



"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 – 2013-2014 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council



"Leadership in Action"™

Education in Action is proud to announce 86 outstanding young student leaders successfully completed the 2013-2014 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council alumni program. Members represented 54 school districts, four charter schools, and four private schools. This special edition newsletter highlights each of these students and their accomplishments as members of the 2013-2014 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 self-analysis of leadership skills, world leaders, and the power of words. Leadership skills were honed and put into action through the service projects which members were responsible for creating and leading in their communities. Through these service projects, members improved 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 an electronic 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 2013-2014 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council. We look forward to their participation in future Education in Action programs and to watching them grow and achieve throughout their educational careers and beyond.

In their quest to become better leaders, an elite group of students signed up to participate in the 2013-2014 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council. This year, membership



**Carolyne Markle,
Alumni Coordinator**

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

**Carolyne Markle
Alumni Coordinator**

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

Graduating seniors

Eight of the 2013-2014 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members are high school seniors. Grace Robertson and Mikayla Ballew have been Council members for six years; Emily Evans, Kendall Palmer, Noah Hendrix, and Sarah McCormick have been Council members for five years; and Andrew Hitscherich and Bonner Garrison have been Council members for four years. Education in Action recognizes these outstanding seniors for their leadership, dedication, and many accomplishments. Each senior received a Certificate of Recognition and a Texas flag flown over the Texas State Capitol from Education in Action in honor of their graduation. We wish these outstanding students the very best as they pursue their dreams and goals.



Mikayla Ballew, Odessa High School, Ector County ISD

Mikayla is graduating 3rd in her class of more than 600 and is a candidate for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. She is in National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, and Eco Club and was a sophomore, junior, and senior Board member. She has been a Texas Scholar for four years and for three years she participated in Academic Decathlon winning multiple medals in different subjects. Mikayla's volunteer efforts include being the Bible Study Leader for kindergartners at her church, volunteering for the West Texas Food Bank, participating in Relay for Life, preparing and sending care packages to military personnel through H.O.T. (Honor Our Troops), participating in the 30 Hour Famine to raise awareness for hunger, being a junior counselor for Camp SIP (Scholars in Progress-Gifted and Talented Camp), serving as an assistant coach for the 7/8th grade girls' volleyball and basketball teams, and working as a Lone Star Leadership Academy Youth Facilitator for five years. Mikayla will attend McMurry University in Abilene, Texas and plans to major in history. She was awarded the Presidential Scholarship, the Trustees Honors Scholarship, and the Hunter Holland History Endowed Scholarship. During her six years as a member of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Mikayla delivered handmade cards each holiday for five years to the residents at Sherwood Assisted Living Facility in Odessa and made lap blankets for the residents. She also provided treats for the teachers before the TAKS test, and organized and ran a school recycling drive. Mikayla feels the following C.S. Lewis quote sums up her feelings about her experiences so far, *"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind."*



Emily Evans, Lubbock High School, Lubbock ISD

Emily is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, a National Merit Commended Student, a member of the National Honor Society, and has received several academic honors including AP Scholar with Honor, Outstanding Pre-AP Chemistry Student, Outstanding Pre-AP Spanish Three Student, and Outstanding IB Psychology Student. Emily is a member of PANDA (Promoting All Nationalities and Diversity Association), a four year varsity cross country runner, on the varsity track team, and received the Newcomer of the Year Outstanding Effort Award. Emily is also a member of the 4H Meat Judging Team, the Beef Quiz Bowl, and the First United Methodist Church Youth Group. Emily will attend Texas A&M in the Honors Program. She plans to major in Biomedical Science with a minor in Spanish in preparation for a Masters of Public Health and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She is a finalist for scholarships from the Texas Farm Bureau, Kohl's Cares Volunteer Scholarship, and the Lubbock Area Foundation Scholarship. During her five years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Emily helped HOPE for Soldiers by helping elementary students make Christmas cards and gift packages for deployed soldiers. She also led and grew over several years a project she named "Goats for Malawi". The project purchases goats for families in Malawi, Africa and teaches the families how to raise goats in order to improve self-sustainability and nutrition. Emily stated, "The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council has given me the opportunity to step away from my comfort zone in order to serve and lead others. Through my experiences with Education in Action, I have made friends from across Texas and feel better equipped to become involved as both a leader and a follower in college."



