



"Fostering Educated and Involved Young People"™

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Education in Action is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people to be informed and active leaders in their communities.

**Special Edition Newsletter – 2012-2013 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council**



Education in Action is proud to announce 99 outstanding young student leaders successfully completed the 2012-2013 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council alumni program. Members represented 62 school districts, two charter schools, six private schools, and one homeschool. This special edition newsletter highlights each of these students and their accomplishments as members of the 2012-2013 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council.

Program and Purpose

Each year outstanding student leaders are nominated by their educators to participate in spring break and summer Lone Star Leadership Academy camps. Upon completion of these leadership programs, alumni are invited to join Education in Action's alumni organization, the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, to receive a structured and guided opportunity to continue their leadership training during the school year. This year's lessons focused on digital citizenship, cyber-bullying, developing courage, and effective public speaking. These skills were honed and many were put into action through the service projects which members were responsible for creating and leading in their communities with the end goal being for members to improve the lives of those around them. Project requirements included finding a teacher/sponsor, creating a project action plan, incorporating the assistance of at least two peers, and documenting projects in a portfolio.

Members that successfully complete program requirements also have the opportunity to return to Lone Star Leadership Academy camps as Youth Facilitators. Youth Facilitators mentor younger students participating in the Lone Star Leadership Academy and receive additional leadership training during the program.

The Education in Action staff commends the accomplishments of the 2012-2013 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council. We look forward to their participation in future Education in Action programs and to watching them grow and achieve throughout their educational careers and beyond.

*In their quest to become better leaders, an elite group of students signed up to participate in the 2012-2013 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council. This year, membership*



*Carolyne Markle,  
Alumni Coordinator*

*requirements included completing three online leadership lessons, selling scholarship fundraiser tickets, and creating and carrying out a service project. The service projects they created and led are highlighted in this newsletter. I encourage members to choose service projects close to their hearts because as they work through their projects their concern for their causes increases along with their results. As the LSYLC Coordinator, I am amazed and inspired by the positive contributions these students make to our world. These students are learning that change starts with one determined person willing to take on a challenge. They help me believe that our future is in good hands. Their hard work and accomplishments always inspire me to become more involved. I hope you are inspired as well.*

*Carolyne Markle  
Alumni Coordinator*

*Education in Action thanks each individual who served as project sponsor for a Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member. Your time and support adds great value to the experience of these outstanding young leaders.*

## ***Graduating seniors***

Six of the 2012-2013 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members are high school seniors. Hunter Bowen, Jackson de Jong, Ryan Maloney, and Georgia Neitzey each served on the Council for five years and Michael Roohy and Robert Vastano, III each served on the Council for four years. Education in Action recognizes these outstanding seniors for their leadership, dedication, and many accomplishments. Each senior received a Certificate of Recognition and a Texas flag flown over the Texas State Capitol from Education in Action in honor of their graduation. We wish these outstanding students the very best as they pursue their dreams and goals.



### **Michael Roohy, Plano West Senior High School, Plano ISD**

Michael has completed two years of clinical rotations, shadowing doctors and experiencing the medical field first-hand at area clinics and hospitals. He will attend the University of Texas at Dallas and plans to major in software engineering with a minor in business. Michael's volunteer efforts include assisting Plano Presbyterian Hospital with disaster drills and assisting at Plano Children's Medical Clinic. During his four years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Michael's service projects included TAKS test tutoring, math tutoring, and helping Hope's Door, a domestic violence assistance center, organize thousands of donations to their retail store and prepare them for shipment to those in need. "The Lone Star

Leadership Academy summer trips gave me some of the most enjoyable, memorable, and interesting experiences in my life," Michael stated.



### **Georgia Neitzey, Dawson High School, Pearland ISD**

Georgia is a member of the National Honor Society and is graduating with a Distinguished Achievement Program Diploma. She is the Editor-in-Chief for the yearbook staff, and a member of the student council, Eagle Addicts Spirit Team, Youth Ambassadors, and her youth group's Leadership Council. Participating in numerous volunteer activities through school and church, Georgia's efforts have benefited the homeless, the elderly, and the special needs students at her school. Georgia will attend Texas A&M University's Mays School of Business. After participating in the Dallas, Austin, and Houston Lone Star Leadership Academy camps, she returned to serve as a Youth Facilitator. During Georgia's five years in

the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council alumni program, her service projects included a book drive and collecting Christmas presents for students in the Head Start program. "I have loved having the opportunity to organize a service project each year," Georgia stated. "The lessons kept me focused on improving my leadership skills. I feel it helped me to see the importance of helping in my community and I plan to continue at A&M through the L3C-Leadership Living Learning Community."



### **Hunter Bowen, Grand Prairie High School, Grand Prairie ISD**

Hunter is in the top 1% of his class (third out of 504), is an AP Scholar as awarded by the College Board, and received the Soroptimist All A's (K-12<sup>th</sup>) Award. Hunter serves as Student Council President, National Honor Society Treasurer, Varsity Athletics Lead Student Trainer, and on the Geep Court. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Drama Team, Impact Coalition, Agape Christian Club, DECA, and Business Professionals of America. Hunter volunteers with the Santa Cop/Santa Stop Christmas Toy Drive, Mission Arlington, Carter Blood Center, Crime Stoppers, and the March of Dimes.

At his church, Hunter has worked as a pastoral intern, served on the Student Ministry's Leadership Team, volunteered at Mission Camp, and taken mission trips to Quito, Ecuador. Hunter will attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA and plans to major in history with a concentration in teacher licensure and a minor in biblical studies. Further plans include attending seminary, a PhD in Biblical Studies, and teaching at the collegiate level. Hunter was awarded The Harrison and Emily Kirk Foundation Scholarship, the GPSISD Council of PTA's Scholarship, the Eisenhower Elementary PTA Scholarship, and the MetroTex Association of Realtors' Scholarship. During Hunter's five years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, his projects included raising \$520 for the John A. Dubiski Memorial Scholarship by selling Candy Cane Grams, putting on a dinner and silent auction which raised \$6,500 to help missionary Brian Densmore's family with medical expenses, hosting a dinner and silent auction which raised \$3,500 for the No Place Like Home Orphanage in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, and raising \$1,450 for To Write Love on Her Arm, a teen suicide prevention organization by planning and carrying out a volleyball game between GPHS varsity team and student leaders. Hunter stated, "Over the past seven years, by being a participant in the Lone Star Leadership programs, I have come to realize over and over again that the best leaders always put everything on the line. If you put all that you are into what you are passionate about, then success will come. The Lone Star Leadership Academy and Alumni Program have taught me that if I give all of myself to serving and leading others, then I am capable of anything."



