



"Fostering Educated and Involved Texans"™

10200 Alta Vista Road, Keller, TX 76244 ★ 817-562-4957 ★ www.educationinaction.org

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

Special Edition Newsletter – 2009-2010 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council



"Leadership in Action"

From the Founders

Education in Action is proud to announce the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council program's highest rate of participation since its inception eight years ago. One hundred twenty-seven outstanding young Texans successfully completed program requirements for the 2009-2010 Council. Members represented 76 school districts, two charter schools, and three private schools. This special edition newsletter highlights each of

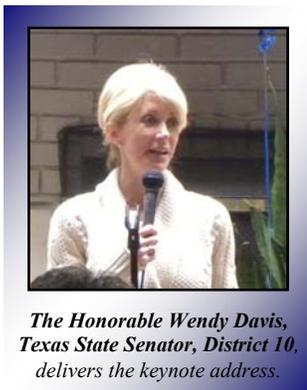
these students and their accomplishments as members of the 2009-2010 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council.

Program and Purpose

Each year outstanding Texas students are nominated by educators to participate in the Lone Star Leadership Academy. Upon completion of this leadership program, alumni are invited to participate in Education in Action's alumni organization, the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council.

The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council program provides members with continued leadership training during the school year. The focus of this year's program was 'beginning with the end in mind'. Members began by first writing personal mission statements, and then goals designed to be actionable steps toward achieving their missions. Finally, members assessed their own achievements after five months of effort. Each member was also challenged to put their leadership skills into action by creating and leading a service project to fill a need they identified in their school or community. Project requirements included finding a teacher/sponsor, creating a project action plan, incorporating the assistance of at least two of their peers, and documenting their project in pictures as well as text. Members also have the opportunity to return to the Lone Star Leadership Academy as Youth Facilitators to continue developing their leadership skills.

Recognition Ceremony and Reception



The Honorable Wendy Davis, Texas State Senator, District 10, delivers the keynote address.

On February 27, 2010, Education in Action honored the 2009-2010 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members at its 8th Annual Texas Independence Day Service Project Presentation and Recognition Ceremony at The Brookside Center in Hurst, Texas. Twenty-nine members from across the state presented their projects and accomplishments at the ceremony and received their certificates of completion. Two graduating seniors, **Lindsey Morrison** of South Grand Prairie High School in Grand Prairie ISD and **Britt Brandon** of Hyde Park Baptist School in Austin, Texas, were recognized for successfully completing their sixth years on the Council. Keynote speaker, **The Honorable Wendy Davis, Texas State Senator, District 10**, spoke about her personal journey to legislative office and the obstacles she overcame on the way to her success. Attendees enjoyed lunch and visited with the honorees about their projects. Honorees unable to attend the event submitted project portfolios which were on display. Education in Action celebrated these outstanding young students' contributions the weekend of Texas Independence Day in honor of the organization's mission to empower young Texans to be informed and active leaders in their communities.



Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members that attended Education in Action's 8th Annual Texas Independence Day Service Project Presentation and Recognition Ceremony, February 27, 2010.

The Education in Action staff commends the accomplishments of the 2009-2010 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members. We look forward to your participation in future Education in Action programs and to watching you grow and achieve throughout your educational career and beyond.

Jennifer Pasteur
Executive Director & Founder

Monica Hayes
Educational Outreach Director & Founder

2009-2010 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council Members and Service Projects

A list of 2009-2010 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members by school district follows along with the title of each member's service project and their project sponsor. Members with an asterisk (*) before their name attended, and presented their projects at, the February 27th recognition ceremony and are included in the picture on page one.

Allen ISD



***Brianna Flynn**, 7th grader, **Ereckson Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: *SPCA Share and Care Collection Drive* – With the help of her friends and family, Brianna collected bedding, blankets, pet toys, pet food, and treats from her neighborhood and school to donate to the SPCA. She said, *“I learned that a little love can go a long way, and that to truly make a difference you must overcome many challenging or frustrating obstacles. I believe that through the process of organizing this service project, I have gained the knowledge and experience I need to become a better leader, while helping out an organization dedicated to the safety and well-being of all animals.”* Sponsor: **Tammy**

Beeks, Teacher, Ereckson Middle School.

Matthew Klein, 7th grader, **Curtis Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: *Books for Baylor* – Matthew collected 407 books which he donated to Our Children's House at Baylor University. He said, *“I found it hard to get started on my project. But I just kept working, and it paid off. It felt nice to help others.”* Sponsor: **Karen Foster**, Counselor, Curtis Middle School.



Alpine ISD

Hannah Machado, 6th grader, **Alpine Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: *Pet Sitting for the Humane Society* – Hannah created and promoted a plan to offer pet sitting services in exchange for donations of pet food to benefit the Humane Society. Although she had difficulty finding clients who were interested in her services, she said, *“Sometimes the best plans just don't work out. If you have given your project your best effort, figure out what you might have done differently and try it again next time.”* Sponsor: **Diana Walker**, Teacher, Alpine Middle School.

Beeville ISD



Sara Casas, 7th grader, **Moreno Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: *Coats for Kids* – Sara's project consisted of two parts. First, she collected 400 coats for underprivileged children in her community. With the help of a local dry cleaner who donated his services, all of the coats were cleaned before being delivered. Sara also helped to serve a Thanksgiving meal to several hundred people in her community. She said, *“It does not take a million dollars to change someone else's life. A mere gesture of compassion can make all the difference.”* Sponsor: **Christine Finch**, Cheerleading Sponsor, Moreno Middle School.

Bellville ISD

Jesse Smart, 7th grader, **Bellville Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

Project: *Thank You, America's Heroes* – Jesse offered a free meal to all of the veterans and their families in Bellville, Texas to show his appreciation for their sacrifices. He said, *“I gained the satisfaction of being able to show our veterans that their service to our country is appreciated even by young people today. I learned that it means a lot to our veterans when we say thank you. But it means even more to them when you show how much you appreciate them. Those who serve our country are the foundation of freedom and we should all remember that every single day and not just once a year. I am very thankful to the veterans who have been such great inspirations.”* Sponsor: **Nancy Conway**, Teacher, Bellville Junior High School.

Boerne ISD

Sydnee Hodge, 7th grader, **Boerne Middle School North**, 2nd Year Member

Project: *Cereal Drive in Conjunction with the Hill Country Daily Bread Food Bank* – Through door-to-door campaigns and fixed location efforts, Sydnee collected 325 boxes of cold and hot cereals for free distribution to area families in need. She said, *“Through service to others, the benefits to me are priceless.”* Her sponsor, Hesta Conway, said, *“We are truly blessed to have willing young people dedicated to the needs of others. Sydnee had so much fun. It was contagious.”* Sponsor: **Hesta Conway**, Teacher, Boerne Middle School North.

Brazos ISD

Shannon Kahlden, 10th grader, **Brazos High School**, 3rd Year Member

Project: *I Can See Clearly Now!* – Shannon worked with her fellow students to obtain a high quality camera for her school's yearbook class. She said, *“Throughout my project problems arose and we had to make adjustments to the initial plan. But by overcoming these obstacles, my leadership qualities were strengthened.”* Sponsor: **Jan Syphrett**, Teacher, Brazos High School.