Bonner Garrison, Westlake High School, Eanes ISD

Bonner is a member of the National Honor Society, an All-District and All-State Academic, and an AP Scholar Award winner. Bonner is his school's cross country team captain, a four year varsity runner, and ran the mile, two mile, and 800 meter races. He is a two-time District champion, a three-time individual Top 10 Finisher, and helped his school win district championships three times. Bonner received an ESPN Longhorn Network Mentorship with Tom McCollum, the coordinating producer for the Longhorn Network. He helped prepare the nightly broadcast of the Longhorn Extra Show and prepared a video archive of the "greatest games" for the launch of the SEC Network. A highlight of his mentorship was interviewing Dave Brown, the Vice President of the Longhorn Network, regarding his creation of College Game Day. Bonner will attend Texas A&M - Mays Business School and received merit scholarships from TCU, Southwestern, and University of Houston. During his four years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Bonner assisted Dell Children's Medical Center and held a toy and clothing drive for the Emergency Department which he later expanded to include the Child Life Department. Bonner also set up iPads donated to the Child Life Department and Children's Blood and Cancer Center to provide patients with an alternative focus during procedures. His last project was to serve as assistant coordinator for the St. Baldrick's Childhood Cancer Fair. Bonner says, "The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council has helped me step well beyond my comfort zone and develop new skills. The service projects opened my eyes to the many ways that even kids could make a difference in people's lives."



Noah Hendrix, Coppell High School, Coppell ISD

Noah is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, a Distinguished Achievement Program Diploma candidate, and a National Hispanic Scholar. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. Noah received the Student of the Season Award from the Coppell Rotary Club, the Service Above Self award for making a difference in his community, the Fine Arts Award for Public Forum Debate, the NFL Seal of Distinction, and the NFL Seal of Honor. Noah was selected as a Red Jacket, a Coppell High School Ambassador, his senior year. He is a six year band member and French horn player. In student government, Noah served as a junior class representative, vice president, and treasurer. He is also a member of the Junior World Affairs Council, National Forensic League, Teen Leadership Coppell, and the Coppell Rocketry Club, and served as a host for Multi-Cultural Heritage Night. Noah participated in debate starting his freshman year. He served as treasurer and president of the CHS Public Forum Debate Team and has both placed in and won many debate and UIL competitions. Noah volunteers at Coppell Chamber of Commerce functions, with Celina City Councilman, Dr. Vincent Ramos' office, and as a Spanish tutor. Noah will attend either George Washington University in the Honors Program or the University of Texas Liberal Arts Honors Program. He plans to double major in Political Science or Political Communications and Economics. Noah was awarded the Presidential Scholar Award and President/Alumni Scholarship from George Washington University, the Presidential Gold Scholarship from Baylor University, the Second Century Scholarship Award from Southern Methodist University, the National Hispanic Award, and the McFadden Scholarship from Texas A&M. In addition, he is a finalist for the Hispanic Heritage Youth Award and Taylor's Gift "Outlive Yourself" Heroes Scholarship. During Noah's five years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council he wrote a program, Child's Play: A Kids Helping Kids Approach for Helping Kids of Divorce, which he led for children involved in the Single Parent Ministry at Gateway Church in Southlake. Beginning in ninth grade, Noah started the Youth Advisory Committee for the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Since the Committee's inception four years ago, Noah has served as president, led monthly meetings, and solicited new members which now total 15. In addition, he spearheaded every project including setting up a Youth Ambassador program and fundraising efforts to improve the JFK Learning Center. Of the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Noah said *"My time with the Council has been great. All of the activities, including leadership lessons, service projects, end of year presentations, and retreats, have provided outstanding leadership experiences. I am grateful for all the opportunities provided to me."*



Andrew Hitscherich, Flower Mound High School, Lewisville ISD

Andrew is in the top 5% of his class, a National Merit Commended Scholar, and a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, and National English Honor Society. Twice Andrew has won the Jammin' Jag School Award. He is a national IBM Corporation Watson Scholarship semi-finalist and was on the 1st Team All-State Academic Team for football. Andrew is a three-year starting kicker/punter for the varsity football team, was named All-District Kicker his sophomore year, and broke the one-season school record for points scored as a kicker his sophomore year, a record which still stands. Andrew was a member of the high school soccer team for four years, was named co-defensive player of the year, and played club soccer his freshman year. Andrew is an Eagle Scout and has volunteered on numerous scout projects. He has served as a church lector since the age of ten. Participating on church mission trips and coordinating fundraisers for mission trips have also been part of his church life. Andrew also participated in the Athletes for Literacy Reading Program in High School for three years. Andrew will attend Texas A&M in the Mays Business School's Business Honors Program. Andrew received the Texas PTA Scholarship and scholarships from Fordham University and St. Johns University. He was also recruited as a college football kicker. During his four years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Andrew overhauled his church's landscaping and rock garden, collected and distributed used sporting equipment to kids in need for Project Replay, and collected books to help rebuild West ISD's libraries. Andrew also served for three years as a Lone Star Leadership Academy Youth Facilitator.



Kendall Palmer, Clear Brook High School, Clear Creek ISD

Kendall is graduating with Honors in the Distinguished Achievement Program. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Archdiocesan Youth Council, and the Mary Queen Youth Leadership Team, and participated in Student Council, Best Buddies, PALs (Peer Assistance & Leadership), and Symphonic Choir. Kendall appeared as a pre-professional Soloist of the Vitacca Dance Project and has been accepted into summer intensive dance programs at the American Ballet Theatre, the Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Point Park University, Leon Dance, and the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company. For seven years, Kendall has been a Team Captain for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She served as a Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp Counselor and is a member of the Brook Advisory Teaching Team. She also served as a Lone Star Leadership Academy Youth Facilitator. Kendall will attend Point Park University in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; State University of New York Purchase, New York; or Marymount Manhattan University, also in New York where she plans to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a minor or second major in Business. Kendall's long-term involvement with the American Cancer Society influenced her Lone Star Youth Leadership Council service projects. Each year she found a creative way to raise funds for the organization including making beaded book marks and key chains, decorating and painting sweat pants, and organizing jeans and hat days at several schools. Kendall stated, *"Being a Youth Facilitator at the various LSLA summer camps has been a unique opportunity to spend a week with the best leaders from all around Texas."*



Sarah McCormick, St. Michael's Catholic Academy

Sarah is graduating with honors and received the Konzen Academic Award. As a varsity cheerleader, Sarah was named an All-American by the National Cheerleaders Association. She cheers competitively with Cheer Station and was named National Champion and was a Top 10 Finalist at the 2013 Cheerleading World's International cheerleading competition. Sarah also works as a cheerleading camp coach for Cheer Station. Sarah is part of the St. Michael's Senior Leadership Team and has been a member of the National Charity League for six years. She won two gold and one silver Presidential Volunteer Service Awards and the Mother Teresa Award for Volunteerism at her school. In addition, she spent a week on a mission trip with Blueprint Ministries repairing a San Antonio family's home. Sarah will attend Texas A&M in the University Honors Program and plans to major in biomedical sciences. She received scholarships from Baylor University and Abilene Christian University. During her five years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Sarah led a clothing drive for LifeWorks and SafePlace, held a widespread recycling drive, made and mailed cards for Operation Write Home, made blankets for Dell Children's Hospital, made bottles to raise funds for Compassion International, and collected books to help rebuild West ISD's libraries. Sarah's parents, Roy and Cori McCormick stated, *"The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council has been a wonderful experience for Sarah. It gave her an excellent chance to practice her leadership skills – from answering the leadership lessons to planning and completing a volunteer project in the community every year. Her favorite part, though, was being a Youth Facilitator at the Lone Star Leadership Academy camp in Houston/Galveston. This experience brought everything together for her. The skills she learned through the LSYLC will benefit her throughout her life."*



Grace Robertson, Westlake High School, Eanes ISD

Grace is graduating with a Pre-Calculus Distinction Award. She is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, National Honor Society, Latin Club, Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, Friends Helping Friends, and the tennis team. Grace has taken mission trips to Managua, Nicaragua to help better the lives of the people that live there. Grace will attend the University of Texas on a University Leaders Network Scholarship and plans to major in nursing. During Grace's four years on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council she made and presented appreciation gifts to all the teachers at her school, made several eco-friendly presentations to classes to increase public awareness about protecting the environment, and collected 400 books to help rebuild West ISD's libraries. Grace stated, *"The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council is where I learned the fundamentals of leadership. I have never strayed from what I was taught at Leadership Camp and the experience made me into the successful leader I am today in both my school and my community."*

Members of the 2013-2014 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council were given the option to complete a service project of their own choosing or to participate in a West ISD Book Drive group service project to help rebuild West ISD's school libraries. Twenty-seven members participated in the West ISD Book Drive group service project and the remaining 59 members selected their own projects.

The goal for the West ISD Book Drive group service project was for Council members to work together to collect and provide books to help restock West ISD's school libraries which were damaged in the devastating April 2013 fertilizer plant explosion. Council members came up with their own plans to collect books in their communities which span the state, from the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast. All types of books were collected including fiction, non-fiction, class sets of classics, reference books, and more. All together, the students collected approximately 6,500 books which were sorted, boxed, and delivered to West ISD in April 2014 to coincide with the one year anniversary of the fertilizer plant explosion. The donation was absolutely overwhelming for the faculty and students of West ISD. Descriptions of how each West ISD Book Drive participant chose to collect books are listed below and are followed by descriptions of the individual service projects completed by the remaining 59 members.

West ISD Book Drive – Group Service Project Participants



Burleson ISD

Blake Bodin, 10th grader, **Centennial High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Collecting Books for the West ISD Library** – Blake asked family, friends, neighbors, and the Crowley Public Library (since they recently had a book sale) for book donations for the West ISD Book Drive. The Crowley Library put this request on their Facebook page. With their help and his own efforts he collected 1,415 books. Blake said, "It made me feel good telling people about the project and seeing such successful results. It was really quite amazing how many people helped with this project." Sponsor: **Lisa Bodin**, Mother.*

Carroll ISD

Sophia Deras, 7th grader, **Dawson Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Books for West** – Sophia hung posters, passed out flyers, and set up collection boxes at Dawson Middle School for the West ISD Book Drive. She collected about 400 books to help other students in need. Sophia said, "Collecting books has been insanely fun and never felt like work. It was very rewarding to see the books pile up at our collection points and to know I was working for a good cause." Sponsor: **Ms. Teresa MacDonald**, Librarian.*



Dayton ISD

John Bartee, Jr., 9th grader, **Dayton High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **West ISD Book Drive** – John asked for book donations from both student and adults. His requests helped him collect 40 books for West ISD. John said, "I am very glad to be helping West ISD. After I heard about the disaster, I felt so bad and wanted to help in any way I could." Sponsor: **Ms. Michele Weston**, Teacher.*

Raegan Jackson, 9th grader, **Dayton High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **West Library Book Drive** – By advertising her project and putting collection boxes at the Dayton High School Library and at several local businesses in town, Raegan collected 1,020 books while learning more about organization and responsibility. Raegan said, "I really enjoyed collecting the books for West libraries and I would definitely do it again if I had the chance!" Raegan's sponsor, Dani Nations, said, "The West Library Book Drive was an enormous success. Raegan's diligence and care encouraged all donators to go above and beyond for the city of West's libraries. We are extremely happy and proud of her efforts." Sponsor: **Ms. Dani Nations**, Librarian.*



Denton ISD

Ceanna Cooksey, 7th grader, **Harpool Middle School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Books for West ISD** – Ceanna put a collection box in the Harpool Middle School office and asked students to donate books. She gave out candy for the book donations. Even though the ice storm hit and her book collection was limited to three days, she was able to collect 347 books. Ceanna said, "I feel this project helped with my self-confidence and my sense of accomplishment. It was great to help others." Sponsor: **Ms. Annette Price**, Counselor.*

Eanes ISD

Grace Robertson, 12th grader, **Westlake High School**, 6th year member

*Project: **Book Drive for West, Texas** - Grace placed posters around her school with the help of Student Council members who both donated and helped her collect donations. She collected almost 400 books while gaining confidence in speaking about her project. Grace said, "I am thankful for this opportunity to donate books to the students in West who were affected by the explosion." Sponsor: **Ms. Lacey Victor**, Teacher.*





Frisco ISD

Anang Parikh, 9th grader, **Frisco Wakeland High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Books for West ISD** – Anang reached out to a large group of family and friends and explained to them the West ISD rebuilding project. They responded generously and were anxious to help restock the West ISD libraries. Anang said, “A small contribution by individuals when combined with a larger group can result into a profound project like rebuilding the West ISD libraries.” Sponsor: **Ms. Brenda Saldivar**, Counselor.*

Hawkins ISD

Emalee Chappa, 6th grader, **Hawkins Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Books for West ISD** - To collect books for West ISD, Emalee contacted people who were participating in the Miss American Coed Pageant which has contestants from all over the country. She collected 50+ books. Emalee said, “I met some great new friends and helped the library at the same time.” Emalee’s sponsor, Julie Chappa, said, “I enjoyed watching Emalee’s enthusiasm as she collected books and shared the story of West ISD’s schools.” Sponsor: **Ms. Julie Chappa**, Mother.*



Houston ISD

Camille Abaya, 6th grader, **T. H. Rogers Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Help West, Texas ISD** – Camille, with the help of three clubs at T.H. Rogers Elementary School, collected 114 books for West ISD. Camille said, “I wanted the title of my project to be inspiring, so my motto during this project was: Why just be Houston ISD, when you could be Help ISD?” Sponsor: **Ms. Margaret Crawford**, Teacher.*

Humble ISD

Molly McShane, 11th grader, **Kingwood High School**, 4th year member



*Project: **READ (Reading Educating and Developing)** - Molly and fellow youth council member Sydney Morales worked together to collect books for West ISD. They asked family, friends, neighbors, neighborhood churches, and school clubs to donate books for the West ISD library. Together they collected about 500 books. Molly said, “It is amazing what people will do to help those in need if you simply ask.” Molly’s sponsor, Laura Fletcher, said, “The girls really worked hard and actively sought out people to donate books. Also, I loved sponsoring this project because it’s nice to see youth reaching out to other youth.” Sponsor: **Ms. Laura Fletcher**, Kingwood United Methodist Church, Youth Small Group Leader.*