### **Ryan Maloney, Coppell High School, Coppell ISD**

Ryan is in the top 25% of his class and will graduate with a Distinguished Achievement Program Diploma. He is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and the First Robotics Team 3413 and holds a first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Ryan is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Boy Scouts' Honor Society, Order of the Arrow. He has held many leadership positions within Boy Scouts including den chief, senior patrol leader, patrol quartermaster, cheer corps, and junior assistant scoutmaster. Ryan is completing a Cisco IT CCNA course through Northlake College and plans to take a certification test later this month. Ryan will attend the University of North Texas on a partial scholarship and plans to major in mechanical engineering. His future plans include a law degree in patent law. During his five years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Ryan completed numerous service projects including painting quotes from President John F. Kennedy on the walls of JFK Elementary School as a member of the Sixth Floor Museum's Youth Advisory Council. In addition, Ryan collected 600 books for victims of Hurricane Rita, more than 700 personal items for soldiers serving overseas, and cards he personally delivered to a soldier who had lost three limbs in the war. He held a car wash benefiting the Coppell Humane Society and created and led Read 180, a project very special to him because it benefited his brother. For Read 180, Ryan performed and recorded six audio book copies of each of 15 books for Lakeside Elementary. He also built a rack to store the school's new audio book collection. For his Eagle Scout project Ryan produced six audio book copies each of twenty additional books for a grand total of six copies each of 35 books, all to assist struggling readers.



### **Jackson de Jong, Sharyland High School, Sharyland ISD**

Jackson is graduating with honors with a Distinguished Achievement Program Diploma and as a Texas Scholar. Jackson received the Most Outstanding Senior Award, the President's Education Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, and the Texas ACT Council Award for meeting all 4 ACT college readiness benchmarks. He is one of only fifteen seniors enrolled in AP Calculus BC and has completed college level computer, algebra, and precalculus courses. Through UIL Jackson earned third place in Computer Science Programming/Writing and first place in the Texas Book Festival Short Story Fiction Writing Contest which included the honor of reading his winning entry at the State Capitol. Jackson received the Most Valuable New Varsity Swimmer Award and three awards from the Sharyland ISD Board of Directors for his District and Regional swim championships. He lettered in the 100 backstroke as a junior and competed in the Texas State Games. Jackson has been accepted into the Texas A&M Computer Science Honors Program and the Purdue University Computer Program and as a Computer Science Fellow at Baylor University. During his five years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Jackson's service projects included serving as a student mentor and instructor at the South Texas Preparatory Academy Summer Scholars Academy, teaching Texas history to, and mentoring, incoming seventh graders, and providing computer assistance to residents of the Heritage Village Senior Community. In addition, Jackson raised money for the animal victims of Hurricanes Ike and Katrina, the Rio Grande Valley Spay Neuter Clinic, and the Laguna Madre Humane Society. In addition, Jackson provided the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank with 800 pounds of food to distribute and 4,000 meals for hungry families. Jackson stated, "Education in Action's Lone Star Youth Leadership Council has been a valuable experience for me, not only through learning in a myriad of situations, but also by being humbled and proud to serve my community through many service projects. One experience leads to another and success can be measured both on a large and small scale."



### **Robert Vastano III, The Science Academy of South Texas, South Texas ISD**

Robert is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, Robotics Club, Boy Scouts of America, and Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society. He is a Boy Scout patrol leader and an Eagle Scout candidate and, as the winner of an NRA essay contest, was awarded participation in a two-week adventure camp at Whittington Center in New Mexico. Robert will enter Schreiner University/Texas A&M University on the 3+2 Engineering Program with eleven dual-credit hours under his belt and plans to major in mechanical engineering. He received Schreiner University's Presidential Scholarship. Robert has contributed to his community by volunteering in food bank drives, as a golf instructor to benefit the Murray Foundation, assisting Eagle Scout candidates with their service projects, and at the Gladys Porter Zoo. During his four years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council Robert raised money for Sea Turtle, Inc. Rescue Center on South Padre Island by holding raffles. "The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council has provided me with great opportunities to practice leadership skills I learned through the camp and other experiences in my life and to use those skills to help my community," Robert stated.

### Allen ISD

**Corinne Chandler**, 8th grader, **Ereckson Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: Luv for Pups* - With the help of her neighbors, Corinne collected food, toys, and blankets and donated them to the Second Chance SPCA of Plano. Corinne said, "My project wasn't easy to get off the ground, but when I finished and saw the smiles on the faces of the staff members at the animal shelter, it was all worth it."

*Sponsor: Mrs. Toni Chandler, Mother.*



**Christina Kellaway**, 5th grader, **Marion Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: Collecting for the Food Pantry* - Christina and her friends went door to door in their neighborhood collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items for donation to the local food pantry. Christina said, "I faced many days when we received few donations but I learned that if you just keep working hard you can reach your goal." *Sponsor: Mrs. Wendy McIntyre, Mother.*



**Megan Shankle**, 8th grader, **Curtis Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: Books for Boo-Boos* - By working with the children's department at her church, Megan collected 101 new children's books which were donated to the Children's Medical Center of Plano for their Family Resource Library. The patients and their families will benefit from the new reading material. Megan said, "I felt like I did my best to be a leader in my community and help children who don't have the things other children have." *Sponsor: Mrs. Julie Buchanan, Director of Children's Ministries.*

**Cristina Smith**, 10th grader, **Allen High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: Finger Painting* - Cristina enjoys nail art so she used that as inspiration for her service project. She earned \$108 by painting individuals' nails for donations. She donated the funds to Allen High School's speech and debate team for them to use for their entry and tournament fees. *Sponsor: Ms. Kathryn Sawyer, Debate Coach.*

### Alvin ISD

**Mackenzie Husband**, 8th grader, **Manvel Junior High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: Helping Horses* - Mackenzie worked with her friend and family to rescue two abused horses. They donated their time nursing the horses back to health with regular feedings, vitamins, grooming, ferrier services, and required shots. This special love and care benefited the horses and now they are both doing well and are able to be ridden again. Mackenzie said, "I learned that no matter how bad you feel a situation is, with hard work, there is a great chance it can be fixed." *Sponsor: Mrs. Susan Boldrighini, Band Teacher.*



### Beeville ISD

**Sara Casas**, 10th grader, **A.C. Jones High School**, 4th year member

*Project: Essay Contest and No Name-Calling Week* - Sara feels that creative writing is being left behind and the hand-written letter is almost a thing of the past. She created a "Why Education Is Important" essay contest to help prepare students for the spring STAAR writing exam. All Moreno Middle School students were eligible to enter with a chance to win three cash prizes. Sara and two teachers judged the essays. Sara also continued the 'No Name-Calling Week', which she and her sister have promoted the past three years. They sold 25 cent bracelets to spread awareness. The money raised was used to purchase new library books for the Moreno Middle School

Library. Sara said, "I saw students improve their writing skills which made me very happy and anything that I can do to help stop bullying makes me so very happy." *Sponsor: Ms. Sandra Herrera, Teacher.*

### Bellevue ISD

**Sarah Lintakoon**, 9th grader, **Newport High School**, 1st year member

*Project: Help for Homeless* - Sarah and three friends made 88 essential item care packages for homeless teenagers in Seattle, WA. Sarah said, "I learned to not take everything for granted." *Sponsor: Mrs. Cathy Springman, Girl Scout Troop Leader.*

### Birdville ISD

**Catie Pool**, 8th grader, **Haltom Middle School**, 3rd year member

*Project: Blankets for the Little Ones* - Catie and five friends made 30 baby blankets and donated them to the maternity section at North Hills Hospital. Catie said, "I faced quite a few 'bumps in the road', but through teamwork and knowing that we were helping our community, we moved past them. I feel the experience not only made me a stronger leader, but also helped me develop new leadership skills." *Sponsor: Mrs. Amy Morrison, Teacher.*



### Brackett ISD

**Mason Eckenrod**, 5th grader, **Jones Elementary/Intermediate School**, 1st year member

*Project: Treats for Teachers* - Mason had three friends help make breakfast treats with small gifts for 20 teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. The teachers were surprised and were very happy to be recognized for all the hard work they do. Mason said, "I found this project to be very rewarding. It was a great way for me to show how much I care about the teachers at my school and I am glad that they know I appreciate all their hard work." *Sponsor: Mrs. Carolyn Conoly, Teacher.*

### **Burleson ISD**

**Blake Bodin**, 9th grader, **Centennial High School**, 4th year member

*Project: Blankets for Cook Children's Trauma Department* - With the help of his friends, Blake made 15 fleece-tied blankets to donate to the Cook Children's Trauma Department. His donation brought comfort to the children at the hospital. Blake said, "I learned what good friends and family I have because they were all willing to help me." Sponsor: **Mrs. Lisa Bodin**, Mother.