Brazosport ISD

Michael Bell, 9th grader, **Brazoswood High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Holiday Food Drive** – Michael enlisted the help of his church youth group to collect and donate food items for a local food pantry. Michael said, “I gained experience doing something I had not done before. I enjoyed helping others.” Sponsor: **Steve Miller**, Youth Group Leader, Chapelwood United Methodist Church.*

Brownsville ISD

Lauren Rogers, 9th grader, **Hanna High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Hearts for Haiti** – Lauren recruited several organizations, including her school’s cheerleaders, the ecology club, and the youth leaders at her church, to help raise money for victims of the crisis in Haiti. She and her team hosted a garage sale, asked for donations at basketball games and a regional HOSA competition, and coordinated a school-wide competition among classes for the most donations. In all, Lauren raised \$1,100. She said, “I gained a better understanding of the process of raising funds to assist in a crisis and by doing so, I acquired a feeling of closeness to the people of Haiti.” Sponsor: **Richard Rodriguez**, Cheerleading Sponsor, Hanna High School.*



Burleson ISD

Blake Bodin, 6th grader, **Kerr Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Fleece Blankets for Cook’s Kids** – Blake requested donations from family and friends and raised \$150 to purchase supplies to make 10 handmade blankets for children at Cook Children’s Trauma Center. He arranged for his family and friends to help him create the blankets on Thanksgiving Day and encouraged his helpers to consider what they were thankful for while donating their time to others in need. Blake said, “It felt good to be in charge. Just because you are 12 years old does not mean you can’t make a difference. Sometimes kids just know what kids want most. I felt good that my family and friends listened to what I wanted to do and helped me instead of me helping them.” His sponsor, Mary Rogers, said, “Blake’s display of leadership and love make all of us proud.”*



*Sponsor: **Mary Rogers**, Blake’s grandmother.*

Carroll ISD

***Devan Freeman**, 6th grader, **Durham Intermediate School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Trinkets for Troops**. Sponsor: **Marty Hoag**, Teacher, Durham Intermediate School.*



Clear Creek ISD

Jack Baumann, 7th grader, **Westbrook Intermediate School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Tunnel of Doom**. Sponsor: **Marianne Bartos**, Junior High CCE Coordinator, St. Bernadette Catholic Church.*

***Mitch Gaines**, 6th grader, **Seabrook Intermediate School**, 1st Year Member



*Project: **Walk on the Wild Side: 5K Family Fun Walk** – Mitch collaborated with Connor Turley, another Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member, to organize a district-wide 5K family fun walk benefiting Clear Creek ISD’s Living Materials Center. Mitch and Connor recruited members of their school’s National Junior Honor Society and raised over \$3,000 for the Living Materials Center. Mitch said, “I gained a true appreciation of doing things for other people. The project was harder than I thought it would be. But I was very proud when I realized that I could accomplish more than I thought I could.” Sponsor: **Christopher Lowe**, Teacher, Seabrook Intermediate School.*

Shyam Gandhi, 8th grader, **Westbrook Intermediate School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Holiday Toy Drive** – Shyam organized a toy drive and collected monetary donations in order to provide holiday gifts to underprivileged children. He said, “Helping others can always help you strive towards success.” Sponsor: **Hayesh Gandhi**, Shyam’s father.*

Kendall Palmer, 8th grader, **Seabrook Intermediate School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Key Chains for Cancer Society** – Kendall recruited her school’s Student Council to make and sell beaded key chains benefiting the American Cancer Society. She said, “I learned that no matter how many people show up to help, it does not make it any easier to talk in front of them. You just have to be brave.” Sponsor: **Amanda Bass**, Teacher, Seabrook Intermediate School.*



Connor Turley, 6th grader, **Seabrook Intermediate School**, 1st Year Member



*Project: **Walk on the Wild Side: 5K Family Fun Walk** – Connor collaborated with Mitch Gaines, another Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member, to organize a district-wide 5K family fun walk benefiting Clear Creek ISD’s Living Materials Center. Connor and Mitch recruited members of their school’s National Junior Honor Society and raised over \$3,000 for the Living Materials Center. Connor said, “I loved raising money for the Living Materials Center. This was a lot of hard work, but it was worth it in the end.” Sponsor: **Christopher Lowe**, Teacher, Seabrook Intermediate School.*

Clear Creek ISD (continued)

Alanna Winfield, 9th grader, **Clear Lake High School**, 4th Year Member

*Project: **Caring Cards** – Alanna recruited 12 volunteers from the freshman girls’ basketball team at her school to make homemade Christmas cards which she delivered to Rosemont Senior Living Community. Alanna said, “The Lone Star Leadership program has changed me throughout the four years that I have been involved in the program. It has made me a stronger leader and I try to use what I have learned in my daily life to help myself and others.” Sponsor: **Peter Storms**, Teacher, Clear Lake High School.*



Nick Winfield, 7th grader, **Westbrook Intermediate School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Books for All** – Nick enlisted the help of several friends to collect gently used books for children and adults. The books were donated to Hope Village, which provides residential and support services for children and adults with mental disabilities. He said, “It has been a challenge to organize a service project but with some guidance I learned how to do it. I sincerely hope the residents enjoy the books.” Sponsor: **Cara Rockey**, Teacher, Westbrook Intermediate School.*

Conroe ISD

Teddie Andritsos, 9th grader, **The Woodlands High School Ninth Grade Campus**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Blankets 4 Kiddos**. Sponsor: **Megan McDougald**, Teacher, The Woodlands High School Ninth Grade Campus.*

Sarah Meidel, 7th grader, **McCullough Junior High School**, 1st Year Member



*Project: **Book Drive for Marcella Intermediate School** – Sarah planned a book drive to benefit a school in a low income district that was in need of resources. She presented her plan to students in each of her sponsoring teacher’s classes and collected 331 books for Marcella Intermediate School. For her efforts, Sarah was nominated for a leadership award at her school. She said, “Going to Marcella and seeing their resources versus the resources I have in my own school really opened my eyes to the needs within my community. I’m happy that I could make a difference.” Sponsor: **Lisa Holtin**, Teacher, McCullough Junior High School.*

Coppell ISD

***Noah Hendrix**, 8th grader, **Coppell Middle School North**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Child’s Play: Kids of Divorce Group** – Noah wrote curriculum for a support group serving children who have experienced divorce. His goal was to help these children overcome the stress and hardships that often accompany divorce. Noah said, “Preparing curriculum for a kids’ group turned out to be a lot harder than I thought. I learned how to break down a seemingly overwhelming project into manageable parts and have a good time along the way. It’s the biggest project I’ve helped with, but I think it’s going to help those children of divorce.” Sponsor: **Gary Hayden**, Teacher, Coppell Middle School North.*



***Ryan Maloney**, 9th grader, **Coppell High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Treat the Troops** – Ryan collected a variety of items to send to troops overseas, including magazines, energy bars and drinks, and personal hygiene items. He said, “These men and women are sacrificing so much for all of us and are so far away from home; this was something we could do to bring a little bit of home to them. My project idea came from the fact that I had a cousin in the Navy in Afghanistan who said how great it was to receive things from home. I have learned that giving some of my time can make such a difference in people’s lives.” Ryan’s sponsor, Valerie LeBlanc, said, “This young gentleman is helping to boost the morale of our courageous men and women who serve far from their homes and families.” Sponsor: **Valerie LeBlanc**, Ryan’s cousin.*

Nino Teruya, 6th grader, **Coppell Middle School North**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Art Supplies for Children’s Hospital** – Nino collected more than 35 art supply items at his school to be given to patients at a children’s hospital. He said, “I felt good helping other children. Accomplishing my project made me feel like a better leader.” Sponsor: **Gary Hayden**, Teacher, Coppell Middle School North.*

Cotton Center ISD

Abbie Burnett, 8th grader, **Cotton Center Junior High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Komfort for Kids** – Abbie raised money to buy fleece from a local fabric store to make 32 blankets. She said, “I never realized just how lucky we all are. My experience through this project made me a better leader and person all around.” Sponsor: **Sharla Straw**, Teacher, Cotton Center High School.*



