of people to come together and exchange ideas.

"It's nice to see the generational sharing that is going on today," he said.

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