### **Celina ISD**

**Morgan Tibble**, 9th grader, **Celina High School**, 1st year member

*Project: Christmas Elves* - Morgan collected new toys and donated them to the Child Advocacy Center of Collin County which delivered them to foster children for Christmas. Morgan said, "I faced many obstacles in my project, but, in the end, it felt wonderful to know that the children were getting the Christmas they deserved." Sponsor: **Mrs. Amy Trietch**, Coach and Tech Teacher.

### **Chisum ISD**

**William Wood**, 8th grader, **Chisum Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: Bag Up Hunger* - William and three volunteers set up a recycling receptacle full of plastic bags for the Downtown Food Pantry. This created a more efficient and less expensive distribution process and shorter wait time, and made it easier for patrons to get their food home. William said, "I felt a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction knowing my project would help others and make a difference in our community." Sponsor: **Ms. Laura Graves**, Lamar County Extension Agent/4-H Leader.



### **Clear Creek ISD**

**Savannah Beatty**, 10th grader, **Clear Creek High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: Blankets for Project Linus* - Savannah and two friends made nine fleece blankets and donated them to Project Linus. The blankets were distributed to sick and recovering residents at a rehabilitation center. Savannah said, "I think a lot of sick people were very happy when they received their blankets and it made me feel very good to make them smile." Sponsor: **Mrs. Lisa Edmunds**, Family Friend.



### **Conroe ISD**

**Sydney Bell**, 10th grader, **The Woodlands College Park High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: Leading Little Christians* - By ministering to toddlers and infants in the nursery during Bible study, Sydney and her friends helped them in their spiritual journey. The parents were provided with a safe learning environment for their children and the children learned about values, morals, and fellowship at a very young age. The children also received lots of love. Sydney said, "Not only did I love working with the small children but I loved watching them grow and show fellowship at such a young age." Sydney's sponsor and Director of Impact Church Nursery, Miss Olivia Floyd, said, "Sydney is my 'Ace!'"

**Sarah Meidel**, 10th grader, **The Woodlands College Park Academy of Science and Technology**, 4th year member

*Project: Festive Flutes - A Christmas Concert* - Sarah and her music teacher developed a music program they performed during the Christmas holidays for the residents of Eastland Retirement Community. After their performance they led a sing-a-long and personally visited with the residents to bring them holiday merriment. Sarah said, "This was my second year to perform for the residents at Eastland. I tried to build on last year's success and worked hard to ensure that it was an enjoyable event for the residents. I enjoy giving back to the community in this way." Sponsor: **Mrs. Charlotte Royall**, Band Director.



### **Coppell ISD**

**Ryan Barton**, 9th grader, **Coppell Middle School West**, 2nd year member

*Project: Cards for SuperSibs* - Ryan and his friends made 75 birthday cards to send to SuperSibs, an organization that helps siblings of children with cancer. These handmade birthday cards will arrive on the special day of the cancer patients' brothers and sisters since, at times, they are overlooked due to the focus on the child with cancer. Ryan said, "It felt so good to know that I was helping someone else during a low point in their life." Sponsor: **Mr. Ryan Lam**, Assistant Principal.

**Priya Desai**, 10th grader, **Coppell High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: Desserts for Dogs* - Priya recruited friends to help her bake and sell dessert items in their community to raise funds for the Dallas/Fort Worth Humane Society. They raised and donated \$435 which was used to buy supplies to make the animals more comfortable during their adoption process. Priya said, "I feel like I really contributed to my community in a positive way. I felt like a responsible citizen and learned how to work through problems to reach my goal." Sponsor: **Mrs. Arti Desai**, Mother.



**Coppell ISD, cont.**

**Noah Hendrix**, 11th grader, **Coppell High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **The Youth Advisory Committee for the Sixth Floor Museum** - Noah serves as president of the Youth Advisory Committee for the Sixth Floor Museum, an organization he founded. The group is made up of students that volunteer at museum events. The group also raised funds to purchase a John F. Kennedy model rocking chair for the John F. Kennedy Learning Center by setting up a page on [www.GoFundMe.com](http://www.GoFundMe.com) and asking friends and family to contribute. Noah said, "This project has been a great learning experience. I have fun at all the museum events and I have learned a lot about fundraising." Sponsor: **Ms. Sharron Conrad**, Associate Director of Education and Public Programs at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.*

**Sarina Naik**, 10th grader, **Coppell High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Klothes 4 Kids** - Sarina collected more than 50 pieces of clothing and donated them to the small village of Amalsad in Gujarat, India. The clothing she collected was distributed amongst the families in the village. Sarina said, "I grew in my ability to communicate with people, especially in a different country. I feel I can now grow my leadership skills on a global scale." Sponsor: **Mr. Sanjay Naik**, Father.*



**Copperas Cove ISD**

**Brianna Thornton**, 5th grader, **Clements/Parsons Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Afternoon Tutoring** - Brianna organized tutoring sessions to help first graders who were behind in reading and writing. She helped the students with their community points of interest book by helping them read and write the material from their research. Several of the students she tutored raised their grades significantly. Brianna said, "This project helped me realize that not everyone learns in the same way and may need extra help once in a while. It also made me realize that being kind, patient, and understanding is the best way to be a leader." Sponsor: **Ms. Kim French**, First Grade Teacher.*

**Corpus Christi ISD**

**Aneel Damaraju**, 8th grader, **Baker Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Mission Fit Possible** - Aneel, his family, and friends raised \$10,000 by making presentations to local companies, business groups, friends, and family to request support for Aneel's project. The team promoted health and fitness in eight schools and distributed the \$10,000 between the schools to boost each school's fitness programs. Aneel said, "I learned how to encourage people to work together and how to work through problems as they come up with time constraints." Sponsor: **Mr. Scott Hawkes**, Coach.*



**Sarita Damaraju**, 9th grader, **Ray High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Mission Fit Possible** - Sarita and seven volunteers conducted a 10-week contest for 100 second graders to increase their knowledge and emphasize the importance of a healthy lifestyle including good eating habits and fitness. The students competed to become the most fit version of themselves during this 10-week period. Sarita said, "I learned about directing others and seeing a project through from beginning to end." Sponsor: **Mr. Scott Hawkes**, Coach/Teacher.*