DeSoto ISD



William Baker, 6th grader, **McCowan Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Kid 2 Kid Tutoring - Zap Out Zeroes!!** – With the help of his Eagle Teacher, the head of the math department, and several students, William tutored students to eliminate zeros and make up assignments in math that they did not understand or complete. William publicized his tutoring services to attract ‘clients’ from his school, and he worked with younger students from his neighborhood. William said, “I have grown in my confidence by doing what I love: helping people to be successful. It feels good to help people in my school and community in math, which is my favorite subject.” His sponsor, Beth Wright, said, “I am proud of William and his giving heart to help others with a project that is needed. Our students are being helped in recovering/making up assignments and William is a great example in tutoring, character, and academic success.” Sponsor: **Beth Wright**, Teacher, McCowan Middle School.*

Eanes ISD

Maddie Bitting, 8th grader, **Hill Country Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Eco-Friendly Presentation – Maddie worked in tandem with another Council member, Grace Robertson, to create a presentation about the environment for third graders. Along with two volunteers, Maddie and Grace presented information about practical ways to protect the environment to a class of 22 students. Maddie said, “Even young kids can make a huge impact on our environment. They just need to make it a positive impact.” *Sponsor: Danae Kozelsky, Teacher, Hill Country Middle School.*

Grace Robertson, 8th grader, **Hill Country Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Eco-Friendly Presentation – Grace worked in tandem with another Council member, Maddie Bitting, to create a presentation about the environment for third graders. Along with two volunteers, Grace and Maddie presented information about practical ways to protect the environment to a class of 22 students. Grace said, “I feel like I really learned how to present a project in an appropriate manner according to my audience. I am sure this skill will help me become a better leader because it will help me communicate more effectively.” *Sponsor: Danae Kozelsky, Teacher, Hill Country Middle School.*

Ector County ISD

Mikayla Ballew, 8th grader, **Bowie Junior High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Holidays with the Elderly. *Sponsor: Christina Jackson, Teacher, Bowie Junior High School.*

Eden Consolidated ISD

Dava Smetana, 10th grader, **Eden High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Hope in Your Tomorrow – Dava set up donation boxes at local banks to collect items for a shelter for unwed mothers in a neighboring town. She incorporated the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and her service learning class by hosting a Girls’ Night Out to make baby blankets. She said, “I realized not everyone was willing to support a home for unwed mothers, but it also taught me an awesome lesson to not ‘judge books by their covers.’” Her sponsor, Kit Hall, said, “This was a very unique project as Dava took an uncomfortable topic and turned it into a project that empowers young, unwed women who are pregnant to learn necessary parenting skills and to get necessary items they need to be good parents.” *Sponsor: Kit Hall, Teacher, Eden High School.*



Edinburg Consolidated ISD

Miranda Chavez, 6th grader, **South Middle School**, 1st Year Member



Project: Stockings for Seniors – After collecting donations from friends, family, and neighbors, Miranda recruited 15 volunteers to help stuff stockings with gifts for 36 senior citizens at a local nursing home. She also organized a party at the nursing home where she and her team served cake and cookies, performed Christmas carols and other musical pieces, and spent quality time with the residents. Miranda said, “Even though it was difficult to organize and collect the donations, I learned that serving others can have a positive effect on not just those who are being served, but also on those who are serving.” *Sponsor: Amy Moses, Teacher, South Middle School.*

Fort Davis ISD

Kristin Wright, 8th grader, **Fort Davis Junior/Senior High School**, 1st Year Member

Project: Treats for our Teachers and Administrators – Kristin recruited three volunteers to help make 37 mini cranberry orange loaves which she presented to teachers and administrators at her school. Kristin said, “I struggled at first but once I finally got started everything got better. Making all the people I gave treats to happy made everything worth it!” *Sponsor: Donel Lara, Teacher, Fort Davis Junior/Senior High School.*



Friena ISD

Ryan DeWit, 10th grader, **Friena High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: School Clean Up. *Sponsor: Ben Kirton, Assistant Principal, Friena High School.*

Frisco ISD

***Kailani Gonzales**, 6th grader, **Clark Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – Kailani worked with the administration at her school to host a breakfast for 60 teachers. She made a special effort to meet and greet each teacher in order to show her appreciation for his or her service. Kailani said, “I gained respect and appreciation for all that our teachers do!” *Sponsor: Cindy Connatser, Teacher, Clark Middle School.*



Nicole Bordman, 7th grader, **Wester Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Birthday Boxes. *Sponsor: Christine Brown, Teacher, Wester Middle School.*

Andrea Shaver, 9th grader, **Liberty High School**, 3rd Year Member

Project: Valentines for Victoria – Andrea and her team of volunteers made over 70 valentines to deliver to a local nursing home. She said, “It really meant a lot to me to repeat the same project as last year. The smiling faces are what is most rewarding in the end.” *Sponsor: Tim Johannes, Teacher, Liberty High School.*

Frisco ISD (continued)

Tori Stephens, 7th grader, **Clark Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: *Fundraising for My Friend's House* – Tori collected \$559.12 in change to donate to My Friend's House Family and Children Services, Inc., a group home serving boys who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. She said, *"When everyone gives just a little (like their spare change), a lot can be accomplished."* Her sponsor, Judy Vander Ark, said, *"I'm very proud of Tori's hard work and her enthusiasm toward helping kids in need."* **Sponsor: Judy Vander Ark, Mission Committee Chairman, Reformed Church in Plano.**



Garland ISD



***Josh Arey**, 7th grader, **Brandenburg Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: *Cleaning Up the Outdoor Classroom* – Josh recruited three students from Heather Glen Elementary to help clean up the school's Outdoor Classroom. Josh said, *"I learned that, although it is hard for me, it is important for me to lead by example. It felt great to help out my former teachers."* **Sponsor: Kim King, Teacher, Heather Glen Elementary School.**

Allison Jones, 9th grader, **Naaman Forest High School**, 1st Year Member

Project: *Naaman Forest High School - Passionately Pink for a Cure* – Allison organized students to sell pizza, sodas, shirts, and candy after school. She donated the profits to the Susan G. Komen Foundation to help fund cancer research. Allison said, *"I enjoyed the planning and organizing of this project. Knowing that we did something good for others just made me feel so good about myself."* **Sponsor: Deborah McCloskey, JV Drill Team Director, Naaman Forest High School.**

Georgetown ISD

Shelby Larsen, 8th grader, **Forbes Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: *Christmas Jingles* – Shelby recruited three members of the Forbes Middle School Orchestra to join her in presenting a Christmas concert to the residents of an assisted living complex. Shelby said, *"Almost every person came up to us after the concert and thanked us for giving our time to others. I really enjoyed using my musical talent to brighten someone else's day."* **Sponsor: Kyle Myers, Orchestra Director, Forbes Middle School.**

Grand Prairie ISD

***Lindsey Morrison**, 12th grader, **South Grand Prairie High School**, 6th Year Member

Project: *Coat and Blanket Drive* – Lindsey worked with her church and the Student Council at her school to collect four scarves, 54 hats, 200 coats, and 150 pairs of gloves. She said, *"As my last year doing this project, I realized that by getting more people involved, I could benefit more kids and make a greater impact."* **Sponsor: Debbie Beaudin, Teacher, South Grand Prairie High School.**



Daniel Bourlon, 9th grader, **Grand Prairie High School Ninth Grade Center**, 1st Year Member

Project: *AED Training* – Daniel developed training sessions for band members to learn how to properly operate the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in case of an emergency. Daniel said, *"This has taught me that I should not procrastinate and should move forward with projects faster."* **Sponsor: Jack Denton, Band Director, Grand Prairie High School.**

Thomas Bowen, 9th grader, **John A. Dubiski Career High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: *The Densmore Family Benefit* – Thomas raised \$6,400 for members of a family who serve as missionaries in New Zealand. The family had recently lost a child to a metabolic disease and was burdened with substantial medical bills. **Sponsor: Charles Bowen, Missions Director, Calvary Baptist Church.**