Sydney Morales, 11th grader, **Kingwood High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **READ (Reading Educating and Developing)** – Sydney and fellow youth council member Molly McShane worked together to collect books for West ISD. They asked family, friends, neighbors, neighborhood churches and school clubs to donate books for the West ISD library. Together they collected about 500 books. Sydney said, “It is amazing what people will do to help those in need if you simply ask.” Sydney’s sponsor, Laura Fletcher, said, “The girls really worked hard and actively sought out people to donate books. Also I loved sponsoring this project because it’s nice to see youth reaching out to other youth.” Sponsor: **Ms. Laura Fletcher**, Kingwood United Methodist Church, Youth Small Group Leader.*



Hutto ISD

Mara Manskie, 8th grader, **Farley Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Book Drive for West ISD** - Mara made daily announcements for two weeks, put up 10 posters, told many of her classmates, and spoke to different groups at Farley Middle School in order to collect books for West ISD. She collected about 200 books. Mara said, “This experience has made me a better leader. Not only did I help West, Texas in their time of need, but I also grew as a leader in my community.” Mara’s sponsor, Leslie Fernandez, said, “Because of Mara’s selfless and giving character, many students from West ISD are able to receive comfort from Farley Middle School’s students’ generosity.” Sponsor: **Ms. Leslie Fernandez**, Teacher.*

Irving ISD

Bedrick Topovich, 10th grader, **North Hills Preparatory School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Book Collection for West ISD** - Bedrick collected books from his school library and the public library for West ISD. He also collected books from family, friends, and his own book collection. He collected about 80 books. Bedrick said, “I had the opportunity to do something larger than myself with the help of my friends and sponsor.” Sponsor: **Ms. Susan Mays**, Librarian.*



Keller ISD

Sam Walker, 10th grader, **Keller High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **West ISD Book Drive** – Sam collected 800 books by creating and distributing fliers requesting people in his community to leave their books outside their door on a specific date so he could collect them. Sam’s sponsor, Stanton Cole, said, “I think that every student should do more projects like this.” Sponsor: **Mr. Stanton Cole**, Teacher.*

Lewisville ISD

Andrew Hitscherich, 12th grader, **Flower Mound High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Book Drive for West, TX** – Andrew collected 100 books by asking his neighbors and family friends for donations. Andrew said, “I see books everywhere I go so to realize that some people do not have a basic foundation for education really struck me. I became more appreciative of what I have.” Sponsor: **Ms. Sarah Philly**, Teacher.*



Lockhart ISD

Abigail Raxter, 6th grader, **Lockhart Junior High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **West ISD Book Drive** – Abigail’s efforts to collect books for West ISD included placing an article in the local newspaper, speaking to clubs and groups informing them of her project, and holding a Mardi Gras party. She collected 159 books. Abigail said, “When I heard about the Council-wide project, I was very excited since I had been trying to think of some way to help West ISD.” Sponsor: **Ms. Le Ester Burch**, Teacher.*

Mansfield ISD

Nicholas Ciggelakis, 10th grader, **Lake Ridge High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Books for West, TX** – Nicholas set up a donation box during one of his youth service groups at his church. He also contacted and worked with the Mansfield ISD textbook department. MISD was able donate surplus class sets of books that were in their warehouse. Nicholas and two of his friends collected a total of 450 books. Nicholas said, “I gained some real organizational skills and communication skills doing this project.” Sponsor: **Mr. George Olsen**, Teacher.*



Midway ISD

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

*Project: **Books for West, TX** – Sarah, with the help of her brother, collected 400 books. She performed a one-week book drive at both River Valley Intermediate and South Bosque Elementary. Sarah and her brother made posters for, and announcements at, both schools. Sarah said, “It is satisfying to be able to help other people, even if you don’t get a reward.” Sponsor: **Ms. Dana Gietzen**, Teacher.*



Victoria Logan, 7th grader, **Midway Middle School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Books for West, TX** - Victoria held a month-long book drive during February at Midway Middle School and collected 400+ books. Victoria said, “This project rewarded me in ways that only community service can. The satisfaction of helping others is amazing and everyone should donate some time to community service. They will be amazed at all they can do.” Sponsor: **Mrs. Brookes**, Teacher.*



Paris ISD

Erin Bankston, 8th grader, **Paris Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **West ISD Book Collection** - Erin set up a collection area at the Paris Junior High School library. Through her efforts, she collected 600 books for West ISD Book Collection. Erin said, “I am very grateful and proud to know that my time spent collecting books for the West ISD libraries will benefit children for many years and help them grow in their education.” Erin’s sponsor, Jodi Andoe, said, “Erin has dedicated a large amount of time and energy to this project and her efforts will definitely benefit many West ISD students.” Sponsor: **Ms. Jodi Andoe**, Science Coach.*