**Dallas ISD**

**Jane Medina**, 10th grader, **Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Learning Center Carnival Games** - Jane recruited 10 girls from her Girl Scout troop to help her run carnival games at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Learning Center's carnival. Funds raised benefited low-income families. Jane said, "Teaching those younger than you to help those in need is the best community service one can give." Sponsor: **Mrs. Marilyn McRoberts**, Carnival Coordinator.*



**Dayton ISD**

**John Bartee**, 8th grader, **Woodrow Wilson Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Recycle for Bridgehaven** - John and three recruits collected used electronics which were sold to the Funding Factory. The money received was donated to Bridgehaven Children's Advocacy Center, an organization that helps abused children. John said, "This project made me feel like I could really make a difference." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jennifer Crizer**, History Teacher.*

**Denton ISD**

**Ceanna Cooksey**, 6th grader, **Harpool Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Books for Buddies** - By using collection boxes at their school, Ceanna and three friends collected 444 books for the CCA Kids Eat Free program. This contribution gave low-income kids that participate in the program the opportunity to own their own book, some perhaps for the first time. Ceanna said, "I gained a new understanding that not all children have the same resources so we need to help them obtain books." Sponsor: **Mrs. Annette Price**, School Counselor.*





### Denton ISD, cont.

**Jordan Goldstein**, 8th grader, **Harpool Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Flowers for Faith*** - Jordan and his friends planted flowers and cleaned up the garden area at his synagogue. The beautiful garden now feels very welcoming and cheerful for all that attend the synagogue. Jordan said, “Organizing and carrying out this project made me a better leader and made me feel closer to my faith.” *Sponsor: Mr. Aaron Goldstein, Father.*

### Eanes ISD

**Bonner Garrison**, 11th grader, **Westlake High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **The iPad Initiative for Children*** - Bonner recruited his friends to help him set up a system for the seven iPads that were donated to the Children’s Blood and Cancer Center to benefit the children during their treatments. Once in place they shared instructions for games and educational tools to serve as a distraction and a pipeline to educational success. Bonner said, “I found it very rewarding to see the power of a small and often thought of meaningless toy and how it impacts the children who suffer through some of the most difficult treatments imaginable. It really puts perspective into the reason behind our service projects.” *Sponsor: Mrs. Cindy Fitzpatrick, Child Life Manager.*

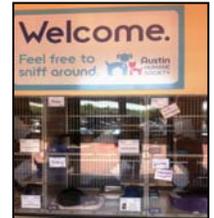


**Grace Robertson**, 11th grader, **Westlake High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Agua for Managua Bake Sale*** - Grace and her friends held a bake sale to raise funds for the non-profit organization, Agua for Managua, which benefits the poor in Managua, Nicaragua. They raised \$1,000 for the organization. Grace said, “By leading this service project, I gained organizational skills and personal satisfaction that the money collected went to directly impact someone’s life for the better.” *Sponsor: Mrs. Nancy Pickett, Church Leader.*

**McKennon Rice**, 6th grader, **Westridge Elementary School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Do Good on Good Friday (Humane Society)*** - McKennon recruited a team to collect and deliver 10 sacks filled with blankets, food, and toys, and a cash donation to the Austin Humane Society. Upon delivery of the items the team received a behind the scenes tour showing them how much comfort the project will bring to the animals. McKennon said, “I was able to see firsthand how much this project was really needed and it felt good to see the animals in good hands. It was exciting to see the generosity of so many people willing to help and donate.” *Sponsor: Mrs. Brandon Brown, Mother.*



### Ector County ISD

**Mikayla Ballew**, 11th grader, **Odessa High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Spreading the Love from Old to Young*** - Mikayla led a group of 15 classmates in providing handmade holiday cards and companionship for the 85 elderly residents of Sherwood Place. The residents enjoyed receiving the beautiful handmade cards and the personal conversations during their visit. Mikayla said, “I learned how something so simple as a handmade card can turn anyone’s day around. It was so pleasant to see the happiness on their faces.” *Sponsor: Mrs. Katie Nesbit, History Teacher.*

### Floresville ISD

**Trenton Kiser**, 5th grader, **Floresville South Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **KO K9 Hunger*** - Trenton recruited five students to set up two dog food/supplies donation stations within their community. They also sold homemade dog biscuits and used the funds raised to purchase more dog food. The owner and the animals at the Las Lomas K9 Animal Rescue Shelter were very happy to receive the collection of toys and training pads, the 504 pounds of dog food, and the 50 pounds of treats/biscuits. Trenton said, “To work on a project with my fellow students helping a shelter in need was a great feeling of accomplishment. I felt awesome delivering everything that had been collected and I look forward to doing it again next year.” *Sponsor: Mrs. Melissa Popham, Aunt and 4A Board Member.*



### Fort Bend ISD

**Yesh Dhruva**, 5th grader, **Cornerstone Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **If We Give A Little, We Can Change The World*** - Yesh collected more than 500 gently used clothing items with the help of his friends during the Christmas season. The clothing was donated to the FITE-N-Chance Children’s Foundation where many needy children come for help. Yesh said, “This was my first service project and I definitely learned the value of giving and the value of what I have. I learned how to speak up and help people understand what I was trying to do. The biggest thing I learned was how to form a team and then lead them.” *Sponsor: Mrs. Rachna Shah, Principal at Vallabh Vidhya Mandir.*



### **Fort Bend ISD, cont.**

**Madison Taylor**, 8th grader, **Billy Baines Middle School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Barks and Bubbles** - Madison and four friends worked at a shelter grooming and feeding the animals. The shelter workers and dogs benefited from their help taking care of extra tasks that needed to be completed and spending time with the animals. Madison said, "It was a good experience knowing that I was helping extremely busy people and the animals." Sponsor: Ms. Kimberly Taylor, Parent.*

### **Frisco ISD**

**Anang Parikh**, 8th grader, **Staley Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Books for Kids** - Anang and two friends collected approximately 150 books and magazines and donated them to the Children's Medical Center of Dallas in Plano. The donation provided parents and others visiting hospitalized children with new reading material. Anang said, "I enjoyed this project very much and it felt good to give back to my community." Sponsor: Ms. Alissa Palmeri, Integrated Language Arts Teacher.*



### **Garland ISD**

**Jacob Arey**, 7th grader, **Classical Center at Brandenburg**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Helping Heather Glen Elementary School** - Jake and his friends cleaned up and restored the Outdoor Classroom at their former elementary school. Jacob said, "I loved the Outdoor Classroom when I was a student at Heather Glen and I would like for future students to be able to enjoy the classroom as well." Sponsor: Mrs. Kim King, Former Teacher.*

**Josh Arey**, 10th grader, **Lakeview Centennial High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Helping Heather Glen Elementary School** - Josh and his friends participated in the clean up and restoration of the Outdoor Classroom at Heather Glen Elementary School. The entire student body of more than 700 students benefited because everyone spends class time in the Outdoor Classroom. Josh said, "I think it is very important to be truly satisfied with your life and I loved working on the Outdoor Classroom because it is very important to me." Sponsor: Mrs. Kim King, Former Teacher.*