Grand Saline ISD



Jenelle Milam, 10th grader, **Grand Saline High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: *Gift Baskets for the Elderly* – Jenelle recruited three of her friends to make gift bags which they delivered to local senior adults at Christmas. She said, *"My friends and I learned there are people who aren't sure their family loves them. We hope to show that even if their families don't visit them there are people who do care about them, and I'm glad to say I'm one of those who love them."* **Sponsor: Donna Taylor, Student Council Sponsor, Grand Saline High School.**

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

***Taylor Jenkins**, 10th grader, **Grapevine-Colleyville High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: *Halloween Treats for Troops* – Taylor led a team of volunteers that collected 100 pounds of Halloween candy to send to troops. Taylor said, *"Although troubles were faced throughout the project, there is always someone out there who is facing something much harder, for instance our nation's troops."* **Sponsor: Mary Harmon, Teacher, Grapevine-Colleyville High School.**



Grapevine-Colleyville ISD (continued)

***Jeff Trimmer**, 10th grader, **Grapevine High School**, 4th Year Member

Project: Cans for GRACE – Throughout the months of November and December, Jeff collected over 400 canned goods and other food items for donation to Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (GRACE), in Grapevine, Texas. He said, “*I enjoyed helping and lending a hand in the local food collection.*” *Sponsor: Scott Berry, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Southlake.*



Jacob Spangler, 11th grader, **Grapevine High School**, 4th Year Member

Project: Students Serving Seniors. *Sponsor: Dottie LeSieur, Executive Manager, South Colleyville Ranch.*

Greenville ISD

***Christopher Hazlett**, 8th grader, **Greenville Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Greenville Middle School Pride Day – Christopher recruited over a dozen student volunteers to assist him with a beautification project at his school. He created a new landscaped area, and he repaired and cleaned up other areas at the school. Christopher worked with local businesses to secure donations for the landscaping portion of his project. He said, “*I learned it is not always easy to plan projects that the weather can cause issues with, but that it is worth not giving up. With determination and a good attitude, things can be completed.*” *Sponsor: David Gish, Principal, Greenville Middle School.*



Harper ISD

Angie Pascarella, 7th grader, **Harper Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: Harper Youth Library Club (HYLC) – Angie focused on motivating middle school students to volunteer regularly at the Harper Library. She said, “*The HYLC has allowed me to build my responsibility and is helping me learn what it is like to be a real leader.*” *Sponsor: Martha Stevens, President, Harper Library.*



Holliday ISD

***Thad Douglass**, 10th grader, **Holliday High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Recycle for a Change – Thad worked with Kyle Wilson to direct the student council at his school in an education initiative aimed at recycling paper, plastic bottles, and tin cans. Through advertising and the use of collection points, he collected a significant quantity of items to be recycled. Thad said, “*It was evident that far too much waste was being produced at our school. Leading this project taught me that not only can more be done to make an impact, but everyone can lend a helping hand in the effort.*” *Sponsor: Susan Scarbrough, Teacher, Holliday High School.*



***Kyle Wilson**, 10th grader, **Holliday High School**, 2nd Year Member

Project: Recycle for a Change – Kyle worked with Thad Douglass to enlist the help of the student council at his school to begin a recycling program for paper, plastic bottles, and tin cans. He said, “*Lately I have become more aware of the production of waste coming from our school, and so I felt the need to act upon it.*

By performing this project I was able to raise awareness of recycling within the student body.” *Sponsor: Susan Scarbrough, Teacher, Holliday High School.*

Houston ISD

Lafayette Stephens, Jr., 6th grader, **Welch Middle School**, 1st Year Member

Project: Socks for Seniors – Lafayette recruited 34 students from various school organizations including the cheerleaders, pep squad, and spirit club to help pass out socks to the residents at Westbrae Retirement Home in Houston. Regarding what he learned through this experience, he said, “*It is better to give than receive.*” *Sponsor: James Stevens, Teacher, Welch Middle School.*



The members of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council are some of the best and brightest students in Texas. All of them are 'busy' people – involved in local school clubs, Student Council, holding class offices, National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society, 4-H, sports, music, drama, scouting, church activities, and community organizations. They have received numerous awards for their efforts. The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council also takes a good amount of their time. Each member of the Council must complete three written leadership lessons, perform a service project, and make a presentation of their project documented in writing and pictures. The 2009-2010 Council performed admirably in all aspects of the program and the work of the group, as a whole, was very impressive. The scope of the service projects and the students' passion for finding a need and then a way to address it was just overwhelming. Their reservoir of creativity seemed to know no bounds. It was an absolute joy to get to know these students and to be involved, in even a small way, in their education and development as future Texas leaders.



Carolayne Markle,
Alumni Coordinator



Humble ISD

Michelle Biancardi, 8th grader, **Riverwood Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Book Drive 2010** – Over a period of two weeks, Michelle organized the collection of over 730 new and nearly new elementary level books for Lakeland Elementary School. Michelle said, “Being in charge of setting dates and meeting them helped me to understand how important it is to plan things fully in advance so that leading others goes as planned.” Sponsor: **Jean Faris**, Librarian, Riverwood Middle School.*

Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD

***Rebekah Canfield**, 7th grader, **Harwood Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Wrapping of Christmas Gifts for Orphans at Pleasant Hills Children's Home, Fairfield, Texas** – Rebekah recruited volunteers to wrap Christmas gifts that had been donated by the women of her church for 45 orphans at the Pleasant Hills Children's Home in Fairfield, Texas. Rebekah said, “My life was changed through this service project. I now have a deep desire to someday work at this orphanage and be a blessing to the children.” Her sponsor, Rebecca Freeman, said, “Rebekah's participation made the present delivery a great success!” Sponsor: **Rebecca Freeman**, Women's Ministry Director, First Assembly of God.*



***Edem Fagbolagun**, 9th grader, **Central Junior High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Canned Goods Drive**. Sponsor: **Kwani Ladzekpo**, Owner, New World Tech and Supply.*

Katy ISD

Atul Nayak, 7th grader, **Bekendorff Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Sandwich Save-Up** – Atul recruited friends and family to help him make and deliver sandwiches for the homeless. He said, “I was amazed at how many sandwiches we made. It was a really good feeling when we saw the smiles on the people's faces after we handed out all the sandwiches.” Sponsor: **Christopher Lightle**, Teacher, Bekendorff Junior High School.*

Keller ISD

***JeRae' Druery**, 11th grader, **Keller High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Exploring Diversity Assembly and Video** – JeRae' recruited volunteers to assist her with the production of a series of videos designed to highlight, and educate students about, diversity in her school. JeRae' said, “I am personally happy to be a part of spreading awareness in our school.” Sponsor: **Julie Miller**, Teacher, Keller High School.*



Kerrville ISD

David Badillo, 10th grader, **Tivy High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Project T.A.F.F.Y. (Tunes and Fun for You)**. Sponsor: **Becky Dixon**, Teacher, Tivy High School.*

Lake Travis ISD

Sarah McCormick, 8th grader, **Hudson Bend Middle School**, 3rd Year Member



*Project: **Cards for Operation Write Home and Blankets for Dells Children's Hospital** – Sarah made 230 unique, handmade Christmas Cards which she donated to Operation Write Home. She also recruited five volunteers to help make 10 handmade blankets for Dells Children's Hospital. She said, “I met several people during my projects that made amazingly large donations and didn't even have a reason. They were just moved by my projects. It really made me stop and think about what a huge difference we could make if we would all work together.” Sponsor: **Judith McLaren**, Teacher, Hudson Bend Middle School.*

Laredo ISD

Eduardo McCoy, 6th grader, **Lamar Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Food Drive for Bethany House** – Eduardo led his basketball team as they collected food for the local homeless shelter. He said, “I have learned to be grateful for all the things I have because there are many less fortunate individuals in this world.” Sponsor: **Maggie Rodriguez**, Teacher, Lamar Middle School.*