Pearland ISD

Matteo Aloia, 10th grader, **Dawson High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **West Book Drive** – Matteo recruited the National Honor Society to help him collect books at Dawson High School and within the community. Matteo said, “I really enjoyed this project, it felt great to do a group project with the rest of the Council.” Matteo’s sponsor, Rebekah Penny, said, “This project was a great way to get students aware of the crisis in West.” Sponsor: **Ms. Rebekah Penny**, Librarian.*



Chris Simpson, 10th grader, **Glenda Dawson High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Books for the Unfortunate** – Chris was able to collect 120 books by gathering together all his childhood books and asking family members and friends to do the same. Chris said, “I felt great giving these books away knowing they will be used in a great way and much appreciated, instead of collecting dust.” Sponsor: **Mr. Erick Greene**, Parent.*



Tyler Thames, 8th grader, **Berry Miller Jr. High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Books for West ISD** – Tyler created flyers with information about his service project and passed them out in his neighborhood and community. Neighbors e-mailed when they had books ready and Tyler made arrangements to pick them up. He collected approximately 200 books for the West ISD Book Drive. Tyler said, “I hope that I have helped West ISD fight their struggles in some way.” Sponsor: **Ms. Christina Hernandez**, Teacher.*

Prosper ISD

Mattie Robinson, 10th grader, **Prosper High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Books for West, Texas** – Mattie received help from Torchmark Corporation, her church, and the schools in Prosper to set up book collection sites. The Torchmark HR Department helped publicize the effort around town and around each collection site. With the help of her community, Mattie collected 1,134 books. Mattie said, “This was an amazing project. I learned a lot and I am so thankful that I was able to help West ISD and do a little to help replace books in their destroyed libraries.” Mattie’s sponsor, David Vestal, said, “Mattie is an amazing leader with a drive for success and servanthood. These gifts were on display as she collected 1,134 books from various drop spots. When Mattie sees a good cause she jumps in with all her heart. I am honored to have her leadership and servanthood in our church. I believe the book drive is and will be a blessing to many people for years to come. Thank you Mattie Robinson and Education in Action.” Sponsor: **Mr. David Vestal**, Clergy.*



Wheeler ISD

Kaitlyn Jones, 10th grader, **Wheeler High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **West ISD Book Drive** - Kaitlyn created a Facebook page and flyers which included facts about the fertilizer plant explosion and West, TX. She then handed out the flyers and placed them in business offices along with buckets to collect books. Through her efforts, Kaitlyn collected 200 books. Kaitlyn said, “I believe it's great to help people in need and it's a great feeling when you do and see the happiness and satisfaction in their faces.” Kaitlyn’s sponsor, Tammy Moore, said, “It is exciting to see Kaitlyn working so hard to benefit others. Her dedication is inspiring to her peers as well as others.” Sponsor: **Ms. Tammy Moore**, Teacher.*

Charter Schools

Meghana Nambiyur, 10th grader, **Meridian School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Books for West ISD** – Meghana collected 80+ books from her community and donated them to West ISD. Meghana said, “I learned how to be more responsible and to communicate more effectively with other people.” Sponsor: **Mr. Mark Rogers**, Teacher.*

Private Schools

Sarah McCormick, 12th grader, **St. Michael’s Catholic Academy**, 4th year member

*Project: **Better With Books** - Sarah sent out e-mails and used social media to request book donations from friends and acquaintances for West ISD libraries. Sarah said, “Watching my community come together so eagerly to help West ISD was amazing. It truly inspired me to look for more ways to support local philanthropies.” Sponsor: **Ms. Jennifer Tracy**, Teacher.*



Individual Service Project Participants



Allen ISD

Cristina Smith, 11th grader, **Allen High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Hungry Chocolate** - Cristina and four of her friends sold chocolate bars for a dollar each to raise money for the Allen Community Outreach program. They raised approximately \$600 which will help provide necessary materials to help rebuild lives for families in crisis. Cristina said, “It felt great to be a positive influence on my friends and also help the people of my community to have happier, healthier lives.” Sponsor: **Mrs. Annette Terry**, Teacher.*

Gezae Tesfaye, 5th grader, **Olson Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Cans for Christmas** - Gezae and her brothers collected canned foods from neighbors, friends, family, and teachers at their schools to donate to Minnie's Food Pantry in Plano, TX. They collected 515 pounds of food which helped hungry families in Collin County have Christmas dinner on their tables. Gezae said, “This project helped me become a more confident speaker because I was scared to speak to strangers by myself. By the end of the project, I was more confident about speaking to people. It also felt good to know that I helped feed the people of my community.” Sponsor: **Mrs. Melissa Tesfaye**, Parent.*



Beeville ISD

Sara Casas, 11th grader, **A. C. Jones High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Children in Protective Services Toy Drive** - Sara was concerned about the children in Child Protective Services during the holidays. She held a party for her friends and collected 75 toys which were distributed to the children who were in Child Protective Services during the holidays. Sara said, “I felt such joy at helping to make a child's Christmas extra special.” Sponsor: **Mr. Jarod Bleibdrey**, Teacher.*

Caleb Zander, 8th grader, **Moreno Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Caleb's Helping Hands** – Caleb, along with two recruits, did yard work for an elderly lady in their community. Caleb also worked at the Beeville Food Bank collecting and distributing food for the needy. The trio’s efforts helped the elderly, disabled, and other residents in need within the community. Caleb said, “It feels good to do things for other people and I am thankful that I am able to help others.” Sponsor: **Mrs. Janine Zander**, Parent.*





Birdville ISD

Tina Nguyen, 5th grader, **O. H. Stowe Elementary School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Bracelets for Books** - Tina and her friends made loom bracelets to sell. In eight days, they earned approximately \$400. The proceeds from the sale were used to purchase books for O.H. Stowe Elementary. Tina said, "I thought it was hard work to be the leader of the group but then the power kicked in and I really enjoyed it."*
Sponsor: Mrs. Kelly Stephens, Teacher.

Clear Creek ISD

Kendall Palmer, 12th grader, **Clear Brook High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Jeans Day for the Cure** - With the help of Clear Brook PALs (Peer Assistance & Leadership), Kendall put on a Jeans Day, where students and faculty were allowed to wear jeans for a day with donations to the American Cancer Society, at four schools. The Jeans Day donations went to the American Cancer Society, through Relay for Life. Kendall's Relay for Life team has raised over \$3000. Kendall said, "It is quite simple to perform a service project for a cause I am passionate about. Instead of thinking of this as an assignment, I thought of my project as a way to change lives."* *Sponsor: Ms. Donna Stone, Teacher.*



Ryan Zimmerman, 11th grader, **Clear Creek High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Treats for our Troops** - Ryan enlisted the help of her sister, a friend, and her Girl Scout Troop 7611 to sell Girl Scout cookies and convince the purchasers to donate the cookies back in order to send to the military troops through The Help Our Military Endure organization. These cookies gave the military troops a taste of home and helped display gratefulness for their daily services and sacrifices. Ryan said, "Because I have family in the military, I always feel good when I can do something to give them a taste of home and make them know they are appreciated."* *Sponsor: Mrs. Susan Zimmerman, Parent.*



Cleveland ISD

LaDerrington Baldwin, 10th grader, **Cleveland High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Project Love Church** - LaDerrington and several volunteers helped serve Thanksgiving dinner to 100+ homeless families at a local church. LaDerrington said, "I learned that it really is true... the more you give, the more you receive in return." LaDerrington's sponsor, Mrs. Misty Howell, said, "I was proud to see LaDerrington reaching out to the community."* *Sponsor: Mrs. Misty Howell, Parent.*

Comal ISD

Keslyn Surovik, 7th grader, **Spring Branch Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Chick Time: Supporting and Encouraging children from St. Jude's Ranch for Children** - Keslyn and several of her friends participated in Chick Time at St. Jude's Ranch for Children, an organization that supports and encourages children. They planned activities for the kids such as baking, decorating cards, and going to Natural Bridge Caverns. Keslyn said, "I learned that in every situation there is something to be learned and the opportunity to make other people happy."* *Sponsor: Mrs. Kari Surovik, Parent.*



Conroe ISD

Sarah Meidel, 11th grader, **The Academy of Science and Technology**, 5th year member

*Project: **Festive Flutes** - This year Sarah and her friend performed a holiday music program for approximately 20 residents at the Regent Care Center of the Woodlands. Their Christmas music and conversation after the program brought cheerfulness to the residents' holiday season. Sarah said, "I always enjoy performing for people in nursing homes. It makes me feel good when I see them smile. Some of them struggle with conversations but music brings us all together."* *Sponsor: Ms. Charlotte Royall, Band Director.*

Coppell ISD

Noah Hendrix, 12th grader, **Coppell High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Students Partner with the Coppell High School Debate Parent Boosters** - Noah enlisted the help of three other debate students to assist the newly formed Debate Parent Booster Club. Together, the students hosted an informational Welcome to Debate table at registration and saved the club hundreds of dollars by training volunteer debate judges. Noah wrote a Public Forum Judges Training Manual for the volunteers, prepared the training agenda, and co-facilitated the session. Because of Noah's efforts, the money that would have otherwise paid for judges was instead used to hire three part-time assistant coaches. Noah also created a Debate Brochure and Debate Dialogue, a debate club newsletter for which he recruited students to write articles. This year, Coppell High School had its largest ever debate team of 133 students and sent more students than ever to state competition. Noah said, "Working with the Debate Booster Club helped me understand the budget pressures and the financial concerns that parents and school administrators face, the importance of fundraising, and the power of partnerships between youth and parents."*
Sponsor: Mrs. Glenda Ferguson, Teacher/Coach.