### **Grand Saline ISD**

**Cassidy Milam**, 10th grader, **Grand Saline High School**, 3rd year member



*Project: **Helping the Helpless** - With the help of six friends, Cassidy held a drive at school to collect items for the Van Zandt County Humane Society. The teachers helped by offering extra credit to students that participated and more than 400 items were collected by the end of the fifth week. The items were delivered to the Van Zandt County Humane Society. The Humane Society volunteers shelter approximately 60 animals in their own homes so they were very grateful for the help. Cassidy said, "The student body surprised me with how many items they donated. Many students told me they enjoyed this project. I felt good when I saw how happy the Humane Society was with the donated items." Sponsor: Mrs. Ramona Rucker, NHS Sponsor.*

### **Greenville ISD**

**Ryan Bays**, 9th grader, **Greenville High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Books 4 Kids** - Ryan collected and donated almost 500 books and \$700 from the students at Greenville High School FISH Ministries, the local food pantry, to continue their program of giving books to underprivileged children. The children from all over the county who may have never owned a book benefited from Ryan's efforts. Ryan said, "Learning to be a more effective leader by doing a better job of planning my project was the most important thing I learned." Sponsor: Mr. Wally Jeffers, Executive Director, FISH.*

### **Holliday ISD**

**Brendan Toulan**, 7th grader, **Holliday Middle School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Eyeglasses for Vision for Christ** - Brendan and two friends made collection boxes for used eyeglasses and placed them in local stores around the city for one week. The trio collected and donated more than 150 pairs of glasses to a service mission trip called Vision for Christ. The eyeglasses were given to people in developing countries who don't have access to an eye doctor or to eyeglasses. Brendan said, "This project made me a more effective leader because I had to talk to complete strangers and managers asking for their help. I was told 'no' a lot but, in the end, I felt good because I know we made a difference even in a small way." Sponsor: Mrs. Kristen Toulan, Mother.*



### **Houston ISD**

**Rahul Dsilva**, 10th grader, **Debakey High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **A Helping Hand** - Rahul recruited friends to volunteer at Christian Helping Hands. They helped collect, sort, pack, and distribute 500-600 cans of food and other essentials over three weeks so it would be available to members of the community that needed it. Rahul said, "It was a privilege to be able to help the less fortunate and make a difference in their lives." Sponsor: Dr. Monicita Dupre, Teacher.*



### Humble ISD

**Molly McShane**, 10th grader, **Kingwood High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Patient Play*** - With the help of her Bible study group, Molly collected over 100 board games for the Texas Children's Hospital Library. The board games were given to the Pi Beta Phi Library at Texas Children's Hospital for the patients to enjoy. Molly said, "Seeing the patients and what they go through, I was grateful for my health and it encouraged me to continue reaching out to those in need." *Sponsor: Mrs. Laura Fletcher, Bible Study Leader.*

### Keller ISD

**Sam Walker**, 9th grader, **Keller High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Feed the Beast*** - Sam collected more than \$500 worth of supplies for the Boyd Exotic Animal Shelter. Sam said, "I encountered some really big problems with this project, but it just showed me that even if something isn't exactly what you originally planned, it can still be great." *Sponsor: Mrs. Pauli Young, Biology Teacher.*



### La Vernia ISD

**Anonymous Student**, 8th grader, **La Vernia Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Wounded Warrior Project*** - As a volunteer for the Mission of the Wounded Warriors organization, this Council member raised awareness within their school and community about the support wounded warriors need as they are reintroduced to civilian life. This member also volunteered at a bike ride for wounded warriors in San Antonio. This Council member stated, "Through my service project I gained a better understanding of what the men and women in the armed forces go through to keep our country safe. I now realize that it just takes a simple 'Thank You' to let them know how much we appreciate their service." *Sponsor: Mr. Joe West, History Teacher.*



### Leander ISD

**Josh Collmann**, 8th grader, **Canyon Ridge Middle School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Perfecting our Parks*** - Josh and his friends cleaned up the litter and trash at the local park. The surrounding neighborhoods look much cleaner and the residents in the neighborhood were pleasantly surprised at the condition of the park. Josh said, "I definitely felt good about cleaning up the park that I get to enjoy. It made me appreciate the beauty of the Austin environment." *Sponsor: Mr. Ken Beck, Grandfather.*



### Lewisville ISD

**Andrew Hitscherich**, 11th grader, **Flower Mound High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Project Replay*** - Andrew and his friends collected gently used sports clothing and equipment which they donated to Love for Kids, an organization that helps underprivileged kids in the Dallas area have the opportunity to participate in organized sports. Andrew said, "I learned how fortunate I am and realized what a blessing it is to be able to afford even basic equipment for sports." *Sponsor: Mr. Steve Ellis, Friend of the Family.*



**Heather Roan**, 9th grader, **Hebron High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Bracelets for Operation Kindness*** - Heather raised \$100 for Operation Kindness Animal Shelter by selling wristbands. Operation Kindness Animal Shelter is a no-kill shelter that can always use additional support and donations to help buy supplies. Heather said, "I learned salesmanship and that more people care about animals than I had previously expected." *Sponsor: Mrs. Amanda Roan, Mother.*

### Lockhart ISD

**Abigail Raxter**, 5th grader, **Bluebonnet Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Support the Paws benefiting the Lockhart Animal Shelter*** - Abigail led a group of 11 volunteers in several projects to benefit the Lockhart Animal Shelter. The group made 200 animal toys, collected gently used blankets and towels, and held a bake sale in which they raised \$585 to purchase additional supplies. Abigail said, "It really felt good to make a difference, and my team really did make a difference to the animals and the staff at the shelter since they don't receive much help. I really enjoyed my first service project." *Sponsor: Mrs. Yvonne Garcia, Gifted and Talented Teacher.*



### Lovejoy ISD

**Jessica James**, 10th grader, **Lovejoy High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Helping Hands*** - Jessica recruited four volunteers to help her make fifty toiletry kits for the Samaritan Inn located in McKinney, Texas. The Samaritan Inn gave the toiletry kits to homeless individuals. Jessica said, "I was able to become a better leader by leading my own group and teaching them how to make the kits." *Sponsor: Mrs. Maria Tadwick, Best Friend's Mother.*



### **Lubbock ISD**

**Emily Evans**, 11th grader, **Lubbock High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Share the Love: Goats for Malawi** - Emily and her friends raised over \$2,000 to help purchase goats for a malnourished village in Malawi. The team sold t-shirts and hosted an event with a guest speaker who had worked on the goat project. The goats were delivered to Malawian families so their village will become self-sustainable and better nourished. Emily said, "This was definitely the most involved project I have done. It was challenging but the support from the community was overwhelming and inspiring. It was rewarding to know that the goats we helped buy will improve the lives of a whole village." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jennifer Harris**, Teacher.*

### **Mansfield ISD**

**Nicholas Ciggelakis**, 9th grader, **Mansfield Lake Ridge High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Socks for Dallas Life** - Nicholas printed 300 fliers and distributed them door to door in his neighborhood asking for a pair of socks for the Dallas Life Foundation, a homeless ministry. Then he and two friends collected and delivered 92 pairs of socks to be given to homeless people staying at the Dallas Life Shelter. Nicholas said, "I realized how much time organizing and running a project like this takes. However, once I had done the project and donated all the socks, I was very proud of myself and my friends." Sponsor: **Mr. Brandon Austin**, Teacher.*