Leander ISD

Kinsee Tumlinson, 6th grader, **Cedar Park Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Entertaining Angels** – Kinsee enlisted four volunteers to help make bags of supplies for homeless people in the Austin area which she then personally handed out. She quoted, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)” Sponsor: **LeAnn Moody**, Teacher, Cedar Park Middle School.*



Lewisville ISD

***Kirby Lorig**, 8th grader, **McKamy Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Make a Scene**. Sponsor: **Lori Burge**, Teacher, McKamy Middle School.*

Little Cypress-Mauriceville Consolidated ISD

Makenzie Hearn, 6th grader, **Little Cypress Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Gifts for Teachers*** – Makenzie gave each teacher at her school a gift of appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication. She said, “I learned that not all things that seem fun are fun all the time. It took me a long time to complete the project, but the reward of seeing the teachers' faces made it worth the long hours I gave in order for someone else to feel good.” Her sponsor, Julia Dickerson, said, “Makenzie spent her time making gifts that she gave lovingly to her teachers, not wanting anything in return. We thoroughly enjoyed her ‘sunshine!’” Sponsor: **Julia Dickerson**, Principal, Little Cypress Intermediate School.



Longview ISD

Andrew O'Connor, 9th grader, **Longview High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **World Geography Lunch Tutorials*** – Andrew conducted lunchtime tutoring sessions in world geography by assisting the teacher in discussing the geographical regions, explaining poorly understood concepts, and studying maps with the students. He said, “I feel that now the students and I are far more knowledgeable about geography around the world. I hope that this new knowledge can be put to good use in their everyday lives.” Sponsor: **Cal Hanzik**, Teacher, Longview High School.

Lovejoy ISD

Jordan James, 10th grader, **Lovejoy High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Project Propland***. Sponsor: **Christal Hanhey**, Teacher, Lovejoy High School.

Anna Libey, 9th grader, **Lovejoy High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Edible Garden Project*** – Anna started a new club at her school to plant an edible garden and to promote environmentalism to students. She said, “I learned how to plan and organize meetings and lead a group of kids.” Sponsor: **Jan DeLisle**, GT Coordinator, Lovejoy High School.

Luling ISD

Emma King, 8th grader, **Luling Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Operation Brain***. Sponsor: **Donna Landers**, Teacher, Luling Junior High School.



Magnolia ISD

***Bailey Chandler**, 6th grader, **Magnolia Sixth Grade Campus**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Food for Fun*** – Bailey recruited his peers to collect snack food to donate to the Society of Samaritans (SOS), an organization that helps supply the local food pantry. Bailey said, “I learned that it feels good to be able to help people. I also learned how recruit kids to help with my project. It was all a personal learning experience for me.” Sponsor: **Shirley Johnson**, Teacher, Williams Elementary School.

Midland ISD

***Wilson Clark**, 7th grader, **Abell Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Frijoles 4 Friends, Blankets 4 the Border*** - Enlisting the help of 450 Spanish students, Wilson collected more than 25 blankets and more than 1,000 pounds of rice and beans to donate. Wilson said, “I felt good helping other people with food and blankets.” His sponsor, Curtis Aguirre, said, “The students all had a good time gathering up and organizing the donations.” Sponsor: **Curtis Aguirre**, Teacher, Abell Junior High School.



New Braunfels ISD

Chris Ferguson, 8th grader, **Oak Run Middle School**, 1st Year Member



*Project: **Oak Run Middle School Fitness Council*** – With the support of school administration, Chris created a fitness council comprised of his peers to help bring awareness of healthy lifestyles to the students on his campus. Chris's project arose from his concern regarding rising childhood obesity rates and related health complications such as diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. Chris said, “I have learned how to organize and motivate people on a team. I have learned that everyone comes to the table with different ideas, and they all have value. It feels good to make a positive impact on your campus.” Sponsor: **Mary Skidmore**, Teacher, Oak Run Middle School.

Nocona ISD

Sherese Price, 6th grader, **Nocona Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **The Helping Indians*** – Sherese recruited two volunteers to help make 60 cards to donate to patients in the Nocona Nursing Home. She also visited the nursing home to deliver the cards and paint some of the residents' nails. Sherese said, “I realized that all people are the same and are important, no matter what their physical differences or age may be.” Her sponsor, Erin Christenson, said, “I felt like Sherese's service project showed what a kind heart she has. She wanted to make others feel special that day.” Sponsor: **Erin Christenson**, Counselor, Nocona Middle School.

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 each and every one of these outstanding young leaders.

Northeast ISD

Charles Bimler, 10th grader, **Churchill High School**, 4th Year Member

*Project: **Animals in Need*** – Charles recruited a team of volunteers to collect supplies for the Humane Society. After distributing fliers, they collected 250 pounds of dog and cat food, as well as \$550 cash. Charles said, “*It felt good delivering the food to the shelter, and I got to see all the animals I was helping. It felt good knowing I could make such a difference and I hope to continue as an active part of my community.*” His sponsor, Jeanie Grogan, said, “*Charles has shown great initiative and leadership in organizing this impressive drive to help the animals in our community.*” Sponsor: **Jeanie Grogan**, Charles’s neighbor.



***Danielle De La Paz**, 6th grader, **Lopez Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Socks for Soldiers*** – Danielle coordinated the collection of 200 pairs of socks that she provided to active and wounded soldiers. Danielle said, “*If you have determination, dedication, and patience you can pursue whatever goal you set for yourself.*” Sponsor: **Andrea Hopkins**, Teacher, Lopez Middle School.

Jordan Cornell, 6th grader, **Krueger School of Applied Technologies**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Skate for Hope*** – Jordan recruited his teammates and other youth ice hockey players to raise money in a Skate-a-Thon for Show Hope, an adoption network and orphanage. Jordan said, “*This event helped me become a better speaker in public and a better leader around my peers. I was amazed at the money that we raised. It was so exciting to send the donation off to a great organization.*” Sponsor: **Lori Kolodziejski**, Teacher, Sippel Elementary School.



Sofia Miranda-Fred, 6th grader, **Keystone School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Infection Prevention Project*** – Sofia created an educational program for kindergarten–fourth grade students designed to teach techniques for preventing the spread of the H1N1 flu virus. She recruited volunteers to help her present the program to approximately 100 students using stories, a PowerPoint presentation, and videos. Sofia said, “*With this project, my peers and I had to present our program to around 100 children, so we further developed our public speaking skills and lessened our stage fright.*” Sponsor: **Christine D’Alessandro**, Principal of Lower School, Keystone School.

Northside ISD

Troy Thienpont, 9th grader, **Sandra Day O’Connor High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Casa Helotes Clean Up*** – Troy recruited four volunteers to help clean the grounds of the Casa Helotes Senior Citizens Center by pruning overgrown plants and pulling weeds. He said, “*I felt good about helping the elderly who have supported me while I have grown up.*” Sponsor: **Pamela Hummel**, GT Campus Coordinator, Sandra Day O’Connor High School.

Northwest ISD

Jacob Williamson, 7th grader, **Medlin Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Food Drive for Roanoke Food Pantry*** – Jacob collected over 100 items for the Roanoke Food Pantry. He said, “*During my project I was able to become a better leader by challenging myself to overcome certain roadblocks.*” His sponsor, Teresa Williamson, said, “*Jake’s project suffered several setbacks, but he believed in his project and saw it through to the end.*” Sponsor: **Teresa Williamson**, Jacob’s mother.



