



"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 – 2014-2015 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council



Education in Action is proud to announce 98 outstanding young student leaders successfully completed the 2014-2015 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council alumni program. Members represented 57 school districts, two charter schools, and seven private schools. This special edition newsletter highlights each of these students and their accomplishments as members of the 2014-2015 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council.

Program and Purpose

Each year outstanding student leaders are nominated by their educators to participate in 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 setting reachable goals, writing personal mission statements, choosing friends wisely, defining your talents, developing critical thinking skills, how to motivate others to want to help you, and how to show appreciation for the help of others. These skills were honed and put into action through service projects members were responsible for creating and leading in their communities. Project requirements included finding a sponsor, creating a project action plan, incorporating the assistance of at least two peers, and documenting projects in an electronic presentation.

Members who successfully complete program requirements 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 experience.

The Education in Action staff commends the accomplishments of the 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 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. I encourage members to choose service projects close to their hearts because as they work through the projects their concern for the causes increases along with their results. As the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council 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

Eleven of the 2014-2015 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members are high school seniors. Wilson Clark has been a Council member for seven years; Sara Casas, Rahul Dsilva, Sarah Meidel, Mattie Robinson, and Anisse Sircar have been Council members for six years; Molly McShane, Cassidy Milam, and Joey Rosato have been Council members for five years; and Jessica James and Jane Madison have been Council members 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.



Sara Casas, A. C. Jones High School, Beeville ISD

Sara will graduate with the Distinguished Graduation Plan and 24 hours of college credit through the Dual Credit program from Coastal Bend College. She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society and has been on the Honor Roll since 2008. Sara is a United States Achievement All American Scholar, is in Who's Who Among All-American Scholars, and was part of the United State Achievement Academy and Girls State, both in 2014. Sara has played on the Varsity Golf Team for four years and was named the Varsity Golf Team's MVP the past two years. Sara is very involved with Future Farmers of America (FFA) and showing heifers. She has been the FFA district treasurer and is currently FFA President. She won Grand Champion Commercial Pen of Heifers, the Reserve Grand Champion Craft, Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Pen of Heifers in 2014-2015, numerous awards for livestock production, and agricultural sales contests. This fall Sara will attend Texas A & M University to major in Agricultural Science with a teaching option to become a certified Agricultural Science teacher. She was awarded the Corpus Christi Caller Scholars Scholarship and a Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship. Sara attended the Lone Star Leadership Academy - Austin camp and has been a member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council for six years. Through her service projects, Sara raised funds to help the Historical Society of Beeville and the Beeville Vineyard, a non-profit organization of faith-based groups who care for the homeless, elderly, sick, and those who have fallen on hard times. She also held clothing drives, a canned food drive, and other activities to benefit those served by the Beeville Vineyard. Sara also organized a Livestock Super Special Stock Show where special needs children had the opportunity to show an animal and experience a real stock show.



Wilson Clark, Robert E. Lee High School, Midland ISD

Wilson is a member of the National Honor Society, orchestra, debate team, cross country team, and the Lee High School AFJROTC where he served as Corps Commander. He has served for four years as a teen attorney for Midland Teen Court and for five years as the teen representative on the Midland Soup Kitchen Board of Directors. He is a volunteer for Keep Midland Beautiful, and has been a volunteer for the Commemorative Air Force and a member of the Students in Philanthropy, Midland County Library for four years. Wilson will attend Texas A&M as a member of the Fall 2015 Corps of Cadets. He attended the Lone Star Leadership Academy - Austin and Houston camps. Wilson, a 7th year member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, took his required annual service project to the next level by turning a toy collection drive for children in crisis situations into a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Toys for Cops. Through Toys for Cops, Wilson has collected thousands of toys which have been distributed to children through advocacy groups including Crime Stoppers, Midland Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Department, Ector County Hospital Police, Ector County School Police, and Children's Protective Service's Rainbow Room. So far this year, Toys for Cops has collected over 5000 toys. Wilson holds toy collections and fundraisers throughout the year because, he stated, "There are children in crisis 365 days a year." For his efforts Wilson has received numerous awards and recognitions including the 2014-2015 Top 10 State of Texas Prudential Community Spirit Award, the ROTC National Sojourner's Award, and the President's Volunteer Service Award three times. Wilson was also named one of the 52 Faces of Volunteerism by the Midland Reporter Telegram and a Peace First Semi-Finalist.



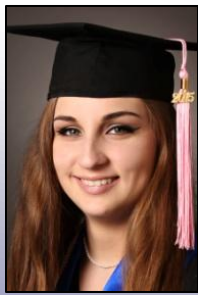
Jessica James, Lovejoy High School, Lovejoy ISD

Jessica is graduating with Lovejoy High School's Leadership Award, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the U.S. Presidential Gold Service Award for 250 volunteer hours in one calendar year, and Most-Liked Graduate Profile for Fine Arts/Photography. Jessica placed third at the Lovejoy High School AP Fine Arts Community Showcase. She is a member of the Varsity Swim Team and the Girls' Varsity Bowling Team and qualified for state in bowling this year. Her volunteer activities include Lovejoy Buddies, a group that mentors special needs students by involving them in regular school activities and monthly social activities outside of school, Reading with the Leopards, a program in which she reads to and mentors younger students, and Cardboard Box City. Jessica taught Vacation Bible School, and is part of United Methodist Action Reach-Out Missions (Youth UM ARMY) and the Student Adult Leadership Team. Jessica will attend Abilene Christian University this fall to major in Pre-Med/Biology on her path to a future career as a pediatric gastroenterologist. Jessica received two scholarships from Abilene Christian University including one merit-based and one venturing and scouting scholarship. Jessica attended the Lone Star Leadership Academy - Austin and Houston camps. During Jessica's four years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council she, with her grandmother's guidance, made 100 dresses for girls in Cameroon, Africa. She also made Hygiene Kits for the residents of West, Texas after the April 2013 fertilizer plant explosion and another 100 Hygiene Kits for residents at Samaritan Inn.



Molly McShane, Kingwood High School, Humble ISD

Molly will graduate in the top 4% of her class, is a member of the National Honor Society, and has been awarded the Kingwood High School award for academic excellence every year of high school, including awards for biology, world history, US history, and JV theater. Molly is involved in her church youth group and a member of the United Methodist Action Reach-Out Missions (UM ARMY). She has been on three mission trips and will make her fourth trip in June. While helping at UM ARMY camp, she built wheelchair ramps, helped re-roof a house, and repaired and painted homes and household items for people unable to do so for themselves. Molly works as a nanny for two children of a single mother and tutors high school students in biology, algebra, and geometry. In the fall Molly will attend either Southern Methodist University or Texas Christian University and major in history and education. She has been awarded a top academic scholarship at each school including the Second Century Scholarship at SMU and the Dean’s Scholarship at TCU. Molly is an Education in Action Trailblazer, having attended all three Lone Star Leadership Academy camps and returned on the Lone Star Leadership Academy camps as a Youth Facilitator. She has been a member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council for five years. Most of Molly’s service projects have benefited Texas Children’s Hospital. She has provided hundreds of board games, arts and crafts supplies, and books over the years. Molly also collected books to help rebuild West ISD’s school libraries after the April 2013 fertilizer plant explosion.



Jane Medina, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Dallas ISD

Jane is graduating in the Distinguished Achievement Program and is in the National Honor Society. She is in Girl Scouts and earned the Gold Award, the highest award possible in Girl Scouts. She is member of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra and volunteers in many Keep Irving Beautiful events. Jane is enrolled in an EMT course at Brookhaven College to help build a good foundation for her future medical career. In the fall Jane will attend the University of Texas at Austin for a double major in music and nursing. Jane participated in the Lone Star Leadership Academy – Houston camp and has been a member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council for four years. Jane’s service projects have all concentrated on a place close to her heart, the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Learning Center. She has run the annual carnival for the center each year. Proceeds from each year’s carnival have provided much-needed items for the students. Jane also built a

youth library at the Holy Trinity Learning Center. In addition to collecting over 1,500 donated children’s books she organized, catalogued, and prepared them to be checked out.



Sarah Meidel, The Academy of Science & Technology at The Woodlands College Park, Conroe ISD

Sarah is graduating 18th in her class of 618 and as an AP Scholar with Distinction. She is a National Merit Commended Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and National Science Honor Society. Sara is an accomplished flute and piccolo player and is a member of the Houston Youth Symphony and the National Flute Association High School Flute Choir. She is a Texas All-State First Chair Piccolo and a Texas State UIL Solo Competition Outstanding Performer. She received the Outstanding Musicianship Award from the Foundation for Music Education and was Drum Major for her high school band. Sarah participated in the Jones State Forest Environmental Initiative as a Senior Scientist Team

Leader and placed in the ExxonMobil Texas State Science & Engineering Fair each of four years. She received outstanding achievement and excellence awards at the Science Engineering Fair of Houston, outstanding achievement from the Society for In Vitro Biology, and placed in the Senior Division with the Society of Women Engineers. Sarah will attend the University of Southern California in the fall and plans to double major in music performance and civil/environmental engineering. She was awarded the Pavilion Partners Cynthia and George Mitchell Memorial Scholarship in Instrumental Music and a Coca-Cola Scholars Semi-Finalist Scholarship. Sarah is an Education in Action Trailblazer having attended all three Lone Star Leadership Academy camps and has been a member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council for six years. For her service projects, Sarah held a book drive benefiting Marcella Intermediate School and provided annual holiday programs called Festive Flutes at several nursing homes and assisted living centers.



Cassidy Milam, Grand Saline High School, Grand Saline ISD

Cassidy is ranked number one in her class and was named top math student, top English student, and top Geometry student. She received the Superintendent’s Award and the ‘G’ Award, and was a nominee for Outstanding Student of the Year. Cassidy is a three year member of the National Honor Society and Student Council and served as Student Council President her senior year. She has been a regional qualifier in UIL competitions in calculator skills, mathematics, numbers sense, feature, news, and editorial writing. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a Student Advisor for FFA. Cassidy was a Drum Major her senior year, a band officer her junior year, in color guard for three years, and played both trumpet and saxophone. She will

attend Texas A&M University this fall to major in psychology and minor in forensic science. She was awarded the Texas Student Housing Authority Scholarship, Peanut Butter Essay Scholarship, Salt Festival Heritage Scholarship, Band Boosters Scholarship, Sports Boosters Scholarship, and Valedictorian Tuition Waiver for her first year’s tuition. Cassidy attended Lone Star Leadership Academy – Austin and Houston camps. During Cassidy’s five years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council she led service projects to collect animal food, supplies and funds to support the Van Zandt County Humane Society and volunteered in their Adoption Clinic.



Mattie Robinson, Prosper High School, Prosper ISD

Mattie is a graduating junior. Although she is just finishing her junior year, she already has enough credits to graduate. Mattie is on the honor roll, has been named Student of the Month several times, and received the Chemistry Award for Underclassmen. She is in her high school's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program, plays euphonium in the band, and, as a member of the Talonettes drill team, performed at the Alamo Bowl halftime show. She tutors students in math and science and is a member of the French and Science Clubs. Mattie has volunteered at Equine in Line Horseback Riding Camp and has served on mission trips with Global Expeditions to Mexico and inner city New York. Mattie attended the

Youth Leadership Summit at CCCC and was one of 20 students accepted to the George W. Bush Library and Museum Leadership Camp. She has completed 15 credits from CCCC and plans to complete an associate degree in math or engineering before transferring to the University of Texas at Dallas, Southern Methodist University, or Texas Christian University to double major either in math, chemistry and/or engineering. Mattie participated in the Lone Star Leadership Academy - Dallas/Fort Worth camp and returned to camp as a Youth Facilitator. She has been a member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council for six years. With Cops for a Cause she helped Prosper Police hand out gift cards to needy families at Christmas. She helped at an assisted living center and organized a Christmas band which played for the residents for two years. She held a coat drive for a Dallas homeless shelter and helped serve 1,000 Thanksgiving meals to those in need. Mattie collected 1,134 books for the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council book drive to help West ISD restock the school libraries destroyed in the April 2013 fertilizer plant explosion. And, as a member of the Prosper Ladies Association, she helped with the Angel Tree which provided Christmas gifts to 110 families in need in her community.



Joey Rosato, Sunnyvale High School, Sunnyvale ISD

Joey has served as a Student Council member and a class officer and is active in high school football and baseball. Last year he suffered an ACL injury followed by surgery and rigorous rehabilitation. This year he suffered another ACL injury but not before helping his baseball team get to the State Finals. This fall Joey will attend Texas Tech University to major in Business. He is in contention for a TG Copton scholarship and has received scholarships from the Sunnyvale Education Foundation and Ford Motor Company. Joey attended the Lone Star Leadership Academy - Houston camp and has been a member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council for five years. His service projects included organizing Student Council members to

collect 800 cans of soup, enlisting the athletic department to help him make 1,600 food packets to give out to the homeless, and several projects working with residents of The Manor in Seagoville.



Anisse Sircar, Westlake Academy, Charter School

Anisse is graduating 4th in her class and is an International Baccalaureate MYP Diploma candidate. Anisse is an AP Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, and on the 'A' Honor Roll. In addition to higher level classes, Anisse wrote an Extended Essay, a 4000 word research paper, for her Theory of Knowledge course. Anisse received the Congressional Award for Achievement in four areas – physical fitness, personal development, voluntary public service, and planning and carrying out an expedition/exploration, and was a delegate to the 2013 International Leadership Symposium. She has been a Girl Scout since the 6th grade and has received Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, gold being the highest in scouting. Since 2009 Anisse has

received Presidential Volunteer Service Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards which require a minimum of 100+ community service hours. Playing basketball since 5th grade, she has served as both junior varsity and varsity captain and in 2014 her basketball team won the TCAF State Championship. Anisse will attend the University of Texas in Austin this fall to major in biology. Anisse participated in the Lone Star Leadership Academy - Austin and Houston camps and returned to serve as a Youth Facilitator on a Lone Star Leadership Academy - Austin camp. She has been a Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member for six years and her service project has grown each year. Through her project 'Christmas is for Children' 400 needy children have been 'adopted' in Northeast Tarrant County.

2014-2015 Service Projects

Aldine ISD

Juan Carlos Moreno, 9th grader, **MacArthur 9th Grade Center**, 1st year member

*Project: **Help A Teacher Teach*** - Juan Carlos headed up a book drive to collect books which were given to elementary school teachers in Aldine ISD. The elementary students benefited from the collected books by gaining access to a wider variety of literature. Juan Carlos said, *"Before I can change the community, I must help those within the community."* Sponsor: **Ms. Rosa Clark**, Graphic Designer.



Alice ISD

Nathaniel Ragland, 7th grader, **William Adams Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Share the Christmas Love with the Alice Rainbow Room*** - During the holidays, Nathaniel led a drive to collect clothing and school supplies for children of all ages, from infants to teenagers. The new and gently used items were distributed to three groups including Alice Rainbow Room, an organization that provides for children who have been taken in by Child Protective Services, Alice Women's Shelter, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Each of the organizations were very grateful for the group's assistance. Nathaniel said, *"I was astounded at the number of donations I received. Most people who donated knew me and were willing to help. I also recruited businesses to help me with collections and advertising. This is one of the best projects I have ever done and was very proud that I would help so many people."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Seana Towler**, Family Friend.

Alief ISD



Vincent Iwunze, 7th grader, **O'Donnell Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **M.O.E. and L.O.E March of Dimes for Babies*** - Vincent and his recruits walked from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm, to help raise money to save babies from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The planning and preparation took a lot of time and work but through their efforts they raised over \$5,000 for the March of Dimes and were listed as one of the Top Ten Big Donors. The parents of premature babies were grateful for the help in saving their children's lives. Vincent said, *"I gained a sense of kindness and came to understand*

this is the reason I kept working so hard to the very end." Vincent's sponsor, Ms. Denoss, said, *"We're giving back to the children an opportunity to decide for those who never had a choice."* Sponsor: **Ms. Denoss**, Program Director.

Allen ISD

Gezae Tesfaye, 6th grader, **Olson Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Allen Community Outreach Donation*** - Gezae and her friends collected donations for families served by the Allen Community Outreach. Gezae's goal was to help people in her community have a joyous Christmas. The families that were assisted during the holiday season were grateful for the food and small Christmas gifts they received. Gezae said, *"It's an amazing feeling, helping people. It feels great to know that someone is having a better life thanks to what I'm trying to do to help them."* Gezae's sponsor, Mrs. Melissa Tesfaye, said, *"It's great to see the kids working to help their community because it makes them feel great."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Melissa Tesfaye**, Parent.



Beeville ISD



Sarah Casas, 12th grader, **A. C. Jones High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **A Plethora of Projects: Halloween Party, Santa and Elves, Christmas Tree Contest, Christmas Toy Drive, and Kendra Scott Party*** - As a senior, Sara involved herself in several projects benefiting groups in Beeville. She held a Halloween Party and collected over 500 cans of food to restock the Vineyard, a faith-based entity that strives to help the underprivileged. Sarah also completed three projects to help McClanahan House, the oldest business structure in Beeville built around 1867. In the 1960s McClanahan House was purchased by the Historical Society and is always in a state of refurbishment. Sara held a Kendra Scott jewelry party and raised over \$1500 to help with McClanahan

House restoration. She donated an additional \$250 she raised through a Christmas Tree contest. Sara also held a Christmas Party at which she collected over 100 toys for Children in Protective Services. Those in need who received food from the Vineyard were very grateful, the children who were not with their families for the holidays enjoyed the new toys, and the residents of Beeville are grateful to have help keeping their town's history up to date. Sarah quoted Jackie Robinson, *"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."* Sponsor: **Mr. Richard Ball**, FFA Sponsor.

Big Spring ISD



Rebecca Moore, 6th grader, **Big Spring Intermediate School**, 1st year member

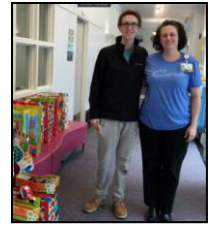
*Project: **Kids Helping the Community: Wounded Warrior Project and St. Jude's Children's Hospital*** - Rebecca organized her peers to solicit businesses that would allow them to hold several fundraisers. In order to advertise the fundraisers they made posters and handed out flyers. Their efforts raised \$1,085 for the Wounded Warrior Project and \$453 for St. Jude's. Rebecca said, *"One important thing that I learned was that I can't do it all by myself and it is always better to work with a group to help those kids fight their fight*

and to support those who fight for our freedom." Rebecca's sponsor, Mrs. Jackie Jackson, said, *"Watching Rebecca put her heart into this project really makes myself, as well as her dad, very proud. She chose the Wounded Warrior Project because her father served in the Army and her dad is a disabled Navy vet. She chose St. Jude's because of a commercial she saw on TV. She got upset that she had complained of a headache and those kids are fighting for their lives. She is one of those kids who will do her best to change the world."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Jackie Jackson**, Parent.