### **Midland ISD**

**Wilson Clark**, 10th grader, **Robert E. Lee High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Toys for Cops** - Wilson collected toys for the Midland and Ector County Sheriffs' offices to be distributed through Child Protective Services and Crisis Intervention again this year. The 500 toys were given to children in crisis situations. Wilson said, "It makes me feel so good when I see a child get one of these toys because it brings them comfort and lets them know that someone cares about them." Sponsor: **Mrs. Cindy Wiebusch**, Debate Team Coach.*

### **Midway ISD**

**Victoria Logan**, 6th grader, **River Valley Intermediate School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Paws for Love** - Victoria expanded her Paws for Love project this year with the help of five volunteers. The group made posters to publicize the pet food collection sites located in two schools. Between the two sites 273.5 pounds of pet food, more than double last year's total collection, was collected and donated to the Waco Humane Society. Victoria said, "Being able to expand my project meant that I am becoming a stronger leader and a better planner. It made me feel good to be able to help the animals at the Waco Humane Society." Sponsor: **Dr. Stephen Garetson**, Math Teacher.*



### **Nacogdoches ISD**

**Hunter Stephens**, 8th grader, **McMichael Middle School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Tutoring Project** - Hunter and his friends provided tutoring for the students in afterschool care at Nacogdoches Christian Academy. The 12 students they tutored learned study skills and the importance of homework. Hunter said, "Because I attended this school for kindergarten through fifth grade, it was awesome to be able to help the children there. I received a great education there and loved helping the current students get the same opportunity." Sponsor: **Mrs. Donna Baker**, Director of Nacogdoches Christian Academy.*

### **North East ISD**

**Danielle Delapaz**, 9th grader, **Ronald Reagan High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Cupcakes for Appreciation** - Danielle and her friend made cupcakes for all the teachers at Ronald Reagan High School to show their appreciation for all they do. Danielle said, "I realize that it is not the big things you do but the little things that count." Sponsor: **Mrs. Julie Kerstetter**, Math Teacher.*



### **Pearland ISD**

**Matteo Aloia**, 9th grader, **Glenda Dawson High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Operation Keep Houston Clean and Warm** - With the help of her friends and neighbors, Matteo continued her efforts for the third year and collected 12 large bags of clothing and toiletries for the Star of Hope Homeless Shelter. The shelter distributed the items to the homeless in Houston. Matteo said, "I think my contribution greatly impacted my community, and I am excited to do more." Sponsor: **Mrs. Michele Gatlin**, Teacher.*

**Owen Dailey**, 8th grader, **Berry Miller Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Blanket and Coat Drive for Star of Hope Shelter** - Owen created fliers and distributed them throughout his neighborhood to inform residents he was collecting coats for the Star of Hope Shelter. With the help of his friends and family, Owen collected 127 coats and 23 blankets and delivered them to the shelter for the families in need. Owen said, "I felt a real sense of community pride from the willingness of my neighborhood to come together to help people who are not as fortunate as we are." Sponsor: **Mr. Paul Ralph**, Community Leader.*

### Pearland ISD, cont.

**Rohit Dsilva**, 7th grader, **Berry Miller Junior High School**, 1st year member



*Project: A Helping Hand* - Rohit helped sell approximately 200 bags of non-perishable food for three weeks at Kroger during the annual Super Bowl of Caring Food Drive held by Christian Helping Hands. The proceeds from the food drive were used to purchase food and clothing for the hungry and needy in his community. Rohit said, "This service project helped me gain self-confidence and the satisfaction of helping people in need." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jenifer Hill**, Teacher.

**Eric Li**, 6th grader, **Sablatura Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: Food Drive for the Hungry* - Eric and two friends made a presentation about their Food Drive for the Hungry and collected non-perishable food items and cash to donate to the Star of Hope Shelter. Eric said, "Sometimes it was hard to get people motivated to donate but when we gave them all the facts, they were motivated to help." Sponsor: **Mrs. Marcie Stenvall**, Science/Community Service Teacher.



**Kyle Neitzey**, 9th grader, **Glenda Dawson High School**, 4th year member

*Project: Putting for Charity* - Kyle continued his annual Golf-A-Thon to raise funds for the Christian Helping Hands, a non-profit food pantry. Through sponsorships he raised over \$1,000. Kyle said, "I love doing this project and I have really improved my communication skills by asking people to sponsor me and explaining about the Christian Helping Hands." Sponsor: **Mr. Jason Adams**, Youth Minister.

**Kimberly Nguyen**, 7th grader, **Berry Miller Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: Cheer and Treats to Elders During the Holidays* - Kimberly organized a Christmas party with small gifts for a group of senior citizens at the community center. Kimberly said, "I learned that you can bring great happiness to people by doing very little things." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jenifer Hill**, English Teacher.



**Christopher Simpson**, 9th grader, **Glenda Dawson High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: Food for the Homeless* - Christopher and family members distributed bags of food to homeless people in downtown Houston. Christopher said, "I learned that there are many people who are hungry everyday and we should do what we can to help them." Christopher's sponsor, Mrs. Brenda Batts, said, "I am glad we could give to those who are less fortunate." Sponsor: **Mrs. Brenda Batts**, Grandmother.



### Plano ISD

**Michael Roohy**, 12th grader, **Plano West Senior High School**, 4th year member

*Project: Just One Can* - Michael and his friends collected over 100 cans of food for Minnie's Food Pantry, an organization that provides healthy, nutritious food to disadvantaged families in the Plano community. Michael said, "I saw firsthand that when people work together, there is no limit to what you can accomplish." Sponsor: **Mrs. Arpine Eglenceoglu**, Mother.

### Prosper ISD

**Mattie Robinson**, 9th grader, **Prosper High School**, 4th year member

*Project: The Joy of Giving 2013 - Donations and Dinner for Homeless in Dallas* - With the help of her friends, Mattie collected 16 bags of coats and clothing for distribution in Dallas homeless shelters. Mattie also volunteered to serve 2,000 homeless people a warm Thanksgiving dinner. Mattie said, "I always feel so much better about myself when I am helping others. It is not just a gift to others, but to yourself also." Sponsor: **Mr. Andrew Doggett**, Youth Pastor.



### Round Rock ISD

**Ethan Brown**, 8th grader, **Canyon Vista Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: School Garden Improvements* - Ethan and his friends made additions including a rain barrel and trellises to the Canyon Vista Middle School garden. The whole school will benefit once the plants begin to grow. Ethan said, "I felt very good to be able to do something for my school." Sponsor: **Ms. Kimberly Fritch**, Teacher.



**Caterina Grasso Goebel**, 8th grader, **Cedar Valley Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: After School Peer Algebra Tutoring* - Caterina and three friends started a tutoring program to help fellow students with math and algebra. The tutoring program benefitted the students by giving them a comfortable environment amongst peers to ask questions and explore new areas of the subject. Caterina said, "I feel like this tutoring experience has left a footprint on the minds of the students who came for help. I hope I have helped to enhance their learning about math and that the experience will provide a strong foundation for their future math classes." Sponsor: **Mrs. Nancy Warcken**, Teacher.