Paris ISD

Michael Hamilton, 8th grader, **Travis Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Boy Scout Service Center Makeover Project*** – Michael recruited a team that included his family and his scout troop to clean up a Boy Scout Service Center and the surrounding grounds. He power washed the building, trimmed trees, and removed one tree that was infested with insects. He also installed two new flower beds, repaired the irrigation system, and enlisted TxDOT to improve the drainage on the highway in front of the building. Boy Scouts of America pitched in as well by paying to have the parking lot repaved. Michael said, “*Buildings need love too.*” His sponsor, David Bailey, said, “*The building looks better than it has in years and people comment on the work and improvements.*” Sponsor: **David Bailey**, District Executive, Boy Scouts of America.



Shannon O’Brian, 10th grader, **Paris High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Necessities for the Needy*** – Shannon recruited two volunteers to help her make 11 care packages filled with necessities and extra items which she donated to Necessities for the Needy. She said, “*Even the smallest things we take for granted mean the most to someone who has nothing, like a toothbrush and toothpaste.*” Sponsor: **Kim Ekstrom**, Teacher, Paris High School.



Pearland ISD

***Katie Lumpkin**, 9th grader, **Pearland High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Eagle’s Lift Ministries*** – Katie raised awareness and funds for Eagle’s Lift Ministries, a non-profit organization which supports young women aged 16-21 who are facing homelessness and teenage pregnancy. She said, “*Although it may seem hard at times and you may feel like you have too much on your plate, I learned that as long as you believe in the cause you support, you’ll find a way to get it done. I think that this project has helped me learn to manage my time wisely and not take any opportunity for granted.*” Sponsor: **Lynn Parks**, Co-Founder, Eagle’s Lift Ministries.





Pearland ISD (continued)

Rahul Dsilva, 7th grader, **Miller Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Tutoring Math Students** – Recognizing that many students find math challenging, Rahul tutored four to five math students on a weekly basis from October 2009 through January 2010. Rahul said, “This project has helped me to trust in my abilities and has made me stronger and more independent. It’s a great feeling to have made a difference in my fellow students’ lives and in our school in general.” Sponsor: **Lana Colvin**, Teacher, Berry Middle School.*

Grace Li, 9th grader, **Dawson High School**, 4th Year Member

*Project: **Helping Haiti’s Earthquake Victims** – Grace enlisted the help of her siblings and worked with team leaders from We Care Act to collect clothing items and cash donations for Haiti’s earthquake victims. In order to inform the community about her efforts, she created and distributed newsletters and wrote articles in community newspapers asking people to support her efforts. She has already collected 230 clothing items and \$925.45, and she plans to continue collecting clothes and raising funds. Grace said, “I enjoyed myself very much despite all the hard work, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.” Sponsor: **Sixia Huang**, Grace’s mother.*



Sharon Li, 7th grader, **Miller Junior High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **We Care Act** – Sharon organized over 50 volunteers to help coordinate book drives and other fundraising activities to benefit the victims of the Sichuan earthquake. She said that she learned the benefit of doing “something that you would want others to do for you.” Sponsor: **Virginia Hilton**, Teacher, Miller Junior High School.*

Georgia Neitzey, 9th grader, **Glenda Dawson High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Head Start Christmas Drive** – With the help of her church, Georgia collected items to provide as Christmas gifts for 85 underprivileged children. Each child received a toy, an outfit of clothes, and a pair of shoes. She said, “I loved seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces when they received their gifts.” Sponsor: **Jim Liberator**, Priest, St. Andrews Episcopal Church.*

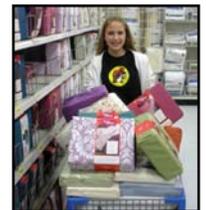


Kyle Neitzey, 6th grader, **Sam Jamison Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Holes for Cans, a Golf-a-Thon Food Drive** – Kyle found donors to sponsor him with either monetary or food donations for every hole of golf he played on January 4th. Kyle raised over \$1,200 and collected 72 food items for Christian Helping Hands by playing 36 holes of golf. He said, “Through my Golf-a-Thon, I learned that everyone can help those in need, no matter your age.” Sponsor: **Eric Mortenson**, Kyle’s uncle.*

Susan Sullivan, 7th grader, **Pearland Junior High East**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Fisher House Foundation - Helping Military Families** – Susan collected money and donations of household linens via a website that she created to benefit the Fisher House in Houston, which provides support to military families. She said, “I wanted to make sure that my project helped not only men and women of the armed services, but also their families. Sometimes the families are forgotten and I wanted to make sure that I didn’t forget them.” Her sponsor, Camille Sullivan, said, “As Susan’s sponsor I encouraged her to pick a project that had personal meaning to her. Because she is a military dependent, Fisher House has a special meaning to her because they help the entire family, not just the service member.” Sponsor: **Camille Sullivan**, Librarian, Clear Brook High School.*



Angelene Superable, 9th grader, **Dawson High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Tulips for Tuscany** – Angelene organized 27 volunteers from the Glenda Dawson Interact Organization to participate in a ‘Sing-a-Long’ with the residents of Tuscany Village, a nursing home facility, in honor of Valentine’s Day. After the ‘Sing-a-Long’, she distributed 300 tulips to the residents and staff of Tuscany Village. Angelene said, “During this service project, I learned that a little kindness goes a long way. The things you do for others can impact their life forever, no matter how small it seems to you. Spread a little love in your community. You’ll be surprised at how much you’ll get back!” Sponsor: **Deidre Farinacci**, Teacher, Dawson High School.*



Sharon Yang, 8th grader, **Berry Miller Junior High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Project R.E.A.D. (Reading, Educating, and Donating)**. Sponsor: **Sheri Bridges**, Librarian, Berry Miller Junior High School.*

Plainview ISD

***Layton Schur**, 9th grader, **Plainview High School**, 4th Year Member

*Project: **Cradles for Wee Care** – Layton made six baby doll cradles for Wee Care Child Center. He said, “Making time for others is rewarding.” Sponsor: **Carrie Rollins**, Teacher, Plainview High School.*





Plainview ISD (continued)

Emily Evans, 8th grader, **Estacado Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **HOPE for Soldiers** – Emily enlisted the help of elementary school students from an after school program sponsored by her church to make 30 Christmas cards and ornaments for soldiers in Iraq. She said, “It was fun to see the children’s excitement at being a part of this project. When I received a reply from the unit it felt great to know that I had helped make a difference in their Christmas away from home.” Sponsor: **Sarah Ballard**, Children’s Pastor, H.O.P.E. for Children’s Ministries.*

Plano ISD

***Michael Roohy**, 9th grader, **Shepton High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Numbers Make Sense** – Michael recruited five volunteer tutors to help 10 sixth graders improve their math knowledge and skills during two Saturday school sessions. Regarding his experience with this project, Michael said, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” Sponsor: **Arpine Eglenceoglu**, Michael’s mother.*



Maya Kirkland, 9th grader, **Williams High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Christmas Angel Tree/Plano ‘Wish List** – Maya collected and organized gift boxes for underprivileged children at Christmas. She also collected nonperishable foods to donate to families in need in Mesquite, TX. She said, “At the end of our four hour day we walked out basically new people. We realized how fortunate we were and that giving back is the right thing to do.” Sponsor: **Ronald Planks**, Orchestra Director, Williams High School.*

Alexa Woppman, 6th grader, **Robinson Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **School Beautification**. Sponsor: **Laurie Koss**, Teacher, Robinson Middle School.*



Prosper ISD

***Madissen Robinson**, 6th grader, **Rogers Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Making a Difference** – Madissen passed out fliers and hung posters and banners to collect information on families who needed help during the holiday season. She recruited two volunteers to deliver stuffed animals to families in need. Madissen said, “It made me feel really special to be doing something for people who needed help. I have already volunteered to help with this project next year.” Sponsor: **Gary McHone**, Captain, Prosper Police Department.*

