It’s a very lovely idea,” McGovern said. “We didn’t have to sort it even if you don’t know the community and the people in them. Typically students are given an order form to order things like bottles of water, snacks, or whatever else they might want to take home with them with the extra money on their Hill Card.

“We created a special form for donating to the food pantry,” Santorl said. “They checked off the boxes of what items they wanted, donated their card, and the money was withdrawn from their account.” While the collection was last minute and not advertised well, just through some flyers and two school-wide emails, Santorl said he was pleased with the response.

“It was pretty successful,” Santorl said. “We didn’t think we’d get all the amount of things we did. Next year we’ll definitely plan around it.”

He said it was always good to give back to the community and the people in it even if you do not know them.

“It’s a very good thing to help each other out with not only receiving something in return,” Santorl said.

For those working at the food pantry the cases were food were a welcome surprise, according to food pantry coordinator Ken Wood.

“We didn’t know they were going to do it and we didn’t have to sort it because we know it was all new,” Wood said. He said with two to three new families signing up each week and an average of 50 families being helped on a weekly basis, half of them large families, the donations would last nearly a month.

“They went by our list of most needed items,” Wood said. “We got all kinds on the list such as that’s a big plus for us. It seems like we just buy stuff and it goes quickly.”

Irwin M. Jacobs is a New Bedford native who grew up in the city’s Mount Pleasant neighborhood in the North End and in 1950, graduated from New Bedford High School. He received his electrical engineering degree from Cornell University and his master’s and doctorate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He went on to co-found Qualcomm, a Fortune 500 company, and for some years, he and his wife Joan flew a San Diego home. They’ve also distinguished themselves as philanthropists supporting a variety of causes.

One of those is education, and the Jacobs’ generosity reaches back to the place where it all began: the New Bedford Public Schools. Every spring, Jacobs and his wife visit the city and every year they bring gifts that keep on giving: they award five $13,000 scholarships to New Bedford goals who are going on to college studies in one of the STEM disciplines... science, technology, engineering, and math.

They helped establish the Jacobs Family New Bedford High School Endowment Fund in 2000 with a $1 million gift to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

No question they’ve made a huge difference in the lives of students who otherwise would have struggled mightily in their pursuit of higher education.

This year’s recipients honored during the Jacobs’ return last week were “Vanna’s Band of Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech; New Bedford High School students Shylah Kain, Khayron Amaral and Gwynne Eichman; and Isaiah Spencer, the Global Learning Charter Public School. But that’s not all. The couple annually brings to New Bedford, Irwin Jacobs’ hometown, a trip to someplace special — and educational. This year it was the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT and one of the WGBH studios. Carlos Pacheco is Irwin Jacobs’ alma mater, except when he attended, it was known as the Mount Pleasant School.

Mount Pleasant was renamed for the late Pacheco, along with New Bedford School Committee member, in appreciation of his dedication to the city’s students. And, in appreciation of all his has done for public schools in this city, someone else will also have a building that bears his name.

The new elementary school under construction in the far South End of New Bedford will be named for none other than Irwin Jacobs, Enjoy these photos from Irwin and Joan Jacobs’ most recent to the city. By Susan Pawlak-Seaman, education editor | 508-979-4467  | sseaman@s-t.com  | @SusanSeamanSCT

Making dreams come true

Irwin & Joan Jacobs help city students see their future

By Standard Times Staff

NEW BEDFORD — There are plenty of plans about students who are expected to leave town in the next few weeks.

You’ll be hearing about them.

He’ll always be welcomed — and remembered.

Jacobs is a New Bedford native who grew up in the city’s Mount Pleasant neighborhood in the North End and in 1950, graduated from New Bedford High School. He received his electrical engineering degree from Cornell University and his master’s and doctorate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He went on to co-found Qualcomm, a Fortune 500 company, and for some years, he and his wife Joan flew a San Diego home. They’ve also distinguished themselves as philanthropists supporting a variety of causes.

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The new elementary school under construction in the far South End of New Bedford will be named for none other than Irwin Jacobs, Enjoy these photos from Irwin and Joan Jacobs’ most recent to the city.

New Bedford superintendent of schools, Mia Deubble has a quick word with students from the Pacheco School in New Bedford who were selected to fly on Irwin Jacobs’ private jet leaving from New Bedford airport for a trip to MIT and WGBH. Mr. Jacobs’ who was born in New Bedford, gives students a ride each year from his alma mater the Pacheco School (formerly the Mount Pleasant School) for a field trip. (PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Leonard Ciminelli, center, accepts the applause of the crowd with Irwin and Joan Jacobs after receiving his scholarship during a presentation held at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. (DAVID W. OLIVER/STANDARD TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Karynne Arndt, center, accepts the applause of the crowd with Irwin and Joan Jacobs after receiving his scholarship during a presentation held at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. (DAVID W. OLIVER/STANDARD TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Daryll Boys, center, accepts the applause of the crowd with Irwin and Joan Jacobs after receiving his scholarship during a presentation held at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. (DAVID W. OLIVER/STANDARD TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Layla Henry, TL, and fellow students from the Pacheco School in New Bedford get a ride in Irwin Jacobs’ private jet leaving from New Bedford airport for a field trip. (PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Vanessa Brand, center, accepts the applause of the crowd with Irwin and Joan Jacobs after receiving his scholarship during a presentation held at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. (DAVID W. OLIVER/STANDARD TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Karynne Arndt, center, accepts the applause of the crowd with Irwin and Joan Jacobs after receiving his scholarship during a presentation held at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. (DAVID W. OLIVER/STANDARD TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Leonard Ciminelli, center, accepts the applause of the crowd with Irwin and Joan Jacobs after receiving his scholarship during a presentation held at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. (DAVID W. OLIVER/STANDARD TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Karynne Arndt, center, accepts the applause of the crowd with Irwin and Joan Jacobs after receiving his scholarship during a presentation held at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. (DAVID W. OLIVER/STANDARD TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)

Layla Henry, TL, and fellow students from the Pacheco School in New Bedford get a ride in Irwin Jacobs’ private jet leaving from New Bedford airport for a field trip. (PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG)