



"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 – 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council



Education in Action is proud to announce 111 outstanding young student leaders successfully completed the 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council alumni program. Members represented 63 school districts, two charter schools, one private school, and one homeschool. This special edition newsletter highlights each of these students and their accomplishments as members of the 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council.

Program and Purpose

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

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

The Education in Action staff commends the accomplishments of the 2011-2012 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.

This year's Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members each completed three online leadership lessons, sold scholarship tickets, and created and led a service project for a cause or group for which they were



**Carolyn Markle,
Alumni Coordinator**

passionate. They chose to take on this responsibility, in addition to their already hectic academic and extracurricular schedules, to improve themselves as leaders. Each of their service projects is highlighted in this newsletter. Through the service projects, they gained actual leadership experience and a real sense of accomplishment by contributing to solving problems by helping others. While learning lessons that will last a lifetime, they made positive contributions to our society and we ALL benefited. I am always amazed at what one person can accomplish for the greater good. As the Alumni Coordinator, I am very, very proud of the hard work and accomplishments of the 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members. I hope you will be inspired as well.

**Carolyn 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

Four of the 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members are high school seniors. Each served on the Council four years. Education in Action recognizes these outstanding seniors for their leadership, dedication, and many accomplishments and presented each senior with a certificate and Texas flag flown over the Texas State Capitol in honor of their graduation. Education in Action wishes these outstanding students the very best as they pursue their dreams and goals.



Taylor Jenkins, Grapevine High School, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

Taylor is President of the National Art Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Student Council. She received an Award of Merit in the state level Reflections Contest. Taylor is also a two-year letterman in basketball. In addition to her many school activities, Taylor is very involved in her community. She volunteers at the Lakefest on Lake Grapevine Concert for Brain Cancer Research and with Keep Grapevine Beautiful. She also participates in the Trail of Tears Walk each year to honor her Choctaw heritage. Taylor will attend The University of Oklahoma or Texas A&M University this fall. She plans to major in biology and become a pharmacist. Taylor's first service project was 'Treats for Troops'. The past three years, Taylor organized clean-up days for Grapevine Lake. She recruited more volunteers each year so the scope of her clean up efforts has grown noticeably. Taylor says she is grateful to Education in Action for the many wonderful memories and friendships she developed through the programs. She feels the real benefits of being a Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member are growing her leadership and team-building skills and developing a true sense of community.



Jordan James, Lovejoy High School, Lovejoy ISD

Jordan is in the top 10% of her class and an AP Scholar with Distinction. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Class Council, Leadership Council, and Student Council. Jordan won the Lovejoy High School Leadership Award in French 1 and Leadership 1. She is a four year varsity swimmer and winner of the Swim Teach Coach's Award for Lovejoy High School. She has been a member of the same Bible study group for seven years. Jordan will attend Baylor University this fall and plans to major in psychology with a focus on clinical psychology. She is Lovejoy High School's sole nominee for the Davey O'Brien scholarship and a finalist for the Baylor University Carr P. Collins scholarship which focuses on leadership. Her first two years on the Council, she organized tutoring classes for first and second graders. For her third project, Jordan cataloged and organized everything in the Lovejoy High School Theatre Department. This year, Jordan collected toiletries and wash cloths for an orphanage in Costa Rica. Jordan says, "Education in Action has truly molded me into the leader I am today. The program has encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and to take the initiative. I'm so thankful for the program and all it has taught me about leadership and myself."



Jenelle Milam, Grand Saline High School, Grand Saline ISD

Jenelle is ranked number one in her class. She is president of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Student Council, secretary of the FFA, and a band officer. Jenelle is also a 2011 Governor's Academy of Teaching Excellence Scholar. Jenelle received the Texas Tuition Waiver for graduating as class valedictorian and will attend Texas A&M University this fall. She plans to double major in business and mathematics and obtain her teaching certification. Her future plans include pursuing a Master's degree, becoming a high school math teacher, and perhaps, a college math professor. Jenelle spearheaded the same service project for four years and watched it grow. She chose her project to honor the memory of her grandmother who taught her that giving back is the most rewarding gift of all. For her project, Jenelle organized groups of students to gather, wrap, and distribute gifts to nursing home residents at Christmastime. She also planned parties for the residents. Jenelle credits Education in Action with helping her to become an effective student leader and to come out of her comfort zone with groups of people.



Lauren Rogers, Hanna High School, Brownsville ISD

As a member of the varsity chess team, Lauren received several top ten individual scores and team first place finishes in numerous state and national tournaments. Lauren is also an All-American cheerleader. As a cheerleader, she was chosen to represent America in London, was named a Dance Diva, received a Team Leadership Award, and was voted Most Dedicated. Additionally, Lauren was named Grand Champion in the District Science Fair Competition, received second place in the Regional competition, Microbiology Division, and placed second in Brainsville at District. In theater, Lauren received the Ultimate Director Award, the Ultimate Director for All of Theater Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award. In the fall, Lauren will attend Milligan College in Tennessee on a \$97,000 Goal Scholarship. She plans to double major in communications and public relations. For this year's service project, Lauren collected non-perishable items to be given to families affected by the Bastrop wildfires. In past years, she collected money for victims of the Haitian earthquake and recruited a group of 40 students to help her create a native butterfly habitat garden at her school. Lauren says, "Being a member of the Alumni Council has given me the opportunity to create bonds with my advisors/sponsors in a way that helped me to be a better leader and better acquainted with the needs of my community."

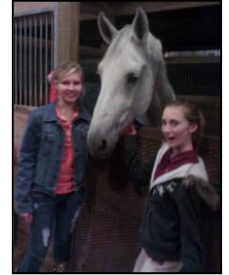
2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council Members and Service Projects

A list of 2011-2012 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members by school district follows along with a description of each member's service project and the name of their project sponsor.

Allen ISD

Cristina Smith, 9th grader, **Lowery Freshman Center**, 1st year member

Project: Bake Sale for The Arts and Music Guild - Cristina, along with two other students, baked items and sold books and prints for the Art Guild in McKinney. The bake and print sale netted \$80 which went into a fund for children's activities at the Art and Music Guild. Cristina said, *"It felt good to be able to lead people my own age. I enjoyed organizing the project and giving the money to the Guild so kids can have more chances to do art."* Sponsor: **Ms. Anne Royer**, Art Teacher.



Alvin ISD

Mackenzie Husband, 7th grader, **Manvel Junior High School**, 1st year member

Project: Lending a Helping Hand - Mackenzie and 12 others volunteered at a horse farm where they completed the daily labor so that the horse trainers and groomers could give extra time and attention to the horses. Mackenzie said, *"I learned that even through hard work, you can have a lot of fun."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Lisa Rodriguez**, Spanish Teacher.

Beeville ISD

Sara Casas, 9th grader, **A.C. Jones High School**, 3rd year member

Project: S.W.A.T. (Students Working Ambitiously To be the best) - Sara formed a service club with her fellow freshman classmates outside of school to do not just one, but monthly service projects. The group researched where the community needed assistance they could provide. The group decorated the courthouse Christmas tree, collected canned food for the annual Community Christmas dinner, donated \$400 to the Vineyard, volunteered at the FUMC Pumpkin Patch, threw a Christmas party for special needs students at their school, and decorated the school for homecoming. In addition, they sold bracelets, buttons and stickers to promote her "No Name Calling" week at Moreno Middle School and used the profits to purchase \$400 of books for the library. Sara said, *"If I want to be extraordinary, which I do, then I have to do extraordinary things."* Sponsor: **Ms. Sandra Herrera**, Teacher.



Burleson ISD

Blake Bodin, 8th grader, **Kerr Middle School**, 3rd year member

Project: Blankets for Cook Children's Hospital Trauma Department - Blake enlisted his family and friends to make blankets for the Cook Children's Hospital Trauma Department. They were able to donate ten blankets to help comfort children who have been traumatized. Blake said, *"I have done this service project for three years. I really enjoy helping the Children's Hospital and the children who come to the trauma department. I really feel like I am helping children in need. As an added bonus, because of all I have seen, I am now looking at a career as an anesthesiologist."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Mary Rogers**, Grandmother.



Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD

McKennon Brown, 5th grader, **Las Colinas Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: Leftover Legos - McKennon and a classmate collected bags of legos and coordinated with two teachers who helped get the legos delivered directly to school teachers near Pondicherry, India. The children in the elementary schools use them for their math, science, and art projects. Before receiving the legos, they used rocks, bottle caps, or twigs. McKennon said, *"I learned that the kids who gave up their legos really cared about the kids in India and wanted to help them."* Sponsor: **Ms. Jill Lynch**, Teacher.

Clear Creek ISD

Savannah Beatty, 9th grader, **Clear Creek High School**, 1st year member

Project: Helping Out at Baywind - Savannah and four volunteers organized a Halloween carnival for the residents of the Baywind Rehabilitation and Nursing Home. Savannah and her friends did arts and crafts with the residents and also performed a dance show. Savannah said, *"I enjoyed knowing that I made the residents happy by visiting them and holding activities for them to participate in. I feel like I became a better leader by helping these people to enjoy a little party."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Lisa Edmunds**, Family Friend.



Kendall Palmer, 10th grader, **Clear Brook High School**, 4th year member

Project: Fashions for Cancer - Kendall recruited seven volunteers to help her create 19 one-of-a-kind fashion sweatpants. Between the sale of the pants and her "Evening of Dance" performance, she raised more than \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Kendall said, *"I learned that when we worked together, we accomplished much more than when I tried to do things on my own, and it was more fun. I was able to use the time with my friends to tell them all about the charity that benefited from our work."* Sponsor: **Ms. Amy Blake**, Dance Studio Director.



Cleveland ISD

Brayden Bell, 8th grader, **Cleveland Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: 'We Care' Christmas Gifts - Brayden and his friends collected gifts from two Cleveland ISD elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and the Air Force Jr. ROTC. They collected enough items to surprise each of the 85 residents at the Cleveland Health Care Center with a special Christmas gift. Brayden said, *"I felt a real sense of accomplishment, self-satisfaction, and pride when we handed out the gifts and saw what a special treat this was for the Cleveland Health Care Center residents."* Sponsor: **Ms. Amber Lee-Walker**, Advanced Placement History Teacher.

Conroe ISD

Sydney Bell, 9th grader, **College Park High School**, 1st year member

Project: Leading Little Christians - Sydney taught a group of children ages three through five about basic qualities of life such as sharing, loving, and appreciating. Sydney said, *"I love children and always have. But, when you see that you are having an impact on the children's lives, you get that warm feeling knowing you have changed a life."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Olivia**, Church Mentor.

Sarah Meidel, 9th grader, **The Academy of Science and Technology**, 3rd year member

Project: Festive Flutes - Holiday Serenades for Local Seniors - Sarah recruited her teacher to help with a holiday program and singalong for 45 seniors at the Eastland Senior Citizens Center. After the program, they stayed to visit with a number of the residents. Sarah said, *"I learned just how heartwarming it is to play in front of senior citizens, especially those who live away from their families. The joy on their faces was evident. I felt like I really made their day."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Charlotte Royall**, Band Director.



Coppell ISD

Sunny Ananthanarayan, 8th grader, **Coppell Middle School North**, 2nd year member

Project: National Night Out 2011 - Sunny and 11 volunteers set-up and coordinated a Block Party. Approximately 75 people from his neighborhood attended. The group provided food, a band, a bounce house, and five other activities for the neighbors to enjoy. During this time, the residents got to know each other and hopefully made a strong connection in order to reduce the crime rate in the neighborhood. Sunny said, *"I spent 215 hours on this project, but I decided, in the end, that the effort was definitely worthwhile and perhaps my project can even become a legacy in my neighborhood."* Sunny's sponsor, Mr. Richard Harr, said, *"...And you're only thirteen?"* Sponsor: **Mr. Richard Harr**, Police Officer.

Ryan Barton, 7th grader, **Coppell Middle School West**, 1st year member

Project: Blankets for the Animal Shelter - Ryan and two volunteers made fleece blankets for the Carrollton Animal Shelter. The dogs benefited from the blankets because they had a nice warm bed while they waited to be adopted. Ryan said, *"I felt good knowing that I had helped an animal who was lost or abandoned."* Sponsor: **Ms. Missy Schliep**, Language Arts Teacher.



Noah Hendrix, 10th grader, **Coppell High School**, 3rd year member

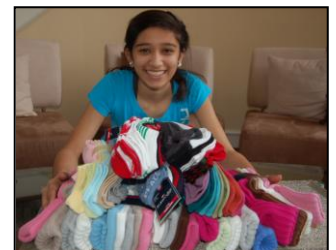
Project: Helping the John F. Kennedy Learning Center - Noah leads an ongoing project painting quotes from President Kennedy around the John F. Kennedy Learning Center in order to teach the kids more about him. The children benefited from these quotes because they enriched their curriculum and helped them understand what an influential figure John F. Kennedy was in history. Noah said, *"This project taught me that you need approval and the help of several outside sources and that it takes skill and perseverance to keep the group on task."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Sharron Conrad**, Curator of Education, Sixth Floor Museum.

Ryan Maloney, 11th grader, **Coppell High School**, 4th year member

Project: Bow Wow Car Wash - Ryan and two volunteers held a car wash and raised \$175 for the Coppell Humane Society. The Humane Society was very glad to get the donation since donated items have decreased in the last few years. Ryan said, *"During the day of the car wash there were some really slow times. This helped me to learn to be more patient in conducting a service project."* Sponsor: **Mr. Keith LeBlanc**, Business Owner.

Sarina Naik, 9th grader, **Coppell High School**, 1st year member

Project: Rock Your Socks Off! - Sarina and her friends collected 52 pairs of socks which they donated to the Salvation Army. The people served by the Salvation Army need small everyday items like socks. Sarina said, *"I felt like part of my community, making a difference and not just focusing on myself. I also feel that I gained stronger leadership skills."* Sponsor: **Mr. Sanjay Naik**, Father.



Corpus Christi ISD

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

*Project: **Siesta Smith/Mission Fit Possible*** - Sarita, along with eight volunteers, created a contest among fourth and fifth graders to encourage them to become more physically fit. Approximately 200 students participated and learned ways to be healthier and improve their lifestyles. Sarita said, *"I feel that I learned much about leadership and organizing others and that I performed a community service."* Sponsor: **Mr. Scott Elliff**, Superintendent of Schools, Corpus Christi ISD.



Jacob Zamarron, 8th grader, **Kaffie Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Songs and Stockings for Seniors*** - Jacob and three recruits, all of whom are in the school orchestra, traveled to different senior residential homes to play Christmas music for the residents to spread holiday cheer. The joy and happiness they saw on the elderly residents' faces as they requested songs was very rewarding. Jacob said, *"I gained a lot of self-confidence because this was the first service project I led on my own. I know I improved my leadership skills as well. It was a very satisfying feeling to bring joy to the residents we met."* Sponsor: **Ms. Patricia Salinas**, Teacher.

Dallas ISD

Jane Medina, 9th grader, **Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts**, 1st year member

*Project: **No Sew Blankets*** - Jane and her friends made five no sew fleece blankets and donated them to the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's Learning Center to be auctioned off at the annual carnival. The auction money purchased new learning materials for the children's learning center. Jane said, *"I feel I became a stronger leader by getting my friends through the process. I was very proud to have helped the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church because they serve so many lower income families."* Sponsor: **Ms. Sara Hatch**, Girl Scout Assistant Leader.



Donna ISD

Jeremiah Cail, 10th grader, **Donna High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **That Extra Word*** - Jeremiah selected three friends to help him find motivational quotes to include in a presentation at D.M. Saucedo Middle School. The students and staff of the middle school were interested in Jeremiah's inspirational speech that offered hope and encouragement to their lives. Jeremiah said, *"It was a great feeling to know that I could have made a difference in the life of even one student."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Karla Hernandez**, Teacher.

Eanes ISD

Bonner Garrison, 10th grader, **Westlake High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Bringing Smiles*** - Bonner and three volunteers organized a clothing and toy drive to benefit the children who visit the Dell Children's Medical Center emergency room. The seven collected bags of clothing and toys gave the hospital personnel the opportunity to send children home in clean clothing since often they arrive with damaged or torn clothes. Bonner said, *"Through this whole process, I learned that my own struggles helped me achieve the success I wanted for this project and to help the children in need."* Bonner's sponsor, Mrs. Jennifer Garrison, said, *"The staff is thankful for the generous donation of clothing and toys from Bonner Garrison and Bringing Smiles. We so appreciate the generous donation which makes a difficult visit to the emergency room just a little bit better."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Jennifer Garrison**, Mother.

Grace Robertson, 10th grader, **Westlake High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Invisible Children Book Drive*** - Grace and her friends held a book drive and collected approximately 500 books for Invisible Children, a non-profit organization. The Invisible Children organization will sell the books online and use the profits to benefit the needs of African children. Grace said, *"I learned many things from this project, but I will never forget how much more I accomplished with the help of my community."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Melissa Dupre**, Student Council Sponsor.



Ector County ISD

Mikayla Ballew, 10th grader, **Odessa High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Treats for Teachers*** - Mikayla made goody bags for the teachers at her former junior high school to encourage them right before the STARR tests. The teachers appreciated the goody bags and felt encouraged to hang in there for the tests. Mikayla said, *"I was amazed that such a little thing can bring so much joy and encouragement to teachers. I was so glad I could do this for them."* Sponsor: **Ms. Katie Nisbet**, History Department Chair.

Fort Bend ISD

Madison Taylor, 7th grader, **Billy Baines Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: *Covers for Cancer* - Madison and a group of 15 recruits created 56 handmade pillow cases to donate to the MD Anderson Kids' Cancer Center and the Texas Children's Cancer Center pediatric wards. The cancer patients appreciated the love and care placed into their own personal pillow cases they received. Madison said, *"It was wonderful to know that something so simple as a unique pillow case could make a child so happy."* Madison's sponsor, Mrs. Kimberly Taylor, said, *"It was a great success that benefited many pediatric cancer children throughout the area."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Kimberly Taylor**, Mother.



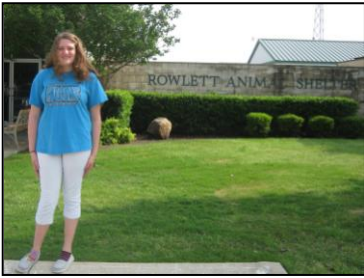
Frisco ISD

Kailani Gonzales, 8th grader, **Clark Middle School**, 3rd year member

Project: *Welcoming New Students - Take II* - Kailani recruited 13 volunteers and four sponsors to help continue her service project she started last year. She provided an immediate, helpful friend to every new student to Clark Middle School and continued her contact with them as they transitioned into their new school. The new students were very grateful for the help getting settled and enjoyed having a friendly face to count on. Kailani said, *"I learned that I can be effective in leading and also made numerous friends in the process. I can make a difference."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Alicia Cobb**, Counselor.

Molly Lammes, 5th grader, **Riddle Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: *Book Drive for Children's Medical Center* - Molly and three friends collected 481 books and magazines which they donated to the libraries of Children's Medical Centers for hospitalized kids and their parents to use. Molly said, *"This was my first year on the Council, so I learned a lot about how to organize a service project. It was very rewarding."* Sponsor: **Ms. Katie Turek**, Fourth Grade Teacher.



Garland ISD

Elisabeth Teitleman, 8th grader, **Schrade Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Donations for Dogs* - Elisabeth, with the help of the National Junior Honor Society, collected supplies to donate to the Rowlett Animal Shelter. The shelter had an increased number of animals, so they were very grateful for the additional supplies. Elisabeth said, *"It was staggering to find out how few supplies are donated to the animal shelter. I felt really good knowing we had helped them through the winter."* Elisabeth's sponsor, Ms. Carli Bannister, said, *"Elisabeth is one of the students who goes above and beyond with tasks. I am mesmerized by her dedication and the perseverance with which she carried out this project."* Sponsor: **Ms. Carli Bannister**, English Teacher.

Grand Prairie ISD

Thomas Bowen, 11th grader, **Grand Prairie High School**, 4th year member

Project: *Student Leader vs. Varsity Volleyball Team - Game to Benefit To Write Love On Her Arms* - Thomas and 11 other students, put on a Student Leader vs. Varsity Volleyball game. Through donations and ticket sales, \$1,400 was raised to support the To Write Love On Her Arms suicide prevention organization. Thomas said, *"There were definitely some obstacles to completing my project, but it was a great feeling to be able to help an organization that helps students who are really in need."* Sponsor: **Mr. Eric Jensen**, Teacher.



Grand Saline ISD

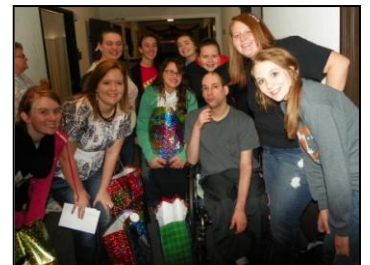
Cassidy Milam, 9th grader, **Grand Saline High School**, 2nd year member

Project: *Helping the Helpless* - Cassidy, with help of the student body of Grand Saline High School, collected 200 pounds of dog and cat food as well as \$200 in cash for the Van Zandt County Humane Society. Since this is a no-kill shelter, they were in need of the additional help. Cassidy said, *"Although the dogs may not be able to say thank you, when I saw one puppy play with a toy that had been donated, I felt so proud to have been able to help those sweet animals."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Kelly Clements**, Future Farmers of America Advisor.



Jenelle Milam, 12th grader, **Grand Saline High School**, 4th year member

Project: *Baskets for the Elderly* - Jenelle organized, packed, and delivered 25 Christmas gift baskets to the residents of both Azalea Trails Assisted Living Center and Country Trails Care Center. This brought the residents happiness during the holiday season at a time they usually do not receive many visitors. Jenelle said, *"I have done this service project for four years. Each year my appreciation for what the workers do at the nursing homes intensifies. These workers have a great deal of patience and the residents are so grateful for their unconditional love."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Donna Taylor**, Student Council Sponsor.



Grapevine-Collevville ISD

Taylor Jenkins, 12th grader, **Grapevine High School**, 4th year member

Project: Grapevine Lake Clean-up - Taylor and seven volunteers cleaned up trash and debris left after a tornado around Grapevine Lake. The Grapevine community benefited from their efforts and can enjoy the nice clean environment around the lake. Taylor said, *"I thought there was so much debris to be picked up that we could not do my project as well as I wanted. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people who just saw us working and wanted to pitch in and help us. We were able to complete my project with help from strangers. It was very rewarding."* Sponsor: **Mr. Jimmy Thompson**, Basketball Coach.



Greenville ISD

Ryan Bays, 8th grader, **Greenville Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: Kava Kids - Ryan worked with an after school program to mentor and teach 30 students in grades Kindergarten through fifth. His lessons included health, nutrition, good study habits, and how they can make a difference to others. Ryan said, *"Being an only child, my house tends to be pretty calm and quiet. Working with Kava Kids showed me how fun it can be to be around a lot of kids and how much we can all accomplish by working together."* Sponsor: **Ms. Beverly Griffin**, Kava Kids Volunteer.



Hamshire-Fannett ISD

Fred Pfiester, 7th grader, **Hamshire-Fannett Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Camo Christmas - Fred, with the help of his friends and teachers, collected personal toiletries, socks, playing cards, food, and letters. The items were packaged and sent to soldiers overseas in time for Christmas. Fred said, *"I didn't really have any setbacks and was very proud of my project. I believe we made some soldiers a little happier at Christmas."* Sponsor: **Mr. Ben Akselsen**, Friend.



Houston ISD

Raul Dsilva, 9th grader, **DeBakey High School**, 3rd year member

Project: Helping the Elderly - Raul organized visits to the Colonial Oaks Assisted Living Center over a six week period. Throughout these weeks, his group spent quality time socializing with the residents who are normally quite lonely. Raul said, *"I felt a real sense of satisfaction and a motivation to try to do more of this. I believe I gained a better appreciation for the emotional needs of the elderly."* Sponsor: **Dr. Monicita Dupre**, Teacher.

Hudson ISD

Brooke Long, 5th grader, **Bonner Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: Books for Kids - Brooke and three classmates held a book drive and collected about 150 gently used children's books. The collected books were split between the Family Crisis Center and the Rainbow Room, which meets the needs of abused and neglected children. Sponsor: **Mr. Matt Haas**, Teacher.

Humble ISD

Molly McShane, 9th grader, **Kingwood High School**, 2nd year member

Project: Secret Santa Project - Molly enlisted the help of ten friends to collect new toys for two deserving families in their community of Kingwood. The toys helped bring a little bit of joy to the children of these two families during difficult times. Molly said, *"I learned that you are blessed as much by giving as receiving."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Laura Fletcher**, Church Small Group Leader.



Keller ISD

Sam Walker, 8th grader, **Keller Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Project LLAMA (Lone Star Leadership Animal Aid) - Sam gathered volunteers to help him collect items for the Humane Society of North Texas. A minivan full of supplies, which included food, blankets, cleaning items, bowls, and toys, was delivered to the humane society. Sam said, *"I learned that it can be hard for other kids my own age to take me seriously as a leader. But, when I stuck to my plan, several kids stayed with me through to the end of my project and we accomplished our goal."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Carol Gilbertson**, History Teacher.

Lago Vista ISD

Jordan Aten, 9th grader, **Lago Vista High School**, 1st year member

Project: Dollar General Store Collection and Church Under the Bridge - Jordan held a collection drive at the Dollar General Store where he received over 100 personal items for the homeless. These items were delivered to the Church Under the Bridge for distribution among the homeless population. Jordan said, *"I feel that I really learned a lot and improved my leadership skills because I organized this project on my own."* Sponsor: **Mr. Joe Vandegriff**, Church Friend and Photography Mentor.



Leander ISD

Josh Collmann, 7th grader, **Canyon Ridge Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Helping Hands for Mobile Loaves and Fishes* - Josh collected 28 clothing and household items and donated them to Mobile Loaves and Fishes for the greater Austin area. Josh said, *"I learned that with a little effort, you can make a big difference in the lives of others."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Jeanne Bair**, Teacher.



Lewisville ISD

Andrew Hitscherich, 10th grader, **Flower Mound High School**, 2nd year member

Project: *Improving Church Prayer Garden* - Andrew and his recruits cleaned out old debris and brush, trimmed the bushes, and cleared the walkways in the St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church prayer garden. The entire parish benefited from their efforts. Now the prayer garden is a pleasant place to pray and reflect. Andrew said, *"I had a few difficulties, like lack of equipment, but we persevered and I am very proud of the work we did and how pleased the parish seems to be."* Andrew's sponsor, Mr. Jim Weir, said, *"Andrew did a great job and it was appreciated by the parishioners."* Sponsor: **Mr. Jim Weir**, Youth Ministry Director.



Anisha Reddy, 6th grader, **McKamy Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Papers for Pets* - Anisha and five friends organized and held a paper drive. The 600 pounds of paper that was collected raised \$300 for the Humane Society of Lewisville's Foster Care Program for Animals. Anisha said, *"I had some difficulties during my project but I think that because I stuck with my plan, I grew in my leadership skills."* Sponsor: **Ms. Patty Smith**, Teacher.

Heather Roan, 8th grader, **Arbor Creek Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: *Placemats for Meals on Wheels* - Heather led a group that made over 75 Valentine-themed placemats to be used on Meals on Wheels recipient trays. These placemats brought happiness to many otherwise lonely people.

Heather said, *"I gained thankfulness for my family and more respect for elderly citizens around me."* Heather's sponsor, Mrs. Amanda Roan, said, *"I think the service project is pretty great because it combines creativity with helping the elderly in the community."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Amanda Roan**, Mother.

Diamond Thomas, 6th grader, **Briarhill Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Kids Helping Kids* - Diamond, with the help of four other students and eight adults, organized a bake sale. A portion of the proceeds went to make 24 'Feel Better Bags' for kids admitted to the Medical Center of Lewisville Pediatric Ward. The remaining funds were donated to the 'Dressed to Learn' organization, which helps clothe underprivileged children in Lewisville ISD. Diamond said, *"I learned the importance of having a plan before starting to work. It was a lot of work in the beginning, but I am very proud of the outcome."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Kathe Lunsford**, Lewisville ISD.

Longview ISD

Kate Tolleason, 6th grader, **Foster Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Helping the Hungry* - Kate organized a food collection drive through her church. She collected and delivered 50 items to the Newgate Mission in Longview, an organization that helps the homeless and low-income population within Longview. Kate said, *"It was difficult encouraging people to donate, but it paid off when I saw how much it helped my community."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Shaune Behnke**, Language Arts/Reading Teacher.

Lovejoy ISD

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

Project: *iEducate Costa Rica Toiletries* - Jordan made it possible for a Lovejoy student to complete her senior project by collecting toiletry items and filling 26 toiletry bags. These bags were then packaged and delivered to a Costa Rican orphanage. Jordan said, *"I learned that the world is so much bigger than just my little bubble. Just by packaging a toothbrush and toothpaste, a child's life in another part of the world was greatly impacted."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Ginny Clark**, Former Teacher.

Will Libey, 9th grader, **Lovejoy High School**, 1st year member

Project: *Used Sports Equipment* - Will collected used sports equipment to be used by kids that do not have any of their own. He supplied a whole team with sports equipment and provided shoes for an entire track team. Will said, *"I learned a lot about time management by coordinating the schedules of the many people, both in school and outside of it, that I needed to meet with."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Deneen Christian**, Algebra II Teacher.



Alex Naismith, 5th grader, **Hart Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: *Book Drive for Children's Hospital of Dallas* - Alex and his volunteers collected 73 new books to benefit the heavily used library at Children's Hospital of Dallas. Alex said, *"This was an awesome opportunity for me to do something for someone else. It felt good to help someone else."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Amber Smith**, School Counselor.

Lubbock ISD

Emily Evans, 10th grader, **Lubbock High School**, 3rd year member

Project: HOPE for Soldiers - Emily organized a group of children who made 40 holiday cards, 40 ornaments, and 25 care packages for soldiers overseas. Emily said, "It was inspiring to see the children's excitement when they knew they were helping soldiers. This project improved my leadership skills and it was great to see the impact that a simple action can have on someone." Sponsor: **Mrs. Tiffany Wren**, Sunday School Teacher.



Mansfield ISD

Nicholas Ciggelakis, 8th grader, **Danny Jones Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Project Canned Food Drive - Nicholas organized a very successful canned food drive during the Christmas season. His project benefited the Beautiful Feet Ministries, an organization that helps feed and clothe the homeless. In addition, Nicholas and two friends volunteered at Mission Arlington, where they picked up and sorted donations for their many outreach programs. Nicholas said, "I felt a great sense of accomplishment and felt I was making a difference in my community. I had several setbacks during my projects but was very proud of myself when I found solutions. These projects certainly opened my eyes about how hard these 'public servants' work." Sponsor: **Mr. Brian Brooks**, Student Pastor, First Baptist Church.

Victoria Roberts, 9th grader, **Mansfield High School**, 1st year member

Project: Parents Night Out - Victoria provided a babysitting service for parents in her neighborhood allowing them time to go Christmas shopping. This also allowed the kids time to play and meet new friends within their neighborhood. Victoria said, "I learned about helping younger kids. Also, I felt I became a better leader because those helping me kept coming to me for advice and help." Sponsor: **Mrs. Ashley Wann**, Teacher.



Midland ISD

Wilson Clark, 9th grader, **Lee Freshman High School**, 3rd year member

Project: Toys for Cops - Wilson collected approximately 200 toys for the Midland Sheriff's Office and Police Department to be distributed through Child Protective Services for children of homicide victims and children in abusive or life-threatening situations. Wilson said, "I discovered emotionally troubled kids need a lot of support and the toys really seemed to help. It was such a heart-warming project that I plan to do it again next year, just bigger." Sponsor: **Mr. Erik Rook**, Honors Teacher.

Midway ISD

Victoria Logan, 5th grader, **River Valley Intermediate School**, 1st year member

Project: Paws for Love - Victoria and four volunteers made posters and baked goods for the Humane Society of Central Texas to use at their adoption event, 'Home for the Holidays'. Victoria also organized a pet food drive at her school and collected 80 pounds of food that was donated to the humane society. Victoria said, "This service project not only made me a stronger leader, but a more involved citizen as well." Sponsor: **Mrs. Tina Robinson**, Math Teacher.



Nacogdoches ISD

Hunter Stephens, 7th grader, **McMichael Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Senior Game Night at Westward Trails - Hunter, with nine of his friends and eight adult family members, took 30 table games to the Western Trails Nursing Home. They had a wonderful day with the residents visiting and playing their favorite board games. Hunter said, "It felt very good to be able to give back to the nursing home that has taken such wonderful care of my great-grandmother for several years. Mama Rie was the one who taught me to play dominoes and many other table games. I was so happy to be able to share this experience with friends and family and to pass along her love of games." Sponsor: **Mrs. Lacy Hay**, Teacher.

North East ISD

Danielle DeLaPaz, 8th grader, **Jose Lopez Middle School**, 3rd year member

Project: Operation Bear Patrol - Danielle organized her friends to encourage the student body at Lopez Middle School to donate teddy bears for the Ronald McDonald House. Every family received a teddy bear to share with their sick child while staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Danielle said, "I felt a lot of personal satisfaction knowing that I may have helped to put a smile on the face of these family members and the sick children." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jennifer Damiani**, Teacher.





Northside ISD

Troy Thienpont, 11th grader, **Sandra Day O'Connor High School**, 3rd year member

Project: *Clean Up for the Elderly* - Troy organized a group to clean up the yards and garages of two elderly people. Their help was greatly appreciated since these were tasks they are now unable to do themselves. Troy said, *"I continued to grow in confidence in my leadership skills. It also felt very good to help the elderly people."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Delisa Ketchum Ramos**, Assistant Vice Principal.

Northwest ISD

Nicolas Buckwalter, 5th grader, **Sendra Ranch Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: *Winter Clothing and Hygiene Products Drive* - Nicolas and ten volunteers organized a school and community drive to collect winter outerwear and personal hygiene products. Three boxes of hygiene products and five bags of coats, hats, and gloves were collected and donated to the Union Gospel Mission Homeless Shelter. Nicolas said, *"In the beginning, I was worried that we would not collect enough items. But, in the end, I was very proud that I could organize the volunteers to help me and that we really were able to make a difference in the lives of the homeless in Fort Worth."* Nicolas's sponsor, Mrs. Betty Reasnor, said, *"It warms my heart to know that our students were willing to take Nick's suggestion to do this service project for the Union Gospel Mission. In their collection of toiletries, coats, hats, and gloves they have gained more than they gave."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Betty Reasnor**, Gifted and Talented Teacher.



Paris ISD

Matthew Draeger, 9th grader, **Paris High School**, 1st year member

Project: *Operation Second Chance* - Matthew and six friends started an organization, Operation Second Chance, to collect and distribute clothing and other items to the people in Paris, Texas that need a helping hand. This ongoing project, has already helped 167 families. Matthew said, *"This project greatly exceeded my expectations. I am very proud to be a part of this project and to see what a difference people working together can make. I would like to continue helping those who are less fortunate in my community."* Matthew's sponsor, Mrs. Debb Fleming, said, *"I have been the most surprised by the immense group of people who have been helped by Operation Second Chance who are employed and working on the edge of poverty. We have many citizens who are too proud to ask for help. They need our love and support."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Debb Fleming**, Future Problem Solving Coach.

Pearland ISD

Matteo Aloia, 8th grader, **Berry Miller Junior High School**, 2nd year member

Project: *Keep Houston Clean and Warm* - Matteo and his friends collected clothing and toiletries for the Star of Hope Homeless Shelter, which helps the homeless in Houston. Matteo said, *"Even though gathering and sorting all the items was sometimes difficult, it felt very good to know that I had done something which helped the homeless people in my community."* Sponsor: **Mr. Damon Rayburn**, Teacher.



Anna Kimata, 6th grader, **Rogers Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: *Math 4 Fun* - Anna and four friends started a morning math club for students who enjoy math and/or needed help with their math skills. The members benefited by sharing and practicing math skills while having fun together. Anna said, *"Although starting the club took a lot of effort and time, I found myself enjoying each meeting. My hard work and dedication to this project brought surprising rewards and helped make lasting memories."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Carrie Martin**, Former Math Teacher.



Georgia Neitzey, 11th grader, **Dawson High School**, 4th year member

Project: *Head Start Christmas Drive* - Georgia collected Christmas gifts for the 85 members of the Reville Drive Head Start Program preschool class. Georgia was able to give each member a toy, an outfit, and a pair of shoes. Georgia said, *"I love organizing this project year after year! The look on the kids' faces when we come in with their gifts is my favorite thing throughout the entire holiday season."* Sponsor: **Mr. Jim Liberator**, Pastor.



Kyle Neitzey, 8th grader, **Pearland Junior High School**, 3rd year member

Project: *Holes for Cans* - Kyle collected sponsors for a golf-a-thon, in which he had to play as many holes of golf as possible within a certain period of time. He was able to collect \$1,000 from his sponsors and used the proceeds to purchase canned food for Christian Helping Hands, a non-profit food pantry. Kyle said, *"It felt great to give back to the community. I really love helping others."* Sponsor: **Mr. Jason Adams**, Youth Leader.

Pearland ISD, cont.

Christopher Simpson, 8th grader, **Berry Miller Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Christian Evangelism for Pre-Teens and Teens** - Christopher, with the assistance of his brother and a youth pastor, started a study group among his peers to learn more about the Bible and God. His goal was to share his faith with others and provide a source of support and faith for friends and peers. Christopher said, "I learned that it is important to not only be a person of faith but how to share your faith with others in a way that is inviting and fun." Christopher's sponsor, Mr. Mark Andrews, said, "At these gatherings, Christopher celebrated God in a real and hilarious way while emphasizing community, connection, and commitment. This was a great experience that spoke to the students on their level and in their language." Sponsor: **Mr. Mark Andrews**, Youth Pastor.*



Plano ISD

Madison Arora, 8th grader, **Renner School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Project Waiting to Heal** - Madison organized a dog-sitting business and raised \$250 to fund her service project. Madison, with the help of several friends, put together packages of craft materials and healthy snacks for the Children's Hospital in Plano. The packages were distributed to the children and their families that wait long periods of time for their procedures. Madison said, "I felt a real sense of accomplishment and I saw how my efforts were benefiting children." Madison's sponsor, Ms. Pamela Arora, said, "Madison has an interest in the medical field. She learned how she could help children now and learned about her interests as well." Sponsor: **Ms. Pamela Arora**, Mother.*

Michael Roohy, 11th grader, **Plano West Senior High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **A Helping Hand for Hope's Door** - Michael recruited two friends who were familiar with the organization, Hope's Door as all three had worked with this group through a class project. Hope's Door provides shelter and services for families affected by domestic abuse in Collin and Dallas counties. Michael worked in their retail store and he and his recruits spent many hours sorting mountains of clothes and household items to be sold or given to those in need. Michael said, "I could really see the results of my efforts and saw how grateful those who received help were." Sponsor: **Ms. Arpine Eglenceglu**, Mother.*