Rockwall ISD

***Lina Kim**, 7th grader, **Williams Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Christmas with Strings** – Lina made arrangements for her entire school orchestra to perform Christmas music at Summer Ridge Retirement Community. She said, “It was great to serve my community, especially during the holidays. It meant a lot to all of us.” Sponsor: **Ryan Ross**, Orchestra Director, Williams Middle School.*



Andrew Orozco, 10th grader, **Rockwall Heath High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Watch D.O.G.S. Chili Cook-Off**. Sponsor: **Brian Neely**, Assistant Principal, Dorris A. Jones Elementary School.*

Round Rock ISD

Efaine Chang, 8th grader, **Chisholm Trail Middle School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Santa’s Little Helpers** – With the help of eight volunteers, Efaine prepared gifts consisting of chocolates and Christmas frames for all 53 academic teachers in her school. Efaine said, “It was really fun working with friends on such a big project. Being able to pull such a big operation together and pulling through certain complications that occurred throughout the project has really helped me further develop my leadership skills.” Sponsor: **Taylor Terry**, Teacher, Chisholm Trail Middle School.*



Zoe Punske, 8th grader, **Cedar Valley Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Helping the Salvation Army of Austin** – Zoe organized a food drive at her school to benefit the Salvation Army of Austin. She also organized a group of volunteers to prepare meals in the kitchen of the Salvation Army. Zoe said, “I learned what it takes to pull together a service project and I now have a great respect for those who give their time assisting others, because I now understand the hard work and dedication required.” Sponsor: **Diane Hance**, NJHS Sponsor, Cedar Valley Middle School.*

San Angelo ISD

***DJ Simpson**, 10th grader, **Central High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Bat Houses** – DJ built bat houses to place at a scout camp in order to help reduce the insect problem in the area. He said, “I feel that the area will benefit from them. By placing the houses here, they can be used to help educate the kids who attend scout camp. They will learn how the bats can help the community.” Sponsor: **Jennie Thompson**, Teacher, Lamar Elementary School.*



San Angelo ISD (continued)

Jessica Gambrell, 9th grader, **Central High School Freshman Campus**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Helping Our Elders*** – Jessica recruited two volunteers to help her create Christmas bags for the Adult Enrichment Center, an organization that provides support for senior adults and their families in the San Angelo area. Jessica said, “I learned that just by helping with the little things in life you can change the outlook of the people around you and make their lives a little better.” *Sponsor: **Maureen Meador**, Student Council Sponsor, Central High School Freshman Campus.*

Santa Fe ISD



Twila Johnson, 9th grader, **Santa Fe High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Recycling for a Better Tomorrow*** – Twila volunteered at a Galveston, Texas conference to learn about recycling. She then put her knowledge into action and set up recycling bins in her school cafeteria. After analyzing the results of her project, she determined that there is still more work to be done to educate students about the necessity of recycling. She said, “I learned that although people say they are interested in recycling, they are really not. It made me want to personally work harder to recycle.” *Sponsor: **Holly Bankston**, Counselor, Santa Fe High School.*

Scurry-Rosser ISD

Devon Camp, 8th grader, **Scurry-Rosser Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Story Hour for Scurry-Rosser Elementary School*** – Devon and a volunteer classmate led tutoring sessions three days a week for third graders at the elementary school in her district. She also provided a daily tutoring session at the middle school for fifth grade students. Devon said, “At first the students did not cope well with the tutoring process, but we were able to ease them into the learning process. They adjusted and seemed to enjoy the time we spent together.” *Sponsor: **Melissa Truly**, Counselor, Scurry-Rosser Middle School.*



Sharyland ISD

Michael ‘Mikey’ Ramirez, 7th grader, **Shary North Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Change 4 Children*** – Mikey distributed boxes to each classroom at his school and around his neighborhood and collected over \$500 in change to benefit Estrella's House, a home for battered and abused children. He said, “Through this project I learned the importance of giving to others who are less fortunate and how great it feels to know I can make a difference.” *Sponsor: **Cindy Liljedahl**, Student Council Sponsor, Donna Wernecke Elementary School.*



Jamie Trevino, 8th grader, **Sharyland North Junior High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Thank a Teacher***. *Sponsor: **Angela Salinas**, Teacher, Sharyland North Junior High School.*

South Texas ISD

***Robert Vastano III**, 9th grader, **The Science Academy of South Texas**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Fundraiser for Sea Turtle Rescue Center*** – Robert printed and sold raffle tickets for a variety of prizes including a game system and gift cards and raised \$470 for Sea Turtle, Inc. He said, “I gained leadership skills through getting tickets printed, recruiting helpers to sell them, and securing raffle prizes.” *Sponsor: **Terrence Schrant**, Robert’s Scout Master.*



Jackson De Jong, 9th grader, **The Science Academy of South Texas**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Volunteering for the Technical Outreach Program for Seniors (TOPS)*** – After initially meeting obstacles to his planned service project, Jackson found the Technical Outreach Program for Seniors (TOPS) sponsored by his school. He worked through TOPS to assist Heritage Village, a local retirement community, with their technology needs. Jackson said, “Through this I learned that if one door closes, another door opens and many opportunities for serving the community are available. After meeting some of the residents of Heritage Village, I feel this experience will also allow me to learn a great deal from them.” *Sponsor: **Michael Aranda**, Principal, The Science Academy of South Texas.*



Errol Grannum, 9th grader, **The Science Academy of South Texas**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Videos for Kids*** – Errol planned and promoted a drive to collect videos to donate to the Children’s Hospital in Edinburg, Texas. With the help of his classmates, he provided 30 videos for the hospital. Errol said, “Many people are willing to give but just need to be encouraged.” *Sponsor: **David Wood**, Teacher, The Science Academy of South Texas.*

Spring Branch ISD

Sarah Lanford, 8th grader, **Spring Branch Middle School**, 3rd Year Member

*Project: **The Third Annual ‘Bear’ Necessities Clothing Drive*** – Sarah collected over 100 bags of clothing for homeless women which she donated to the Houston Women's Shelter. She said, “I have enjoyed doing this project for the past three years, and I get a great feeling knowing that I helped someone in need. I know that my donations didn’t make poverty disappear, but maybe, just maybe, I changed someone’s life.” *Sponsor: **Jeffery Walsdorf**, Teacher, Spring Branch Middle School.*



Spring Branch ISD (continued)

Tucker May, 7th grader, **Spring Forest Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Alternative Giving Campaign 2009*** – Tucker worked with the members of Emmanuel Episcopal Church to collect ‘alternative gifts’ during the Christmas season benefiting three different non-profit organizations: Nets for Life (international), Ronald McDonald House (national), and Lord of the Streets (local). He said, *“It felt good to help other people who are less fortunate than me.”* His sponsor, Gill Keyworth, said, *“The project that Tucker led fulfilled our church’s goal to support both our local outreach effort and a partner Diocese of Southern Malawi in their battle with the epidemic of malaria.”* Sponsor: **Gill Keyworth**, Mission and Outreach Director, Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

Texarkana ISD

***Claire Howard**, 10th grader, **Texas High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Lunch On Us*** – Claire enlisted three volunteers to make 100 brown bag lunches and pass them out to people in need at the Outreach Center of St. Edward’s Catholic Church. She said, *“This project really put into numbers for me the amount of people without the means of getting a simple meal. There were many children in the center, and I even ran into a friend or two. You never know the need in your community until you get out there and work for it.”* Sponsor: **Teri Wilson**, Outreach Center Director, St. Edward’s Catholic Church.