Burleson ISD

Blake Bodin, 11th grader, **Centennial High School**, 6th year member

Project: Blankets for Cook Children's Hospital - Blake and his recruits made 20 blankets they donated to Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth. The blankets they made were given to the Trauma Department where they were greatly appreciated. Blake said, "It's a great feeling to have someone do something for you, but it's an even better feeling to do something for someone else." Sponsor: **Dr. Lisa Bodin**, Parent.



Carroll ISD



Sophia Deras, 8th grader, **Dawson Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: Snack Packs - Sophia and her recruits collected 1,110 food items to use for the snack pack program for underprivileged children of Nance Elementary School. The weekday packs had snack type items such as granola bars, applesauce pouches, and crackers. The weekend snack packs had single-serve pasta meals, Vienna sausages, mac and cheese bowls, and cereal. Sophia said, "Being able to see how happy the kids of Nance Elementary School were when they received the Snack Packs made all the hard work of my project worthwhile." Sponsor: **Ms. Taresa McDonald**, Librarian.

Chisum ISD

Erin Bankston, 9th grader, **Chisum High School**, 2nd year member

Project: Towels for Project Animal Shelter - Erin, with the help of her friends, collected more than 100 towels to donate to the Paris Animal Shelter. The staff was very grateful for the towels since they have many uses including keeping the animals at the shelter warm. Erin said, "I loved being able to help the dogs and cats in need. It was a challenging project, but it was great to be a part of it." Sponsor: **Ms. Julie Swaim**, Teacher.



Megan Bankston, 9th grader, **Chisum High School**, 1st year member

Project: Blankets for Project Winter Warmth - Megan organized students in Chisum High School BETA to collect blankets and warm clothing for CASA Kids. Most CASA Kids have been removed from their homes and/or are kids who have aged out of the system. Both these groups went to CASA and picked out their own blankets and winter clothing. Megan said, "It was very rewarding to see the students so excited with their blankets. A blanket provides a feeling of home." Sponsor: **Mrs. Terri Hutto**, BETA sponsor.

Comal ISD



Keslyn Surovik, 8th grader, **Spring Branch Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: Wacky Science Experiments - Keslyn researched a number of science experiments, gathered supplies, and recruited friends to visit St. Jude's Ranch for Children and teach the children. Several stations were set up for the kids such as building a fizz-inflator, cleaning pennies with vinegar, lava lamps, elephant toothpaste, balloon rockets, and Mentos and Coke geysers. The kids at the Ranch had such a wonderful time and enjoyed watching how things interact. It gave them a chance to interact with each other and also with Keslyn and her friends. Keslyn said, "I learned that giving of your time is a precious gift. I have been working with Chick Time for the last four years and have formed many friends with the kids at St. Jude's Ranch for Children and the house moms. Teaching the science experiments was just a bonus. The kids look forward to us coming each month and hosting activities for them to do." Keslyn's sponsor, Mrs. Kari Surovik, said, "I am blessed with a wonderful young lady as a daughter. She has volunteered for several years at St. Jude's Ranch for Children. It has been an amazing experience watching her compassion and kindness towards others and giving back to our community." Sponsor: **Mrs. Kari Surovik**, Parent.

Conroe ISD



Meredith Janning, 9th grader, **The Woodlands College Park High School**, 1st year member

Project: Warmth for Women - Meredith recruited her Girl Scout troop to help her make fleece blankets for the women and children at the Montgomery County Women's Shelter. The women and children seeking refuge got pleasure from receiving something warm and comforting that would be their very own. Meredith said, "I gained the satisfaction of doing something I enjoy while helping others who could really use a hand and that's one of the best things anyone can do. If you enjoy something, use it to help someone else." Meredith's sponsor, Ms. Donna Brawner, said, "The blankets made for the women's shelter were a truly comforting gift. Who doesn't enjoy wrapping a blanket around themselves and snuggling down into it. The effort Meredith and her friends put into this was very rewarding to observe." Sponsor: **Ms. Donna Brawner**, Yearbook/Newspaper Sponsor.

Julia Massey, 8th grader, **Moorhead Junior High School**, 1st year member

Project: Mega-Media for Children - Julia and her recruits collected donations of children's books, videos, and games that were distributed between two local charities, the Oscar Johnson Community Center and the Montgomery County Women's Center. Many of the children at the Montgomery County Women's Center and the Oscar Johnson Community Center were very surprised and pleased with the books and games. Julia said, "I was able to deliver the media items to the Oscar Johnson Community Center during a time when the children were in their daycare program. It was very heartwarming to feel their excitement and see their gratitude for the games and books." Sponsor: **Mr. Jeffery Sznajder**, National Junior Honor Society Sponsor.





Sarah Meidel, 12th grader, **The Academy of Science and Technology at The Woodlands College Park High School**, 6th year member

*Project: **Festive Flutes** - Sarah and a friend performed Christmas music and led a sing-a-long for the residents of the Eastland Retirement Community, an assisted living center and nursing home. They performed solos and duets for the residents. Sarah has done this project for several years. The residents and staff really look forward to this wonderful holiday program. Sarah said, "Music really does bring people together! Though conversations can be difficult for some of the residents (they know they are*

forgetting facts or dates in their stories), they have no problem remembering the lyrics to their favorite Christmas carols. I enjoy seeing the smiles on their faces and their feedback is always very positive and inspirational. I will continue to volunteer in this way."

Sponsor: Mrs. Charlotte Royall, Band Director.

Copperas Cove ISD

Ethan Swanner, 7th grader, **Copperas Cove Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Winter Coat Drive** - Ethan organized a coat drive and collected 55 coats, 20 scarves, and hats for the Cove House Emergency Shelter. The people who depend on the shelter were thankful for the warm garments this past winter. Ethan said, "I think I did a good thing, helping others."*

Sponsor: Mr. Brian Hawkins, Youth Pastor.



Brianna Thornton, 7th grader, **Copperas Cove Junior High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **A Second Chance** – Brianna and her cheer squad collected donations of food and other supplies to help the Double E Rescue Ranch, which is a rescue shelter for small dogs (15 pounds and under). By setting up a GoFundMe page, they also collected \$730 to help pay for vet bills and other care for the dogs. Brianna was able to spend time volunteering at the Another Chance Resale Shop which is another way the ranch gets money to fund the shelter. Brianna said, "I have done several service projects before this one and I always enjoy them. This project was very special to me because dogs are a big part of my life and I was able to work with my friends."*

Sponsor: Mr. James Ortiz, Teacher.

Corpus Christi ISD

Aneel Damaraju, 10th grader, **W. B. Ray High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Mission Fit Possible** - Aneel and his volunteers did a Spring Outreach Program in which they went to elementary schools in Corpus Christi ISD and educated the students and staff about the importance of fitness. They used interactive videos, fun quizzes, and games and at the end the winning students and classes were awarded prizes. The students of Corpus Christi were shown how to lead a more healthy and active life style and the PE programs received more equipment to help the students stick with their fitness plans. Aneel said, "It has been fulfilling to work with younger children and make a difference in their*

lives." Aneel's sponsor, Mr. Lloyd Scott Hawks, said, "Keep serving the community." Sponsor: Mr. Lloyd Scott Hawks, Coach.

Sarita Damaraju, 11th grader, **W. B. Ray High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Mission Fit Possible** - Sarita gathered 10 volunteers to organize a 5K Run/3K Walk to benefit much-needed fitness programs in CCISD. The event attracted 1,500 participants and raised approximately \$12,500, enough to outfit 25 area schools. Sarita said, "I learned a lot about what goes into hosting a community event." Sponsor: Mr. Lloyd Scott Hawks, Coach.*



Kaden Liles, 6th grader, **Baker Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Book Drive for Rainbow House** - With a friend and volunteer, Kaden coordinated a book drive at his church and through social media. They collected over 400 books which were donated to Rainbow House, a local homeless shelter for mothers with young children. He also refurbished and painted a bookshelf for the shelter. The donated books have given the mothers the opportunity to read to their children while their lives are in transition. Kaden said, "I think every child should be surrounded by books that inspire reading and lifelong learning. I hope these books do just that and that this donation*

will make a lasting impact on the lives of many children." Sponsor: Mr. James Pettus, Family Friend.

Olivia Liles, 6th grader, **Baker Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Blankets for Project Linus** - Olivia and four friends made 10 unique handmade blankets which were donated to Project Linus. Through Project Linus, the blankets were given to local children who are seriously ill or traumatized. Olivia said, "I enjoyed working with friends to help children in need. We even made a blanket in honor of Ollie, a friend who passed away last year. His brothers received blankets from Project Linus at the time and I was honored to help support its mission and Ollie's memory."*

Sponsor: Mrs. Lyn Wigington, Family Friend.





Brandon Trevino, 7th grader, **Baker Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Christmas Joy for All Little Boys and Girls** - Brandon and two volunteers worked at the Corpus Christi Women's Shelter. They 'adopted' five families with 18 children. They read to the kids and, as Christmas drew nearer, they purchased large coloring books and small crafts projects for the children to complete. Their efforts brought joy to five families in unfortunate situations. Brandon's sponsor, Mr. Joseph Trevino, said, "Nothing can quite compare to the look of happiness on the children's faces as the group read to the children who came in looking completely somber." Sponsor: **Mr. Joseph Trevino**, Parent.*

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD



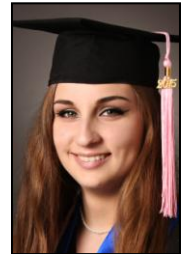
Daniel Saucedo, 8th grader, **Aragon Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Food Drive for Lovepacs** - Daniel organized a campus-wide food drive at his middle school to collect items for Lovepacs, an organization in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD which provides food to nearly 100 students in three Cypress-Fairbanks ISD elementary schools. The students who received the food to help them through the holidays were very grateful. Daniel said, "Through this food drive, I learned how to be a good leader. Donating food to an organization helping kids in my community was very rewarding." Sponsor: **Ms. Caitlan Campbell**, Teacher/Student Council Sponsor.*

Dallas ISD

Jane Medina, 12th grader, **Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts**, 4th year member

*Project: **Holy Trinity Learning Center Annual Carnival** - Jane helped organize and run the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Learning Center Carnival. Proceeds from the carnival benefited approximately 90 learning center students by purchasing significantly needed items for the center. Jane said, "I have had a wonderful experience operating this carnival each year for the learning center because I know how much they have appreciated all the items we have provided." Sponsor: **Mrs. Nancy Medina**, Parent.*



Dayton ISD



John Barte Jr., 10th grader, **Dayton High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Dayton High School Staff Appreciation** - John and his friends put together gifts to give the faculty and staff at Dayton High School to show appreciation for all their hard work throughout the school year. The teachers, coaches, administrative staff, cafeteria workers, and custodians who make Dayton High School a great learning environment received all the 'appreciation gifts'. It was their hope that everyone employed at Dayton High School felt appreciated for the great job they do. John said, "Through this service project, I learned that people who work at schools are not appreciated as much as they should be. I'm very glad that, through this, I got to show how much the community cares about the work they do." John's sponsor, Ms. Dani Nations, said, "Enormous thanks to John Barte in his appreciation for the faculty and staff of Dayton High School. His thoughtfulness, respect, and school spirit exude to everyone around him. His gifts of the goodie cups coincided*

*perfectly with Teacher Appreciation Week." Sponsor: **Ms. Dani Nations**, Librarian.*

Anna Brothers, 8th grader, **Woodrow Wilson Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Operation Baby Supplies** - Anna and her friends collected diapers, wipes, lotion, powder, and much needed baby supplies for the Pregnancy Care Center, an organization that helps educate young, single mothers. These items have helped the young mothers care for their new babies. Anna said, "Helping people is good. Getting others to help others is also good. But when those people you get to help try to push you to help more it is a true personal accomplishment. Having my friends want me to do another service project helped me see even more ways that I can influence people." Anna's sponsor, Mr. W. T. Brothers, said, "Her heart is in the right place. I suspect that when she sets her mind to it, she'll be able to reach the stars. What she did, she did on her own, with very little help from me." Sponsor: **Mr. W. T. Brothers**, Dad/Youth Minister.*



Amanda Carden, 7th grader, **Woodrow Wilson Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Blood Drive for M.D. Anderson Hospital** - Amanda organized a blood drive for the benefit of patients at M.D. Anderson Hospital. Over five gallons of blood were donated which helped many cancer patients. Amanda said, "I had a wonderful time with this project. I learned that when you work together with others, you can reach your goals." Sponsor: **Mrs. Maxine Carden**, Parent.*



Denton ISD

Ceanna Cooksey, 8th grader, **Harpool Middle School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Blessing Bags** - Ceanna organized her Girl Scout troop to help her create 200 'Blessing Bags' which contained small toiletries and food items. The bags were distributed to the Denton Salvation Army and to needy students at Durham Middle School. The group also handed out approximately 150 scarves and hats. Ceanna said, "It definitely didn't turn out like the vision in my head, but that doesn't mean it wasn't enjoyable." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jennifer Hutson**, Family and Community Services Teacher.*

Dumas ISD

Holly Wilhelm, 9th grader, **Dumas High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Songs for the Seniors** - Holly and seven other musicians she recruited played a holiday concert at each of the two nursing homes in Dumas, the Dumas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and the Memorial Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The concerts were a big success and benefited both the senior residents and the students. In addition to playing the holiday music and letting the seniors request specific songs and sing along, the students learned a lot from listening to the stories the residents had to tell. Holly said, "I encountered several setbacks along the way, but working through them made me a stronger leader. It felt good to make a contribution to my community." Sponsor: **Mrs. Rhonda Swanson**, Teacher.*



Eanes ISD



McKennon Brown, 8th grader, **West Ridge Middle School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Give Animals New Life This Spring** - McKennon headed up a drive to collect items requested by the Austin Humane Society. The group collected three crates of food, cleaning supplies, and toys for the animals. The Austin Humane Society staff was very grateful for the supplies which will help them keep the dogs and cats happy. McKennon said, "The standard of success isn't about the 'stuff' we collected, but the happiness everyone experienced, from the volunteers and donors to the animals we helped support." McKennon's sponsor, Mrs. Brandon Brown, said, "It is rewarding to see how this service project has evolved over the past three years. Participation from donors to volunteers keeps growing. It is increasingly streamlined and continues to serve more animals." Sponsor: **Mrs. Brandon Brown**, Parent.*

Fort Bend ISD

Miranda Amezaga, 5th grader, **Mission Bend Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Food for the Needy** - Miranda and her friends collected non-perishable food which was donated to the Social Ministry of St. Justin Catholic Church. The food was then distributed among the families in need who are served by the shelter. Sponsor: **Mrs. Coleman**, Teacher.*



Emma Lee, 7th grader, **Sartartia Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Pillow Fight** - Emma and several of her friends learned how to use a sewing machine so they could make 100 colorful pillowcases for the Texas Children's Hospital. The staff and patients all agreed that their pillowcases made the patient rooms look brighter and more cheerful. Emma said, "We learned how to work together as a team to achieve a common goal. I also learned how to maximize our time through better organization. All the time and effort that was put into this project was well worth it knowing that we made someone smile. I sincerely hope the patients feel loved and happy upon receiving these pillowcases." Sponsor: **Mrs. Amanda Moreno**, Teacher.*

Madison Taylor, 10th grader, **William P. Clements High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Pastries for Pets** - Madison and the Key Club at Clements High School baked dog and cat treats and donated them to the Houston Humane Society. Their treat donations saved the Humane Society money that they could spend on other supplies for the animals. Madison said, "It felt great to know I helped many animals and people in my community through a fun project that I did with my friends." Sponsor: **Ms. Kimberly Taylor**, Parent.*



Frisco ISD



Katherine Clinkscales, 8th grader, **Roach Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Being a Good Samaritan** - After advertising to get helpers, Katherine's group collected items to be donated to the Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter. The group collected clothing, toys, books, toiletries, and paper products. The volunteers and people that rely on the Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter appreciated the 15 large bags and three plastic bins of donated items. Katherine said, "Because I had to talk to many adults, I had to learn how to speak to them with respect. I think that was the most important thing I learned and is a great skill to have." Katherine's sponsor, Ms. Traci Skiles, said, "Katherine was very attentive through the whole fundraising process. She would have great ideas and opinions in our meetings. She was extremely organized in setting it up, from making signs to coming up with prizes to motivate her peers to get on board with the fundraiser! Katherine is a great young leader who is always looking to put others before herself, and I felt fortunate to work with her on this project." Sponsor: **Ms. Traci Skiles**, Volleyball Coach.*



Kennedy Crawford, 8th grader, **Roach Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Books for Boyd** - Boyd Elementary School is predominately low income so Kennedy organized a book collection drive for their library. They collected 400 books which were given to the Boyd Elementary School Library. All of the students who attend Boyd Elementary will benefit since the books they collected covered every grade level and can be checked out by all the students. Kennedy's sponsor, Ms. Traci Skiles, said, "Kennedy Crawford was very diligent through the whole collection process. She was vocal and thought provoking in our meetings, organized in setting it up and motivated her peers to get on board with the book collection. Kennedy is a great young leader who is always looking to put others before herself and I felt fortunate to work with her during this project." Sponsor: **Ms. Traci Skiles**, Volleyball Coach.*

Kisana Ngwenya, 6th grader, **Clark Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Coats for Kindness and Fundraiser*** - Kisana conducted a coat drive at Clark Middle School for Frisco Family Services. She placed posters at the school and spoke to as many classes as possible. The people who look to Frisco Family Services for assistance were very happy to get the coats. Kisana said, "At first I was hesitant about doing this because I didn't think I could get as many coats as I did. I gained a lot of confidence and was grateful to serve my community." Kisana's sponsor, Mrs. Stacy Claster, said, "I am very proud of Kisana." *Sponsor: Mrs. Stacy Claster, Teacher.*



Anang Parikh, 10th grader, **Wakeland High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Books for Children's Hospital*** - Anang collected over 200 books and art supplies and materials to be given to the Children's Medical Center of Plano. The collected items were placed in the library at Children's Medical Center of Plano to be enjoyed by both patients and visitors. *Sponsor: Mrs. Kushangi Parikh, Parent.*



Arya Ramadas, 5th grader, **McSpadden Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **EduFun!*** - Arya gave a prezzi presentation to the kindergarten classes to help them understand what first grade "Real School" would be like. She explained each subject and then showed them examples of what they would be learning. The kindergarteners really liked her presentation and now know what to expect next year and it won't seem as scary. Arya said, "This project really followed my personal motto: Be aware of what is going to come to you in the future and be prepared for it." *Sponsor: Mrs. Prabha Ramadas, Parent.*

Galena Park ISD

Noelia DeLeon, 5th grader, **Woodland Acres Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Relay for Life, WAES Student Council*** - Noelia signed up her Student Council to participate in Relay for Life, a team event to fight cancer. They raised funds by hosting two school dances and having a breakfast for the teachers. They also participated in a community-wide event where teams fundraised and walked to bring cancer awareness to the community. All the funds raised were donated to the American Cancer Society to help with research to find a cure for cancer. Noelia said, "I have learned to be thankful for being healthy and strong because some people are not as lucky as me." Noelia's sponsor, Ms. Karen Bernal, said, "I'm extremely proud of all the hard work she put into this project. Her leadership skills helped bring all of her peers together to serve the community and a great cause." *Sponsor: Ms. Karen Bernal, Teacher and Student Council Sponsor.*



Grand Saline ISD



Cassidy Milam, 12th grader, **Grand Saline High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Helping the Helpless*** - Cassidy collected funds and items for the Van Zandt County Humane Society. It is a project very dear to her and one she has worked on for five years. She collected 84 food items, toys, cleaning supplies, and \$780 in cash. The donations helped approximately 50 dogs and cats and the staff was grateful for the cash donation which they used to supplement their budget. Cassidy said, "With this being my last year, I worked hard to raise funds. I was happy that I was able to raise funds for the Humane Society for five years. This service project has taught me that giving back is the best feeling in the world." *Sponsor: Ms. Donna Taylor, Student Council Advisor.*

Greenwood ISD

Taylor Callicoatte, 8th grader, **James R. Brooks Middle School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Operation Elf*** - Taylor organized a Christmas Party and those invited were asked to bring a gift for children ages 3-18. The collected toys and gift cards were given to children who receive services from the Centers for Children and Families at the Operation Elf event. This event reached children in over 17 counties. Taylor also volunteered at the event helping the children with different craft projects. Taylor said, "If you make a project fun, it is easier to get it done." Taylor's sponsor, Mrs. Ann Bradford, said, "I enjoyed having Taylor volunteer at the Centers for Children and Families this year. She is always a dedicated young volunteer and the children enjoy having a young person at the event as well." *Sponsor: Mrs. Ann Bradford, Family Friend.*



Hawkins ISD

Emalee Chappa, 7th grader, **Hawkins Middle School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **The Pencil Project*** - Emalee organized a drive at Hawkins Middle School and Hawkins High School to collect pencils and erasers to deliver to 180 children who attend the three room Elfrida Brooks School in Roatan, Honduras. They collected over 500 pencils and erasers for the school. Emalee said, "I learned that many things we take for granted can be treasures to others." *Sponsor: Mrs. Julie Chappa, Parent.*



Houston ISD



Camille Abaya, 7th grader, **T. H. Rogers Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: Joy and Music for Treemont Retirement Community - Camille, along with two other students, put together 50 gift bags that were handed out to the residents of the Treemont Retirement Community. After giving out the gift bags to the excited residents, they performed several violin duets. The residents enjoyed the wonderful Spring/Easter surprise, especially the spotlight for Mrs. Ellen Hunt, who was turning 105 in a few months. Camille said, "I was surprised by the residents' interest in Education in Action, and the amount of appreciation they showed us. I think we showed the residents that the younger generation still cares about them." Sponsor: **Mrs. Susan Skipton**, Girl Scout Troop Leader.

Rahul Dsilva, 12th grader, **DeBakey High School for Health Professions**, 6th year member

Project: Bridge the Gap - Rahul organized and carried out a number of activities at the Colonial Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Pearland. He spent much time with the residents listening to their stories, playing games, and providing companionship to them. This gave the caretakers more time to focus on other tasks while Rahul provided company to the residents. Rahul said, "By volunteering at Colonial Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care, I helped bridge the gap that often forms between the elders, who have so much to share, and the youngsters, who have so much to learn." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jean Dsilva**, Parent.

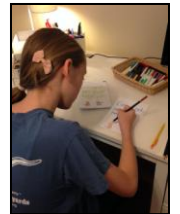


Rohit Dsilva, 9th grader, **DeBakey High School for Health Professions**, 3rd year member

Project: Helping the Elderly - Rohit volunteered at the Colonial Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The residents really enjoyed the activities that he entertained them with, such as playing board games, listening to their life stories, and reading books to them. This made them feel less lonely and more appreciated as if they were in their own homes. Sponsor: **Mrs. Jean Dsilva**, Parent.

Claire Gore, 7th grader, **Pine Oak Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Adoption Thank You Cards for Citizens for Animal Protection Houston (CAPS) - Claire and her friends made 80 adoption thank you cards so one could be given to each pet adopter. The thank you cards helped to promote the adoption of more shelter animals when the recipients talked with others about receiving them. Claire said, "I love to help others so this was a project very close to my heart." Sponsor: **Mrs. Clavel Abaya**, Family Friend.



Humble ISD



Molly McShane, 12th grader, **Kingwood High School**, 5th year member

Project: Helping Texas Children's Hospital - Molly continued her support of Texas Children's Hospital by supplying board games, books, and other supplies. These items were used by patients as well as those visiting the hospital to help pass the time. Molly said, "I have always felt such a sense of satisfaction when I have been able to help Texas Children's Hospital. They are always so grateful for my support." Sponsor: **Mrs. Claire McShane**, Parent.

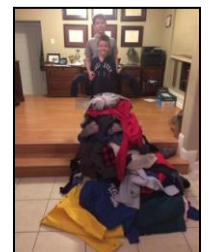


Jordan Neal, 6th grader, **Atascocita Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Recycle - The Possibilities Are Endless - After researching the benefits of recycling, Jordan organized plastic bottle and aluminum can collections at her middle school and the feeder elementary schools. Jordan's community benefited because the environment was cleaner as a result of her efforts. Jordan said, "I personally learned a lot about our ecosystem and how extremely important recycling is for all of us." Jordan's sponsor, Ms. Chrystal Nichols, said, "Jordan really showed her commitment to recycling by going to the schools weekly to collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans. She was quite the ambassador for promoting the many benefits of recycling." Sponsor: **Ms. Chrystal Nichols**, Counselor.

Aden Smith, 8th grader, **Atascocita Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Winter Clothing Drive for Humble Area Associated Ministries (H.A.A.M.) - Aden and his friends held a winter clothing drive at Atascocita Middle School. They publicized the event and had a great turnout. They collected 142 articles of clothing which were donated to H.A.A.M. and then distributed to the homeless and sold in the thrift store. Aden said, "It was hard to get the project coordinated, but in the end it paid off with a ton of donations for those who are in need." Sponsor: **Mrs. Wendy DeGood**, School Administration.



Hutto ISD



Mara Manskie, 9th grader, **Hutto High School**, 2nd year member

Project: Fleece Navidad - Mara recruited volunteers from the National Honor Society at Hutto High School. Together the group made 10 blankets which they donated to a local nursing home. The residents who previously didn't have a blanket were very grateful to receive their cozy, warm blankets. Mara said, "Through this project I learned how to help others in need and how to feel very good about helping my community." Mara's sponsor, Mrs. Denise Adams, said, "Mara's quilt project benefited not only the people who received them but also the students who helped her. She showed students a simple way to help others in a fun, creative way." Sponsor: **Mrs. Denise Adams**, National Honor Society Coordinator/Teacher.