Alexa Woppman, 8th grader, **Robinson Middle School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Concert at DaySpring** - Alexa gathered a number of her fellow band members to perform a Christmas Concert for the DaySpring Assisted Living Center. After the concert, the band members stayed to socialize with the residents. Alexa said, "I gained more experience with running a rehearsal which will definitely help me in the future. Also, I learned that assisted living center residents are very interesting and really love to talk to young people." Sponsor: **Mr. Alex Scott**, Activities Director.*



Rachel Woppman, 6th grader, **Robinson Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Tiger Trot Run Fundraiser** - Rachel organized the Tiger Trot Run and raised \$222 for In-Sync Exotics, a tiger sanctuary in Wylie, Texas. The staff used the donation to help pay veterinary bills and purchase food, toys, and other items needed for the cats. Rachel said, "Through the opportunity to help an endangered species, I came to really love the tigers and I want them to survive. I found this to be a very rewarding project." Sponsor: **Ms. Joeli Payson**, Education Director, In-Sync Exotics.*



Prosper ISD

Mattie Robinson, 8th grader, **Reynolds Middle School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Thanksgiving Blessings** - Mattie organized a coat and outerwear drive for the homeless by coordinating volunteers and donation containers at five Prosper ISD schools. She collected 27 bags of coats, sweaters, scarves, boots, etc. to help the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Group and the Care Center Ministries during Thanksgiving. Mattie also volunteered with her youth group and served almost 1,000 homeless people on Thanksgiving. Mattie said, "I learned to be thankful for what God has given me and how I need to give to others who are less fortunate than me." Sponsor: **Mr. Andrew Doggett**, Youth Pastor.*



Round Rock ISD

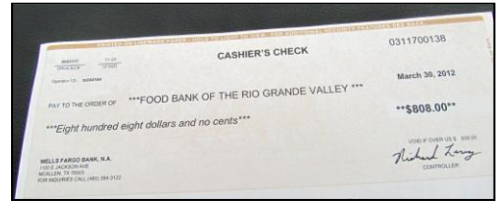
Phillip Gonzales, 9th grader, **Stony Point High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Operation We Care** - Phillip and his friends collected over 100 toiletry items for Fort Hood Army and Marine personnel. Phillip said, "Through many hardships, I was still able to complete a very worthwhile project. Because of the problems I encountered, I feel I became a stronger leader who is able to stand up for his position." Sponsor: **Mr. Kevin Sanders**, Senior Naval Science Instructor.*

Sharyland ISD

Jackson de Jong, 11th grader, **Sharyland High School**, 4th year member

Project: Fundraising for the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley and Laguna Madre Animal Shelter - With the help of his friends and family, Jackson raised \$1,008 by collecting items to be sold on E-Bay. Two different groups benefited from Jackson's efforts. The Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley received an \$808 donation which will provide 4,040 meals for hungry families and the Laguna Madre Animal Shelter received a \$200 donation. Jackson said, *"I feel happy working to help my community and I feel pride in doing so when I do it to the best of my ability."* Sponsor: **Mr. Gerardo Martinez**, Western Humanities Teacher.



South Texas ISD

Nadia Khan, 9th grader, **South Texas Academy of Medical Technology**, 2nd year member

Project: Canned and Non-Perishable Food Items Drive - Nadia organized a canned and non-perishable food items drive to benefit the St. Eugene Church. With the generosity of strangers, she collected 1,236 cans of food which helped the parish food pantry feed struggling Brownsville area families. Nadia said, *"This project was very challenging because of the stressful economy we are currently living with. The amount of food donated really exceeded my expectations and made my project a real success. I also learned that I should not take things for granted and to always be thankful for all my blessings."* Sponsor: **Dr. Anna Lozano**, Health Teacher.

Sterling City ISD

Wyatt Ferguson, 9th grader, **Sterling City High School**, 1st year member

Project: Distracted Driving Program - Wyatt provided a guest speaker at an assembly for the students at Sterling City High School to increase their knowledge about the hazards of distractions while driving and the benefits of safe driving. Wyatt said, *"I learned that service projects are difficult to put together but are totally worth the effort. It made me feel good knowing I may have helped at least one student drive more safely."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Ashley Glass**, Counselor.



Cole Parham, 8th grader, **Sterling City Junior High School**, 1st year member

Project: Canned Food Collection - Cole organized a canned food drive and collected 1,000 cans of food to benefit families suffering through tough economic times within his community. He was pleased that he exceeded his starting goal of 200 cans of food. Cole said, *"I learned to listen to my sponsor more closely because she is a good leader. As I listened and tried to follow her, I, too, became a better leader."* Sponsor: **Mrs. LaNae McClure**, Family and Consumer Science Teacher.



Sunnyvale ISD

Joey Rosato, 9th grader, **Sunnyvale High School**, 2nd year member

Project: Canned Food Collection - Joey organized a canned food drive at Sunnyvale High School. With the help of the Student Council, he collected over 800 cans of food. After the cans were sorted, they were delivered to the Texas Food Pantry. Joey said, *"This experience opened my eyes as to how some people around the world and right here at home are not as fortunate as me. I have always had dinner on the table every night."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Debbie Wilson**, Student Council Leader.

Tomball ISD

Truman Dowdy, 9th grader, **Tomball High School**, 4th year member

Project: Dance Party for Special Needs Group - Truman and a group of volunteers organized a dance party for a group of high-functioning special needs teens who have autism and Asperger's Syndrome. All of the teens learned the swing, rumba, two-step, and Cupid Shuffle. Truman said, *"Because none of the volunteering students knew these dances either, we learned with the special needs students. By the end of the evening, we had made new friends and all learned some new dances and it did not matter at all whether you were a volunteer or a special needs student."* Truman's sponsor, Mrs. Cathy Grigory, said, *"Truman and his volunteers hit it out of the ballpark. Many said they had the best time ever and all agreed that the experience helped them feel like normal kids. Thanks again for giving them such a wonderful experience. What a great group of volunteers."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Cathy Grigory**, Sunday School Teacher.



United ISD

Kevin Cantu, 7th grader, **Trautmann Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: Food Drive for Bethany House - Kevin and his friends held a food and personal hygiene items drive and collected 1,000 items for the Bethany House, a mission which serves the homeless and other disadvantaged people in Laredo. Kevin said, *"Someone who has never helped others with real needs can't know how rewarding this experience is."* Sponsor: **Ms. Dyenora Salinas**, History Teacher.