Tom Bean ISD

Maggie Lutringer, 8th grader, **Tom Bean Middle School**, 1st Year Member



*Project: **Project Pantry*** – Maggie worked with her school’s Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter to organize a food drive. She invited two other local schools to join the effort, and she motivated students to participate by creating a competition between the schools. In all, Maggie collected 1,501 canned goods. She said, *“I encountered many obstacles during the service project, but it was very rewarding when I realized I not only helped my local community, but several surrounding communities as well. By using my leadership skills I learned at camp, I was able to organize, plan, and execute a project that helped many families in need.”* Sponsor: **Debbie Yates**, Teacher, Tom Bean Middle School.

Tomball ISD

Truman Dowdy, 7th grader, **Tomball Junior High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Bracelets for TOMAGWA*** – Truman raised \$250 for TOMAGWA Healthcare Ministries, a clinic that serves people who cannot afford regular medical care and provides immunization services to the community. He also worked to increase the community’s awareness of TOMAGWA, and stated, *“Knowledge about community resources is very important!”* Sponsor: **Pam Caplinger**, Administrative Assistant, Tomball Junior High School.

Valley Mills ISD

Jennifer Pearson, 7th grader, **Valley Mills Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **School Supply Drive for Valley Mills Elementary*** – Jennifer enlisted the help of family members to purchase school supplies for students in need with nearly \$1,000 in donations from her community. She said, *“I was happy to be able to help underprivileged children who didn’t have school supplies. It felt wonderful to help the community in some way.”* Sponsor: **Angela Kusler**, Counselor, Valley Mills Junior High School.



Warren ISD

Joseph Lachausse, 11th grader, **Warren High School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Help Save Our Furry Friends*** – Joseph enlisted the help of National Honor Society members from his school and Beta Club members from Warren Junior High School to sell tickets for a drawing for a \$100 grocery store gift card. The proceeds from the drawing benefited the Woodville Animal Shelter Cat Rescue. Joseph said, *“I believe that what the Warren Beta Club, the National Honor Society, and I did is a great work for our community. This was a very rewarding project for me.”* Sponsor: **Lisa Knapp**, Teacher, Warren High School.

Weslaco ISD

David Mahoney, 7th grader, **Central Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **My Stuff Blankets*** – David enlisted the help of his 4-H group to make 32 blankets for the My Stuff Bags Foundation which benefits children in foster care. He said, *“I learned how to organize and present a project to a group of people. I was proud to donate the blankets to a great cause.”* Sponsor: **Renee Bradford**, 4-H Sponsor.



Whitehouse ISD

Jacob Cottrell, 6th grader, **Holloway Middle School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Socks for Soldiers*** – Jacob collected 517 pairs of socks, some of which he donated to an Army Reserve Unit. With the help of a local church, he added the remaining socks to care packages that were sent to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jacob said, *“First Sergeant Cassano told me not to let anyone say one person can’t make a difference. He said to just ask any soldier who received a pair of socks that I had collected. We all have opportunities to make a difference in someone’s life.”* Sponsor: **Melanie Causey**, Teacher, Holloway Sixth Grade Campus.

Windthorst ISD

Katie Pennartz, 8th grader, **Windthorst Junior High School**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Food for the Kids** – Seeing that there was a need to help students who do not have regular meals outside of school, Katie organized the collection of food to provide these students with meals on the weekends and after school. She said, “It felt good doing something for kids who couldn’t necessarily do it for themselves.” Sponsor: **Julie Pennartz**, Katie’s mother.*

Charter Schools

Don Dunlap, 7th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Westlake Academy Fun Run** – Don organized his school’s first Fun Run benefiting Christ’s Haven for Children. His efforts resulted in \$320 being raised for the organization. Don said, “The experience of organizing a Fun Run took a lot more than ordering medals and drawing a start and finish line. I had no idea of the work involved, but now that I have done the first one for my school, it will be a lot easier to organize the second one.” Sponsors: **Brooke Nicholson**, Coach and **Jacette Aguiar**, Teacher and Athletic Director, Westlake Academy.*

Elissa Dunlap, 10th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 4th Year Member

*Project: **Fashion for Funds** – Elissa worked with three other Council members to hold a fashion show to collect clothing for children at Christ’s Haven for Children. Forty-nine models participated in the show, which was sponsored by nine companies. Elissa said, “This is my fourth year to do this project. In some ways it was easier this year, but, as always, things also went a little bit wrong.” Sponsor: **Simon Aisthorpe**, Teacher, Westlake Academy.*



Micayla Lynch, 7th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Fashion for Funds**. Sponsor: **Simon Aisthorpe**, Teacher, Westlake Academy.*



W. Andres Mills Marin, 7th grader, **IDEA Frontier College Preparatory School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Personal Hygiene and Toiletry Items for the Elderly and Homeless** – Andres successfully collected approximately 1,800 hygiene and toiletry items which he donated to an assisted living center and homeless shelter. He said, “I have now done this project for two years. I think that the generosity that was shown by those who contributed really shows that people care for people who are less fortunate than they are.” Sponsor: **Jill Koehler**, Assistant Principal, IDEA Frontier College Preparatory School.*

Courtney Cundall, 10th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 3rd Year Member

*Project: **Taylor’s Garden of Angels**. Sponsor: **April Harrell**, Teacher, Westlake Academy.*

Anisse Sircar, 7th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Fashion for Funds**. Sponsor: **Simon Aisthorpe**, Teacher, Westlake Academy.*

Lauren Valentine, 7th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Fashion for Funds**. Sponsor: **Lisa Valentine**, Teacher, Westlake Academy.*

Private Schools

Britt Brandon, 12th grader, **Hyde Park Baptist School**, 6th Year Member

*Project: **Benefit to Help Thai Child Learn to Walk** – Britt raised \$1,500 to provide medical care to an 11-year-old Thai boy who could not walk. Prior to Britt’s intervention, this child had never received medical care for his condition. Britt said, “Seeing the look on Nat’s face as he took his first steps that were captured on a video blog meant a great deal to me. I learned that life is bigger than my own world. There is a payback when we make a difference in the life of a child.” Sponsor: **Jennifer Renfro**, Counselor, Hyde Park Baptist School.*



***Benjamin Jones**, 6th grader, **St. Francis Academy**, 1st Year Member

*Project: **Boost the Troops** – Benjamin organized the collection of items such as school supplies, toys, and sweets to create 70 packages for soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq to give to local school children. He also collected cookies, nuts, beef jerky, CDs, and DVDs for the soldiers themselves, and sent letters and pictures to the contact service member of each country to accompany the donations. He said, “I had a number of teachers compliment me on my public speaking skills and several parents tell either me or my mom what a great idea this was. It felt great to be able to send these items to our service men and women.” Sponsor: **Tyler Brough**, Teacher, St. Francis Academy.*



Jesse Woodall, 9th grader, **St. Thomas Episcopal School**, 2nd Year Member

*Project: **MDA/ALS Walk-a-Thon** – Jesse coordinated a Walk-a-Thon to raise awareness of ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Nearly 300 students participated in the Walk-a-Thon and over \$700 was raised. Jesse said, “I know firsthand how terrible this disease is because my grandmother just passed away from ALS in January. I thought that it would be hard to continue with my project after her death, but it was good to see so many people who were interested in learning more about the disease and to see my fellow classmates walking in her memory.” Sponsor: **Tim Russell**, Teacher, St. Thomas Episcopal School.*





Out of State

Jenifer Sparke, 10th grader, **Whitko High School**, South Whitley, Indiana (previously a student in Copperas Cove ISD), 2nd Year Member

*Project: **Choir Robes for Concert Choir*** – Jenifer encouraged 25 members of her school’s concert choir to volunteer to sell raffle tickets for a new iPod. She used the proceeds from the raffle to help purchase new uniforms for the choir. Jenifer said, *“Even though this was a new idea to the school, we still did really well. I felt good when I was able to help the choir program be uniformed.”* *Sponsor: **Dawn Hinthorn**, Choir Director, Whitko High School.*

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