### Sharyland ISD

**Jackson de Jong**, 12th grader, **Sharyland High School**, 5th year member

*Project: Food Drive for the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank* - By doing a thorough job of publicizing the need and creating an easy donation process, Jackson and his friends collected 839 pounds of food for the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank. Jackson said, "As a senior, this is my fifth community service project and each project has taught me how important and rewarding it is to reach out into my community." *Sponsor: Mrs. Donna Mason, Computer Programming Teacher.*



### South Texas ISD

**Nadia Khan**, 10th grader, **South Texas Academy of Medical Professions**, 3rd year member

*Project: Nadia's Cancer Fundraiser* – Nadia, with the help of three friends, held weekend garage sales to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation. She also participated in the 5K Walk for Women from South Padre Island to raise additional funds. The \$1,192.48 raised was distributed among specific breast cancer treatments, therapies, and research facilities. Nadia said, "I've always heard the quote, 'Time is Money'. My experience with this service project has led me to think it's the other way around, 'Money is Time'. It's amazing how raising money can make a difference in someone's life, especially when they have a very unknown future in front of them. Even a penny means pure gold to those who value it all." *Sponsor: Mrs. Donna Eymard, Family Friend.*

**Robert Vastano III**, 12th grader, **The Science Academy of South Texas**, 4th year member

*Project: Raffle for Sea Turtle, Inc.* - Robert sold raffle tickets to raise money for Sea Turtle, Inc. on South Padre Island, a turtle rescue center and hospital that operates entirely through donations and volunteers. With his donation, the group will research ways to preserve endangered species in the local gulf area. Robert said, "I think that a true trait of leadership is the drive to finish everything that you start despite what hardships may distract you along the way." *Sponsor: Mr. Terence Schraut, Scoutmaster.*



### Sterling City ISD

**Wyatt Ferguson**, 10th grader, **Sterling City High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: First Annual Fun Run* - Wyatt and the Sterling City High School cross country team put together an event, the First Annual Fun Run, to raise money for two of Wyatt's friends who were in a car accident. The funds raised helped support their recovery process expenses. Wyatt said, "I learned very quickly that life should never be taken for granted. I felt so good to be able to help my friends." **Wyatt's sponsor, Mrs. Ashley Glass, School Counselor,** said, "Wyatt's efforts really helped a community that had been struck by tragedy."

### Sunnyvale ISD

**Joey Rosato**, 10th grader, **Sunnyvale High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: Texas Food Pantry* - Joey and friends from his athletics program packaged 1,600 meals for the Texas Food Pantry, an organization which provides for less fortunate families in their area. Joey said, "I've never known what it's like to be hungry and neither should anyone else." *Sponsor: Mrs. Charla Turner, Former English Teacher.*

### Tomball ISD

**Truman Dowdy**, 10th grader, **Tomball High School**, 5th year member

*Project: Fourth Friday at the HUB* - Under the guidance of four teachers, Truman and 10 volunteers organized a dance class for a group of high-functioning special needs teens. The special needs teens learned five new dances and everyone had fun during the learning process. Truman said, "I have done this project for two years and it gives me great satisfaction to see everyone having fun and enjoying themselves." *Sponsor: Mrs. Cathy Griggory, Family Friend.*



### United ISD

**Kevin Cantu**, 8th grader, **Trautmann Middle School**, 3rd year member

*Project: Food Drive for Bethany House* - With the help of his social studies class, Kevin collected non-perishable food donations for the Bethany House for the third year in a row. Bethany House is a mission that serves the homeless and other disadvantaged people in Laredo. Kevin said, "I had a few setbacks during my project but I was very happy I was able to help my community once again. I think I became a better leader doing this project." *Sponsor: Mr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Social Studies Teacher.*



### White Oak ISD

**Jacob Young**, 6th grader, **White Oak Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: Nike ReUse A Shoe* - Jacob organized and held the second annual 'Shoe War' contest to benefit Nike's 'ReUse A Shoe' recycling program. Through the contest he collected 425 pairs of old tennis shoes which were sent to the Nike recycling plant to be broken down into material to manufacture tracks, playgrounds, and basketball court surfaces in high poverty areas. Jacob said, "Shoes can really change lives. What a great feeling to know that I saved the earth from 425 pairs of old tennis shoes which would have taken over a billion years to break down." **Jacob's sponsor and teacher, Mrs. Jodi Velde,** said, "What a great program and way to raise recycling awareness."

## Wylie ISD

**Elisabeth Teitelman**, 9th grader, **Wylie East High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Coats for Caring*** - Elisabeth collected and donated over 50 coats to the Christian Care Center in Wylie, an outreach ministry providing emergency help for neighbors in need. The warm coats were distributed to people in the area during the cold winter months. Elisabeth said, *"I gained the experience of helping people who don't have the luxury of buying coats for the winter and I learned how lucky I am to have the great life that I do."* Sponsor: **Mr. Harry Wilbanks**, ROTC Teacher.



## Charter Schools

**Melissa Singing**, 10th grader, **IDEA Frontier College Preparatory**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Letters for the Lionhearted*** - Melissa organized a letter writing campaign for service men and women and collected 651 gratitude letters from students at her school. She sent the letters to Operation Gratitude. Operation Gratitude offers support, encouragement, and thanks to our service members deployed in hostile regions, their children left behind, veterans, first responders, Wounded Warriors, and care givers. Melissa said, *"During this project I gained a better sense of*

*time management. Plus, providing a show of support to the active servicemen and women uplifted me."* Sponsor: **Ms. Jill Kohler**, Head Principal.

**Whitney Barrett**, 8th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Helping the Humane Society of North Texas*** - Whitney and her friends collected supplies for the Humane Society of North Texas in Keller. The group's donation included a variety of items to help with the care of the animals such as food, bowls, toys, and detergent. Whitney said, *"Because the animals can't really help themselves, it gave me an overwhelming feeling of accomplishment and happiness to be able to help them."* Sponsor: **Ms. Andrea Ragnow**, Spanish Teacher.



**Micayla Lynch**, 10th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 4th year member

*Project: **Christmas is for Children*** - Micayla and fellow council member Anisse Sircar worked together to collect gifts for the Christmas is for Children Organization which supplies gifts to various organizations within the metroplex. They wrapped and tagged donated gifts for distribution to 90 children who would otherwise not have received gifts during Christmas. Micayla said, *"It is very rewarding to help children see the magic of Christmas and to help others experience the wonder of giving."* **Micayala's sponsor, parent and Assistant Girl Scout Leader, Mrs. Kelly Lynch** said, *"Witnessing the development of leadership skills that are solely intended to help others is a very powerful thing."*

**Alisha Sircar**, 7th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 2nd year member

*Project: **International Peace Tree*** - Alisha and fellow Westlake Academy classmates prepared a Peace Tree for their international symposium. The Peace Tree raised awareness within the student body about what the school does to be internationally-minded and helped the international students feel comfortable in their environment. Alisha said, *"Though I experienced several struggles, it was worth seeing how much our international students enjoyed it."* Sponsor: **Ms. Melissa Sircar**, Girl Scout Troop Leader.



**Anisse Sircar**, 10th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 4th year member

*Project: **Christmas is for Children*** - Anisse and fellow council member, Micayla Lynch, combined their efforts and collected and wrapped gifts for the Christmas is for Children Organization. Their hard work benefited 90 local underprivileged children during Christmas. Anisse said, *"I gained a lot of awareness about my local area by taking part in this project and am shocked by how many local kids wouldn't receive Christmas presents if it weren't for Christmas is for Children."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Lisa Angeli**, Coordinator of Christmas is for Children.

## Homeschool

**Renee Drake**, 9th grader, 2nd year member

*Project: **Fighting Cystic Fibrosis for Josh*** - Renee recruited family and friends to help bake goods to sell at her bake sale. The funds raised at the bake sale were donated to her friend Josh, who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, to help with his medical expenses. Renee said, *"It felt good to help my friend who is fighting very hard against this disease."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Kristy Drake**, Mother.



## Private Schools

**Anna Kimata**, 7th grader, **Punahou School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **A Christmas Surprise*** - Anna created Christmas gift baskets for 25 families residing at the Ronald McDonald House in Houston Medical Center. She filled the baskets with everyday essential items local businesses donated to her project. Anna said, *"I had fun gathering and putting together the Christmas gift baskets. It felt good to do something special for these families who were going through this hardship during the holidays."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Monica Yu-Kimata**, Parent.

### Private Schools, cont.

**Hayden McCormick**, 7th grader, **St. Stephen's Episcopal School**, 1st year member

*Project: Highway Beautification Project* - Hayden and his recruits inspected and cleaned up 43 miles of highway over the course of several weeks. They discarded more than 40 Christmas trees to clean the highway and to beautify the scenery for the citizens of Austin. Local residents were inspired and joined in on the efforts. Hayden said, "I feel like I have done a great service for the citizens of Austin and the Earth." Sponsor: **Ms. Lisa Orr**, School Advisor.



**Sarah McCormick**, 11th grader, **St. Michael's Catholic Academy**, 4th year member

*Project: Bottles for Babies* - Sarah and three friends decorated clear plastic bottles with designs in puffy paint and then sold them. They raised \$100 for Compassion International, an organization that sponsors children in third world countries. Her donation helped them purchase vital survival tools such as food and mosquito nets. Sarah said, "Knowing that the money I raised was going to children just like me but less fortunate was really humbling. It made me appreciate everything I have here in America." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jenifer Tracey**, Teacher.

**Fernando Miranda-Fred**, 6th grader, **St. George Episcopal School**, 1st year member

*Project: Say No to Alcohol, Smoke, and Drugs* - Fernando organized a special assembly, 'Say No to Alcohol, Smoke, and Drugs', and explained to the fifth graders how alcohol, smoking, and drugs can be very harmful to their health. Fernando said, "It was a really rewarding experience to teach younger kids about the harms of using drugs." **Fernando's sponsor and the Head of his Middle School, Mrs. Rebecca Voyles**, said, "I enjoyed Fernando's presentation and have asked him to prepare another topic for next fall."

**Pablo Miranda-Fred**, 5th grader, **Keystone School**, 1st year member

*Project: Dealing with Bullies* - Pablo created and led a PowerPoint presentation and discussion on 'Dealing with Bullies in a School Setting', for fifth and sixth graders at the Keystone School. Pablo said, "I became more comfortable speaking before a group and in my research I learned how to handle bullies and how to help somebody who is being bullied." Sponsor: **Mrs. Theresa Powers**, Head of Middle School.

**Sofia Miranda-Fred**, 9th grader, **TMI - The Episcopal School of Texas**, 4th year member

*Project: Time Management: The Importance of Time in Middle School* - Sofia presented an educational seminar, including an official report, to 250 middle school students to explain the importance of time management, goals, and organization. Sofia said, "I learned that even when you have everything planned, it might not always be in your hands, so you may have to adjust at a moment's notice." Sponsor: **Dr. Richard Stark**, Principal of Middle School.

## **About the 2012-2013 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council**

The current Lone Star Youth Leadership Council is an interesting and eclectic group of 99 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Members represent 78 public schools in 62 Texas school districts, six private schools, two charter schools, and one homeschool. The 2012-2013 Council includes 11 elementary, four intermediate, 28 middle, and 56 high school students. Council membership includes 32 new members and 67 returning members.

### **★ Academics**

Twenty-eight members maintain straight A's and 23 additional members are on the Honor Roll. The National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and National English Honor Society are all well-represented. Nine members have achieved perfect attendance. Members' academic awards include the Superintendent's Award, Silver Eagle Award, Exceptional Spanish Award, Exceptional History Award, Wylie Way Award, Bronco Polo Honor Roll Reward Program, Excellence Award in Integrated Physics and Chemistry, and numerous local, regional, and state level science fair awards. Other academic achievements earned by members include winning a Veterans' Day Essay Contest, being named outstanding theater department crew member, reaching the semi-finals in the Damon Speech Competition, participating in Band 3D, and serving on the Academic Decathlon Junior Board and the Superintendent's Advisory Team.

### **★ School Activities, Clubs, and Organizations**

School clubs and activities play a large part in our Council members' lives. Members' activities include Yearbook Staff - Senior Leadership Team, theater, Math Team, debate, CX Debate, Investment Club, Future City Team, French Club, Science Club, Friends of Rachel, HOSA Club, Junior International Club, Thespian Club, Quiz Bowl, robotics, Panther Pride, Mu Alpha Theta, Crime Stoppers, Panther Pride, PALS, Science Olympiad, chess club, Eagle Addicts, Drill Team, and dance groups including jazz, ballet, and hip hop. A number of Council members serve as members and/or officers in student council.

### **★ Music**

Once again, this year's Council could put together an impressive band, orchestra, or choir. They participate in marching band, concert band, school and community orchestras, jazz band, wind ensembles, string quartets and ensembles, and honor bands for their schools, districts, cities, states, and national groups. Two Council members have played at Carnegie Hall. One student has performed at the National Flute Association Convention and was named top-rated piccolo player in the state and outstanding soloist for the Mark of Excellence National Honors Wind Band. Another member received a superior rating from the Texas Music Educators Association. The Council includes members of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, the Texas State Strings Project, the Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus, and the Latin Ensemble at the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

### **★ Sports**

Council members participate in many school and community-based sports including football, volleyball, hockey, basketball, soccer, baseball, swimming, water polo, cross country, and track. In addition, there are golfers, tennis players, school and competitive cheerleaders, and a soccer referee. Members also participate in fencing, martial arts, Junior Olympic Archery Development, Lone Star Soccer, Interscholastic League of Hawaii Swim Team, USA Swim Club, and Lone Star Wolves Select Hockey.

### **★ Scouting**

The Council has numerous Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Girl Scout members have achieved both the Bronze Service Award and the Silver Star Award while Boy Scout members have earned the Order of the Arrow, Life Rank, Polar Bear Award, Teddy Roosevelt Award, Scoutmaster's Award, Fireman Chit Award, Scout Spirit Award, and various hiking awards for miles traveled. Several members have achieved Eagle Scout with Gold, Silver, and Bronze Palms.

### **★ Other Awards and Activities**

Additional member awards include the Mother Teresa Award for Volunteerism, Eagle Eye Award, Green Cord Award for 100 hours of community service, Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth High Honors Award, the President's 2012 Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, and a TAGT Scholarship to attend the three-week Summer Mathematics Institute. Members have been selected for participation in People to People, the Creative Writing Workshop at Texas State University, and the Scholars National Junior Men's Program. Members have participated in the Baylor University Renaissance Scholar Program and the Duke University Talent Identification Program. The Council includes a MENSA member, a member of the Air Force JROTC Honor Guard, and a member of the Filipino-American Youth Association. And last but not least, one Council member enjoys entering barbeque cook-offs!



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