Weslaco ISD

David Mahoney, 9th grader, **Weslaco High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Blankets for Children's Cancer Clinic** - David and his 4-H group made over 40 blankets to comfort the children at the Vannie E. Cook Children's Cancer Center while they receive their chemotherapy treatments. David said, "I felt very good about the opportunity to give children some comfort with the blankets we made." Sponsor: **Ms. Jordan Bell**, Vice President of Service Projects.*

Wichita Falls ISD

Lee Ross, 6th grader, **West Foundation Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Jordie's Pet Helpers** - Lee and two volunteers sold 35 homemade Valentine Day cards and donated the money raised to the Human Society. Lee said, "I learned how hard it is to sell things and how hard it is to get everyone together to get the work done. I must say that it felt really good that we were able to help the Humane Society and the animals." Sponsor: **Mrs. Emily Valverde**, Counselor.*



Brandon Vaughn, 8th grader, **McNiell Junior High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Trash Cleanup** - Brandon and two volunteers collected 30 pounds of litter during their cleanup efforts around the Lake Wichita Park area. Not only did the park's maintenance department benefit but the residents appreciated and enjoyed the cleanliness of the park. Brandon said, "I had a minor setback with getting materials, but once resolved the project went smoothly. I was very happy to help make the park a nicer place to visit." Sponsor: **Mrs. Ginnie Gaskey**, Science Teacher.*



Charter Schools

Melissa Singsing, 9th grader, **IDEA Frontier College Preparatory School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Letters for the Lionhearted** - Melissa and four friends organized a letter writing campaign to help boost moral and remind the U.S. troops overseas they are appreciated. There were 627 letters written by students and sent to Operation Gratitude for the troops. Melissa said, "Initially, I was very nervous about speaking to school officials regarding my project. Over time, however, I gained confidence and, in the end, I was very glad that I had chosen this project. It was such a great feeling to know that I had given a little back to the men and women serving overseas." Sponsor: **Mrs. Melissa Garcia-Escobedo**, High School Community Service Coordinator.*

Whitney Barrett, 7th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 1st year member

*Project: **Food for G.R.A.C.E. in Grapevine** - Whitney and three volunteers collected food donations for Food for G.R.A.C.E. in Grapevine. They collected 100 cans of food and some non-food items. G.R.A.C.E. distributed these items to people who experienced an emergency situation and to low income families that required assistance. Whitney said, "I had many walls to climb over in order to complete my project. Each obstacle showed me that I had more ability than I thought to lead others through the problems we encountered." Sponsor: **Ms. Livia Miller**, English Teacher.*



Homeschool

Reney Drake, 8th grader, **Homeschool**, 1st year member

*Project: **Fighting Cystic Fibrosis for Josh** - Reney enlisted her friends and family to help hold bake sales to raise funds for the purchase of a 'Boomerang Air Sanitizer' for her friend Josh who has Cystic Fibrosis. This machine helps filter mold from the air in Josh's home. Reney said, "It was one of the best things I've ever experienced to be able to help a friend in need. It was a great feeling to see how happy Josh was." Sponsor: **Mrs. Kim Meyers**, Teacher.*

Private Schools

Sofia Miranda-Fred, 8th grader, **Keystone School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Academic Dishonesty** - Sofia and five classmates performed self-written skits and gave an informative Powerpoint presentation to the students and faculty of Keystone Middle School about academic dishonesty and the true power of academic integrity. Sofia said, "I wanted to help students understand what cheating is and how to avoid it. I think my project was very successful." Sponsor: **Mrs. Theresa Powers**, Head of Middle School.*

About the 2011-2012

★ Lone Star Youth Leadership Council ★

This year's Lone Star Youth Leadership Council is a wonderfully diverse and interesting group of 111 5th-12th graders. Student members represent 96 public schools in 63 Texas school districts, one private school, two charter schools, and one homeschool. The 2011-2012 Council includes 10 elementary school students, 50 middle/junior high school students, and 51 high school students. Council membership for 2011-2012 includes 55 returning members and 56 new members.

★ Academics

Thirty-one members maintain straight A's and over half the remaining members are on the Honor Roll. The National Junior Honor Society and the National Honor Society are well-represented. Four Council members have maintained perfect attendance since kindergarten. Other academic accomplishments include: Student of the Month, Year's Best Overall Student, Superintendent's Award, AP Scholar Award, Young Achiever Award, Keller ISD Trustee Merit Award for Excellence, Principal's Award for Excellence, Texas Scholars, CISD Ambassador Award, Wilkerson Ambassador Award, Spelling Bee Champion, Pope Award, Star Performer Award, Citizenship Award, and All Star Student.

★ School Activities, Clubs, and Organizations

This year's Council members participated in a wide variety of school-sponsored organizations including Academic Decathlon, Debate, Robotics, Yearbook, Student Council, Pacesetters, Health Occupations Students of America, Future Problem Solvers, Junior ROTC, Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Math Olympiad. Many also served as class officers.

★ Music

This year's Council could put together an impressive band. Instruments played by members include piano, drums, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, violin, French horn, flute, euphonium, saxophone, clarinet, piccolo, trumpet, and oboe. They participate in marching band, honor band, orchestra, choir, and color guard.

★ Sports

Fitness and sports are important to this year's Council members. There are several cheerleaders and dance team members, and students that participate in tennis, football, basketball, track, volleyball, soccer, swimming, gymnastics, golf, cross country, baseball, squash, softball, and marathons. Tae Kwan Do enthusiasts, one surfer, two horsewomen, and two distance bikers round out this group. Several Council members belong to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Some have participated in the Relay for Life and Race for the Cure.

★ Community Activities

The Council has both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts that have achieved numerous honors. Boy Scout members hold the Order of the Arrow, Life Rank, and Star Rank, and include Eagle Scouts. Girl Scout members achieved the Cadette Leadership Award, Silver Award, and the Bronze Star Award.

★ Other Activities

Council members participate in many additional activities. They are members of S.W.A.T. Club, and Mission Fit Possible. They participated in the All-City Orchestra, the Houston Children's Choir, the West Texas Children's Chorus, the National Charity League, People to People, the Duke TIP Program, Junior National Leadership Conference, 2012 National Student Leadership Conference, United Future Leaders, and TAPS (caring for abused horses). Council members received the President's Volunteer Award several times over at the Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels. One member of the Alumni Council started a Junior chapter of the Texas State Historical Association. Two council members were published this year. One wrote an article for the Texas State Historical Association. The other student published research dealing with sleep disorders and spoke to two prestigious groups: the National Sleep Foundation in Washington, D.C. and the CHEST Foundation in Honolulu, HI. In addition, this student received a grant to continue her study of childhood and adolescent obesity as it relates to sleep disorders. The group was also very proud to have a MENSA member on the Council this year.



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