Keller ISD

Amalia McClure, 7th grader, **Hillwood Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Animal Help Committee** - Amalia and her volunteers collected donations of food and treats for Fort Worth Animal Care and Control. Their donation of eight very large bags of food and many treats were enjoyed by the dogs and cats at the shelter and the staff was very grateful to receive the items. Amalia said, "I am glad I got to give homeless puppies and kittens some food and treats to enjoy while they wait to be adopted." Sponsor: Ms. Susan Chapman, Teacher.*

Braydon Thomas, 6th grader, **Trinity Meadows Intermediate School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Thanking Our Troops** - Braydon gathered some of his friends and they made appreciation cards for our military troops. Once the cards were delivered, the troops were very happy knowing that people at home appreciated the job they were doing. Braydon said, "I gained the satisfaction of knowing that I made people know and feel in their hearts that they were appreciated for the jobs they do." Braydon's sponsor, Father Flynn, said, "Though Christmas is a festive time, we need to remember those in the military who give their time and lives for others." Sponsor: **Father Flynn**, Parish Priest, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.*



Sam Walker, 11th grader, **Keller High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Keller High School Theatre Cares** - Sam enlisted the help of his technical theatre class at Keller High School to organize the school's unwanted and unused costumes, equipment, and props. Once everything was organized, a message was sent to all Keller ISD middle schools about the availability of the items. Since the items were not in their budgets, the schools were able to have access to items that were valuable to their theatre departments. Sam said, "While not my biggest project, I do feel like it helped out other theatre departments." Sponsor: **Mrs. Clarissa Shirley**, Teacher.*

La Jova ISD

Daniel Hernandez, 6th grader, **Cesar Chavez Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Operation Community** - Daniel organized a food drive for the Palm Valley Animal Center and collected more than 250 pounds of dog food. Everyone, both the humans and the animals, were thankful for the additional dog food. Daniel also entertained the adults at the Mi Jardin Adult Day Care with his piano playing. Everyone loved the music and enjoyed singing along. Daniel said, "I learned that you are never too young to help others." Sponsor: **Fernando Hernandez**, Parent.*



Lamar Consolidated ISD

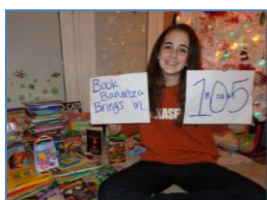
Sarah Leonard, 5th grader, **Manford Williams Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Help A Furry Friend** - Sarah, with the help of her friends, organized a drive to benefit the Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. They collected food, toys, blankets, collars, leashes, and a variety of other supplies for the animals. Obviously the happiest participants in this project were the shelter animals and the staff was very appreciative of the supplies as well. Sarah said, "It supported me and gave me confidence in whatever I do now in my everyday life." Sarah's sponsor, Mrs. Medlow, said, "I am very happy that Sarah did this to benefit the animals. It was great for her to let other people help her with it." Sponsor: **Mrs. Medlow**, Principal.*

Leander ISD

Brandon Racht, 9th grader, **Vandegrift High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Pet Food Drive** - Brandon involved his neighborhood via email and set up collection sites for pet donations at Tomlinson's Pet Supply Store to make it convenient for those who wanted to donate. Brandon collected 53 bags of dog food, treats, animal toys, pet sweaters, blankets and towels, and cash donations. All the donated items and cash were given to the Austin Animal Shelter for the cats and dogs to enjoy. Brandon said, "I learned that my community, Austin, Texas, is very supportive and generous about helping the adorable animals at the shelter and that it is a great feeling to help others." Sponsor: **Mrs. Melody Morton**, Teacher.*



Lewisville ISD

Kaeyla Hulsebus, 8th grader, **Creek Valley Middle School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Book Bonanza** - Kaeyla organized a book drive for the Children's Medical Center in Plano. The 105 books collected were delivered to the library at the Children's Medical Center where they are available for patients and visitors to use. Kaeyla said, "I was very pleased with how many books I collected. It made me think that I am very blessed and it has made me a better person. I love contributing to my community." Sponsor: **Ms. Dawn Hulsebus**, Parent.*

Trevan Lovelace, 7th grader, **Griffin Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Assisting the Food Pantry** - Trevan organized a group to help Metro Relief, a local food pantry. They weeded the garden and did other landscaping, straightened up the food storage areas, and dated all the canned goods. Trevan said, "Helping Metro Relief gave me insight into what people in need have to go through on an everyday basis." Trevan's sponsor, Mrs. Pamela DeSantiago, said, "Trevan Lovelace was a dedicated volunteer who showed a great deal of leadership and initiative." Sponsor: **Mrs. Pamela DeSantiago**, Family Friend.*



Connor Watson, 6th grader, **Arbor Creek Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Holiday Helper* - Connor and his brothers partnered with Frisco Family Services and worked in the Thanksgiving Meal Program. They shopped and prepared Thanksgiving Meal Boxes to provide families everything they needed to cook a special Thanksgiving meal and spend quality time with each other. They also helped with Frisco Family Services' Holiday Store program by



shopping and helping stock the Frisco Family Services store with gifts for seniors and teens so that families in need could shop (at no charge) for gifts. And on their family trip to Birmingham, Alabama, Connor and his brothers helped prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinner at a homeless shelter. Connor said, "*The holidays are a favorite time of year for me and my family. Now I realize that there are many, even here in Frisco, Texas, who miss out on the holiday magic because they don't have even the basics. It felt really good to be able to do something for them. I have so much more than I need and I really enjoyed sharing my blessings with others.*" Sponsor: **Mrs. Amy Leonard**, Teacher.

Lockhart ISD

Abigail Raxter, 7th grader, **Lockhart Junior High School**, 3rd year member

Project: *Christmas Cheer at the Golden Age Assisted Living Center* - During the holiday season, Abigail and her friends visited the Golden Age Assisted Living Center. They provided a Christmas program for the residents, sang carols, and listened to the residents' stories. While visiting with them they distributed Christmas cards and candy canes. Later they visited with the residents who were unable to attend the program and gave them cards and candy canes. Abigail said, "*It was an absolute joy to me to see how much the residents enjoyed our visit.*" Sponsor: **Mrs. Beth Blome**, Grandmother.

Lone Oak ISD

Bradon Lynch, 6th grader, **Lone Oak Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Coins for Kids* - Bradon organized a drive to collect coins to purchase school supplies for Lone Oak Middle School students in need. He collected \$600 to provide Back-to-School supplies for those students. Bradon said, "*I have gained a lot of confidence leading this coin drive and I was very pleased to be able to help others.*" Sponsor: **Mrs. Tammy Ragsdale**, BETA Coordinator.



Lovejoy ISD



Jessica James, 12th grader, **Lovejoy High School**, 4th year member

Project: *Helping Those Less Fortunate* - Jessica sewed 100 washcloths into hygiene kits for the residents of the Samaritan Inn of McKinney. There were 25 kits each for children, teenagers, women, and men. Each kit contained a travel size shampoo and conditioner, Q-tips, hair ties, cotton balls, a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, body and face soap, and lotion. The kits for adults and teenagers also contained razors. The residents, who hardly have any possessions of their own, were excited to receive the kits. Jessica said, "*This service project really made me stop and think. I realized that not everyone has grown up with the wonderful advantages as me. I need to be more appreciative of the things I have and realize how very lucky I am that my family can afford health insurance.*" Sponsor: **Mrs. Nancy Sharp McCasland**, Grandmother.

Lubbock ISD

William Norfleet, 8th grader, **Cavazos Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Christmas Toy Drive* - William collected toys and clothing through donations from his class at Cavazos Middle School. The donations were given to the Church of the Blessed to be distributed during the Christmas season to needy families served by the church. William said, "*Even when things get hard, keep trying and you can meet your goal.*" Sponsor: **Miss Jessie Cayton**, Teacher.



Mansfield ISD



Nicolas Ciggelakis, 11th grader, **Mansfield Lake Ridge High School**, 4th year member

Project: *CANS for Mansfield* - Nicolas placed collection boxes in his school's journalism classes so students could bring canned goods for the Wesley Mission Center, an organization which delivers food to needy families in Mansfield ISD. His efforts assisted many needy families in the Mansfield area. Nicolas said, "*From this service project I realized how it is possible to directly help my local community. I realized that my community has an active organization that is trying to help those in need and I am very proud to have collected canned foods on their behalf to assist the Wesley Mission Center in achieving their goals.*" Sponsor: **Ms. Karen Depaul**, Teacher.

Midland ISD

Wilson Clark, 12th grader, **Robert E. Lee High School**, 7th year member

Project: *Toys for Cops* - For five months during the 2014-2015 school year, Wilson led a drive to collect over 5,000 new toys. The toys were given to children in crisis situations in five Texas counties. Wilson said, "*Children in crisis situations feel more comfortable with the gift of a toy. My goal is that every child going through a crisis situation receives a new toy to let them know someone cares about them.*" Sponsor: **Mrs. Lathrice Davis**, Honors Chemistry and Physics Teacher.





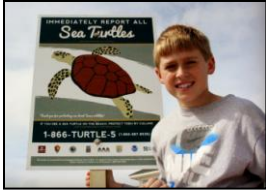
Midway ISD

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

*Project: **Baby Basics** - Sarah, her sister Victoria, and four volunteers made posters and publicized a drive to collect baby items which were donated to CareNet of Central Texas. The donated baby items were given to single mothers who need help supporting their children. Sarah said, "This project helped me become a stronger leader by giving me an opportunity to be active in my community and to help others." Sponsor: **Mrs. Elizabeth Scott**, Teacher.*

Victoria Logan, 8th grader, **Midway Middle School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Baby Basics** - Victoria, her sister Sarah, and four volunteers made posters and publicized a drive to collect baby items which were donated to CareNet of Central, Texas. The donated baby items were given to single mothers who need help supporting their children. Victoria said, "Through this service project with my sister, I certainly got a better understanding of how to be a leader and how I can do more to help in my community." Sponsor: **Mr. John Choins**, Teacher.*



Montgomery ISD

Ryan Cockrill, 5th grader, **Montgomery Intermediate School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Treasure Island Beach Clean Up - Brazoria County** - Along with eight volunteers, Ryan spent 20 hours cleaning the Treasure Island beaches near San Luis Pass in Brazoria County. Their efforts helped provide a safer nesting environment for endangered sea turtles. Ryan also spent time with the volunteers at the NOAA Facility in Galveston studying nesting patterns and the importance of eliminating marine pollution in order to maximize the sea turtles' available food supply. Ryan said, "One beach, one coastline, and even one ocean at a time, we can make a difference in the lives of these animals. With every small plastic bag or piece of rope I picked up, I felt like I was making a safer, happier environment for the sea turtles and marine life. It felt good to share the importance of keeping our beaches clean with other children." Sponsor: **Ms. Kathy Wheat**, Teacher.*

Navarro ISD

Lindsi Thormahlen, 7th grader, **Navarro Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Tutoring Our Future** - Lindsi was able to set up a tutoring schedule for students who were struggling with math. The children who took advantage of her tutoring services dramatically improved their math skills. Lindsi said, "Helping these kids has shown me that you're not going to better unless you want to work at it and apply yourself." Sponsor: **Mrs. Donna Ewald**, Teacher.*



North East ISD

Danielle DeLaPaz, 11th grader, **Ronald Reagan High School**, 6th year member

*Project: **Dancing Petals** - During the Easter/Lent season, Danielle visited the Coronado Assisted Living Center and shared her love of dance with them. She entertained the residents with her wonderful dancing. After her performance, she listened to them speak about their past experiences with the arts while she shared a more contemporary point of view. Danielle said, "In completing this service project, I gained a better understanding of the community I live in. I not only gained knowledge but I gained leadership skills from this experience as well." Sponsor: **Grace Chapa**, Retired Counselor.*

Northwest ISD

Zoie Harris, 6th grader, **Truett Wilson Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Lend A Paw** - Zoie recruited family and friends to collect monetary donations as well as canned dog and cat food, blankets, and towels for the Humane Society of North Texas. The animals were given warm blankets and toys. The staff was pleased to receive the supplies and monetary donation. Zoie quoted Mahatma Gandhi when she said, "Happiness is when what you think and what you do are in harmony." She went on to say, "I learned that all animals matter just as much as people." Sponsor: **Mrs. Danielle Harris**, Parent.*



Orange Grove ISD

Talee Oaks, 6th grader, **Orange Grove Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Kidknits: American Doll and Me** - Talee recruited five friends and some family members to help her knit hats. She purchased eight Kidknits kits and 25 balls of yarn and then they all sat down to learn how to knit. Each Kidknit kit that is sold pays one day's salary of a widowed woman in Rawanda or Chile. The widows and children of Rawanda and Chile have been able to make a better life for themselves through being paid wages for their work at Kidknits. They can now feed their families and provide a safe place to live. Talee said, "It feels great being able to help contribute to widowed women and their children living in poverty on the other side of the world. Being able to convince others to help me in this project certainly helped make me a stronger leader." Sponsor: **Ms. Christie Warren**, ELA Teacher.*



Paris ISD

Reagan Benson, 9th grader, **Paris High School**, 1st year member

Project: Downtown Food Pantry Plastic Bag Drive - Reagan led a plastic bag drive at Aidin Elementary School for the month of January. Reagan and two friends then sorted, counted, and flattened the bags so they were ready to be used. Reagan collected 8,500 bags for reuse at the Downtown Food Pantry. The Operations Director said Reagan had given them enough bags for their clients' groceries for a whole month. Reagan said, "I love doing something to help someone else. Not only did I have lots of fun, but I

am happy knowing that I have impacted someone's life for the better." Reagan's sponsor, Mrs. Lori Benson, said, "Reagan did a great job of planning and executing her service project. The Downtown Food Pantry was very appreciative of her hard work. The Student Council at Aikin Elementary School thought the project was such a good idea, that they are going to run the bag drive permanently." Sponsor: **Mrs. Lori Benson**, Parent.

Pearland ISD

Susan Cleary, 8th grader, **Pearland Junior High West**, 1st year member

Project: Project Sew Snuggles - Susan recruited 26 volunteers and together they made 22 blankets which they donated to Project Linus, a non-profit organization that makes and delivers handmade blankets to children facing crises. The children who receive the blankets are either very ill, belong to families in need, or have been traumatized. Susan said, "I'm happy that the community benefited from everyone's work. I hope that the kids who received the blankets know how much love was put into them." Sponsor: **Ms. Dawn Drew**, Teacher.



Eric Li, 8th grader, **Pearland Junior High West**, 3rd year member

Project: Life Initiative for Technology - Eric and his family collected and refurbished over 140 electronics and recycled over 2400 pounds of electronics. The electronics that were put in working order again were donated to a Galveston orphanage, Boys & Girls Harbor Campus. They also donated computers, alarm clocks, radios, and some clothing items. In addition, Eric collected the computers at Houston ISD's Isaacs Elementary School, refurbished them, and returned them. Eric said, "I realized that by including some people, they would tell others, and eventually the project would become much bigger, which makes it a more successful project." Sponsor: **Mrs. Kimberly Dennehy**, Teacher.

Kyle Neitzey, 11th grader, **Glenda Dawson High School**, 6th year member

Project: Putts for Cans - Kyle raised money and collected canned goods successfully with his annual Golf-A-Thon for Christian Helping Hands. Kyle has done this project for the last few years and many people have been served through his efforts. Kyle said, "I have gained a sense of pride in helping my community through my donations." Kyle's sponsor, Mr. Jason Adams, said, "Even though I'm not that great at putting, I'm very proud of Kyle." Sponsor: **Mr. Jason Adams**, Youth Group Minister.



Plano ISD

Brennan Barker, 8th grader, **Murphy Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Positive Change Project Benefiting The Wounded Warrior Project - Brennan placed collection jars at Murphy Middle School and advertised that he was collecting proceeds for the Wounded Warrior Project, a military and veterans charity empowering injured veterans and their families. After all the proceeds were totaled, he was able to send a check for \$2,157.22 to the Wounded Warrior Project. Brennan said, "I learned that even the smallest amount can make a big difference." Sponsor: **Ms. Amber Evans**, Choir Director.

Marigrace McDowell, 7th grader, **Robinson Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Helping the HIPsters - Marigrace hosted a supply drive to benefit My Possibilities, an organization that provides continuing education for special needs adults, also known as HIPsters (Hugely Important People). Marigrace collected 209 rolls of paper towels, 358 rolls of toilet paper, and 501 bottles of hand sanitizer. This project became a school-wide effort and the classes that donated the most items were rewarded with a basketball shooting contest against the coaches, in front of the entire school. Marigrace said, "Doing this wasn't easy, but it was worth it because I love helping people with special needs, and it has taught me that making a difference is possible even at a young age." Sponsor: **Ms. Billie Jean Lee**, Principal.



Prosper ISD

Mattie Robinson, 12th grader, **Prosper High School**, 6th year member

Project: Angel Tree - Mattie joined with the Prosper Ladies Association and handled the Angel Tree project for their Market Place Bazaar during the holidays. One hundred twenty families in Prosper received gifts with proceeds from the Bazaar. Mattie said, "It was an awesome experience and rewarding to see the faces of the families as they received their Christmas gifts." Sponsor: **Mrs. Lena Smith**, President, Prosper Ladies Association.





Salado ISD

Joshua Cannon, 9th grader, **Salado High School**, 1st year member

Project: Peer Tutoring - Joshua tutored several students to help them better understand the subject matter. The students began receiving better grades and, therefore, the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. Joshua said, "From this tutoring service project, I learned that I need to set myself apart from the norm and be proud of what I have achieved." Sponsor: **Mr. Scott Ringo**, Teacher.

San Angelo ISD

Kinley Martin, 9th grader, **Central High School**, 2nd year member

Project: Canned Food Drive for Rust Street Ministries - Kinley gathered 12 friends to collect canned foods for the Rust Street Ministries in San Angelo. The families who received the canned goods were thankful for the generosity. Kinley said, "I realize the lack of care within the community, so we need to step up and be the leaders in our community." Kinley's sponsor, Mrs. Kristin Lasiter, said, "Watching these kids work makes me proud because I know they care about the community and that our future is in some caring and loving hands." Sponsor: **Mrs. Kristin Lasiter**, Spiritual Leader.

South Texas ISD

Erika Miller, 9th grader, **South Texas Business, Education and Technology Academy**, 2nd year member

Project: Cinderella Pet Project - Erika conducted a drive to collect food, pet supplies, and toys for the Cinderella Pet Shelter. Their efforts helped the animals at the shelter live more comfortably until they get adopted by loving families. Erika said, "I learned that it won't happen unless you make it happen." Sponsor: **Ms. Garza**, Librarian.



Sunnyvale ISD

Joey Rosato, 12th grader, **Sunnyvale High School**, 5th year member

Project: Assisting the Elderly - Joey worked with his aunt, a physical therapist, at The Manor in Seagoville. He helped the residents with their individual exercise and therapy plans while listening to their fascinating stories. The residents enjoyed seeing a new face and had fun during their exercises. Joey said, "I was surprised at what a great time I had helping the residents. Their stories were very cool and we really had a wonderful day." Sponsor: **Ms. Kristi Rosato**, Physical Therapist.

Sweeny ISD

Alexis Mack, 7th grader, **Sweeny Junior High School**, 1st year member

Project: Snowflakes and Angels Project - Alexis organized a collection of over 150 chapsticks and then decorated them with paper snowflakes and angels. She delivered them to Windsong Retirement Facility and Rehabilitation in Pearland and Pilgrim Place in Houston. The residents at both the facilities enjoyed her company and cheerful gifts. Alexis said, "I enjoyed seeing the smiles on the people's faces when we delivered the chapsticks. It felt good to talk to the elderly and learn about their lives." Sponsor: **Mr. Mark Manley**, CTE Teacher.



Wheeler ISD

Kaitlyn Jones, 11th grader, **Wheeler High School**, 2nd year member

Project: Tutoring for Wheeler Students - Kaitlyn organized a tutoring service for students needing and/or wanting extra help. She and a friend tutored four students. The students who took advantage of the tutoring were grateful for the opportunity to have more one-on-one time learning their material. Kaitlyn said, "I enjoyed this project because I was able to help other students and share my knowledge. I was also able to expand my own way of learning by collaborating with their teachers and learning new and updated ways of solving problems. This project allowed me to help other students find a more efficient way of studying and completing assignments." Kaitlyn's sponsor, Mrs. Lacie Franks, said, "Providing a tutoring service to Wheeler ISD has opened up new doors of accomplishment for our school and its students. Kaitlyn's tutoring service has also opened up new opportunities of achievement and growth for all the parties involved. I feel that she has provided this school an unlimited amount of care and consideration for her fellow classmates that can only be met with admiration and respect for a girl with such passion for assisting others in reaching their academic potential." Sponsor: **Mrs. Lacie Franks**, English Teacher.



Whitehouse ISD

Caden Black, 5th grader, **Brown Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: Giving While Giving - Caden enlisted his National Elementary Honor Society class to collect 350 toiletry and personal care items. The group filled 50 gift bags for distribution by the Meals on Wheels Association of Whitehouse, Texas. The Meals on Wheels recipients received toiletries that they were unable to afford themselves. Caden said, "Even though my project had its ups and downs, in the end I felt really good that we had helped the Whitehouse community." Caden's sponsor, Mrs. Nicole Moore, said, "Caden showed strong leadership skills when he brought his service project idea to me. He had things well thought out and was willing to adjust his ideas as we discussed the options. The end result was amazing for everyone involved." Sponsor: **Mrs. Nicole Moore**, Teacher/N.E.H.S. advisor.



Wylie ISD

Elisabeth Teitelman, 11th grader, **Wylie East High School**, 4th year member

Project: In-Sync Exotics Supply Drive - Elisabeth recruited Wylie East High School's Student Council members to help her gather supplies to share with In-Sync Exotics, a big cat rehabilitation facility in Wylie. They collected hand sanitizer, paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, spray bottles, and laundry detergent. Because of the large number of helpers Elisabeth had, they were able to gather a large quantity of supplies and the In-Sync staff was very pleased since they operate on a very tight budget. Elisabeth said, *"Knowing I was able to personally help out a local organization means the world to me. I got to see the impact my service project made on our community and that in itself was the biggest reward."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Angela Arp**, Student Council Advisor.



Charter Schools

Khalia Simon, 6th grader, **Harmony School of Innovation**, 2nd year member

Project: Bath/Bedroom Supplies for Fort Worth Ronald McDonald House - Khalia recruited three friends to help collect supplies for the Fort Worth Ronald McDonald House. Between November 2014 and March 2015, Khalia and her helpers collected over 100 items from the monthly wish list provided by Ronald McDonald House. The families who stay in the Ronald McDonald House while their children are being cared for at Cook Children's Hospital were grateful for these small items because it gave them one less thing to worry about in an unfamiliar town. Khalia said, *"This project was dear to my heart because I normally volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House on the weekends, so I was able to see how important my chosen project was for the families staying at the House."* Sponsor: **Mr. Brian Czulno**, Teacher.



Alisha Sircar, 9th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 4th year member

Project: Christmas is for Children - With the support of her school and her neighborhood, Alisha was able to collect both money and boxed cereal to be given to underprivileged children through the Christmas is for Children organization. Alisha said, *"It is very rewarding to give to these children, particularly during the holidays."* Sponsors: **Mrs. Melissa Sircar and Mrs. Kelly Lynch**, Parents.



Anisse Sircar, 12th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 6th year member

Project: Christmas is for Children - Anisse serves as co-coordinator for Christmas is for Children. This is a project she has headed up for several years. During that time she and her friend, Micayla, have personally helped adopt out almost 400 children who then receive their entire list of Christmas gifts as well as a food basket. Anisse said, *"I have been very pleased to lead this Christmas effort on behalf of these children. Micayla and I have had incredible success and provided all with Christmas gifts and a food basket."* Sponsors: **Mrs. Melissa Sircar and Mrs. Kelly Lynch**, Parents.

Private Schools

Reese Carson, 6th grader, **Liberty Christian School**, 1st year member

Project: Lower School Mentor - Reese spent six weeks with the Lower School as a mentor and tutor providing help and academic support to students in grades 1-5. There were students Reese saw on a regular basis as well as 'drop-ins'. Reese said, *"I enjoyed being a mentor to the Lower School students. One of the things I like best about Liberty Christian is the opportunity to help the students in the Lower School."* Reese's sponsor, Dr. Josh Williams, said, *"Reese chose his service project based on his desire to mentor our Lower School students. He did a great job and the younger students really benefited from his help."* Sponsor: **Dr. Josh Williams**, Middle School Principal.



Matthew DeGuzman, 8th grader, **St. John Paul II Catholic School**, 1st year member

Project: Quality Time with the Elderly - Matthew organized visits to the Spanish Meadow Nursing Home. He visited with the residents, organized bingo games, and assisted the residents with small tasks. Matthew said, *"I learned that love can come in all shapes and sizes, in deeds both big and small."* Matthew's sponsor, Mr. Fely Monte Castro, said, *"Matthew was able to bring joy to others simply by spending time with the residents of Spanish Meadow Nursing Home."* Sponsor: **Mr. Fely Monte Castro**, Activity Coordinator.

Landry Luebbert, 5th grader, **North Texas Leadership Academy**, 1st year member

Project: Caroling for the Elderly - Landry and her friends visited three nursing homes; Isle at Watermere, the Landing at Watermere, and Heritage House at Keller Rehabilitation and Nursing where she has a personal connection through her great grandfather. They all had a great time visiting and singing Christmas carols together. Landry said, *"I used to be nervous in a nursing home but after this experience I would be happy to visit a nursing home again."* Landry's sponsor, Ms. Leigh Taylor, said, *"I am so proud of Landry. She volunteered her time in a manner that has brought joy to so many people."* Sponsor: **Ms. Leigh Taylor**, Teacher.



Hayden McCormick, 9th grader, **Saint Stephen's Episcopal School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Food Drive for the Capital Area Food Bank** - Hayden and a fellow Boy Scout solicited food donations throughout Hayden's neighborhood for the Capital Area Food Bank. Together they collected 223 food items. Hayden said, "I've learned about the generosity of others and how, if you just ask them to donate to a worthy cause, they are more than willing to do so." Sponsor: **Mr. Frank Mikan**, Advisor.*

Erica Pavliska, 9th grader, **Sacred Heart High School**, 1st year member

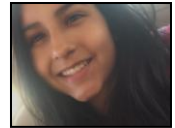
*Project: **Feed the Need** - Erica organized a clothing and food drive at school during the season of Lent. The clothing items were donated to the LAMB Thrift Store and the food to the Manna Food Pantry. Erica said, "This project was rewarding and made me feel good about helping out the less fortunate in my community. It made me appreciate my blessings." Erica's sponsor, Ms. Ruth Barton, said, "Erica is a good young leader and this project fit nicely into our school community. She had a good response and Sacred Heart is proud to have been able to help her with this project." Sponsor: **Ms. Ruth Barton**, School Administration.*

Bedrick Topovich, 11th grader, **North Hills Preparatory School**, 3rd year member

joined with

Bithiah Topovich, 8th grader, **North Hills Preparatory School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Itty Bitty Kitty Committee** - Bedrick and Bithia captured the stray cats in their neighborhood that had little or no food or care. After they cleaned and fed them they took them to an Irving no-kill shelter to be checked by a vet and give the cats the possibility of being adopted. Both the cats and the community benefited from Bithiah and Bedrick's efforts. Bedrick and Bithiah said, "These animals needed help. We provided a service for our community because many don't have the time or the interest in caring for these cats." Sponsors: **Ms. Tamara Tamez and Marlene Topovich**, Teacher and Parent.*



Out of State Participants

Kollin Fitch, 10th grader, **Sevier County High School, Sevier County, Tennessee**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Sevier County Food Ministries** - Every Friday Kollin volunteers at the Food Ministries, which serves approximately 1,500 people each week, to help get food from the bulk stage to the final step of distribution. Over the holidays, he organized and led a group of students from the KSB Teen Advisory Board to pick up the extra loads that the Food Ministries experience at that time of year. Kollin said, "I am working to bring awareness to the community so that none in Sevier County goes hungry. It always amazes me that no matter how much or how little food is in the bags, the families always receive it with a sincere and great amount of appreciation." Sponsor: **Mrs. Charlotte Tatum**, Criminal Justice Teacher.*

Anna Kimata, 9th grader, **Punahou School, Hawaii**, 4th year member

*Project: **Five Months of Christmas** - Anna collected personal toiletries, blankets, stuffed animals, and gift cards from various chain businesses such as Costco and the Marriott Hotel. The items were donated to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. The families were happy to receive things that made them feel more at home and appreciated the gift cards. Anna said, "There were a few obstacles throughout the project. However, by taking away the lessons about communication and organization from the experience, I became a stronger leader." Sponsor: **Mrs. Kimberly Long**, Teacher.*





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