Sarina Naik, 11th grader, **Coppell High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Hair for Hearts** - Sarina donated 11 inches of her hair to Locks for Love. Her donation helped three young women in need of wigs for medical reasons. Sarina said, "I felt my commitment grow because I had always wanted to donate my hair but never had the courage to do it. However, once I made up my mind, I was committed to my goal."* *Sponsor: Mr. Sanjay Naik, Father.*



Corpus Christi ISD

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

*Project: **Mission Fit Possible*** - Aneel spearheaded a group of 50 volunteers that raised \$30,000, an even larger amount than the group raised for the same project last year. The money raised was given to elementary schools within Corpus Christi ISD to help fund their fitness programs. Aneel said, *"It made me proud when I saw the impact my project had on the community. All the difficulties I faced and overcame were definitely worth it."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Usha Gurumurthy**, Teacher.



Sarita Damaraju, 10th grader, **Ray High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Mission Fit Possible*** - Sarita organized and conducted a 10-week contest at six elementary schools within Corpus Christi ISD. She educated the 600 participants about fitness and health. Her annual contest increased her fellow students' knowledge about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Sarita said, *"I was able to interact with many students who improved their eating habits and were exercising and living a more healthy life because of it. It was very rewarding to see the impact my group has made in our community."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Usha Gurumurthy**, Teacher.



Dallas ISD

Jane Medina, 11th grader, **Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Holy Trinity Learning Center Annual Carnival*** - Jane organized nine games this year for the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Learning Center Carnival. Proceeds from the carnival benefited approximately 90 learning center students with the purchase of much needed items for the learning center. She also organized a book drive that coincided with the carnival and approximately 70 books were donated to the new Youth Library. Jane said, *"It was all very rewarding but my favorite experience out of this service project was seeing all the books that were donated to the newly created Youth Library."* Sponsor: **Ms. Marilyn McRoberts**, Holy Trinity Learning Center Carnival Coordinator.

Eanes ISD

McKennon Brown, 7th grader, **West Ridge Middle School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Give Animals a Spring Break*** - McKennon and a friend printed and passed out flyers soliciting donations for Oak Hill Animal Shelter/Austin Humane Society. The donations they collected and delivered included food, new blankets, toys, and treats to make the animals more comfortable. McKennon said, *"I feel so good knowing that I have helped the animals at Oak Hill Animal Shelter. The people who work there were very grateful for our help as well. We also got to visit some of the animals and that made us all feel good."* Sponsor: **Ms. Debra Sobel**, Mentor.



Bonner Garrison, 12th grader, **Westlake High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **St. Baldrick's Fair*** - Bonner helped organize 50 volunteers for an event to help raise money for cancer research. Some of the participants even shaved their heads as a show of solidarity. The donations collected were given directly to the St. Baldrick's Foundation for cancer research. Bonner said, *"This event allowed me to better appreciate the sacrifices that you have to make to put on such a large event. It took a lot more effort and hard work than I had expected."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Cindy Fitchpatrick**, Psychosocial Program Coordinator, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas.

Ector County ISD

Mikayla Ballew, 12th grader, **Odessa High School**, 6th year member

*Project: **Spreading the Love From Young to Old*** - Mikayla gathered 15 friends who helped make 90 holiday cards for the elderly residents of the Sherwood Assisted Living Facility in Odessa. Mikayla said, *"With this project, I learned that even when things get tough, I must still persevere."* Sponsor: **Mr. Lee Jordan**, Teacher.



Electra ISD

Deanna Duensing, 7th grader, **Electra Junior/Senior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Embracing Our Elders*** - Deanna recruited two friends to help her collect blankets, small personal hygiene items, candy, and personal clothing. These items were placed in Christmas goody bags for the Electra Nursing Home residents and City of Electra Meals-On-Wheels recipients. Deanna said, *"The joy of knowing that my friends and I could put smiles on the faces of these elderly people and brighten their holidays was a wonderful feeling."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Nikki Byrd**, Teacher.

Fort Bend ISD

Madison Taylor, 9th grader, **Clements High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Cookies for Canines*** - Madison baked 200 dog treats to donate to the Fort Bend Animal Shelter. Madison said, *"It was a lot of hard work to do this project, but it paid off and it felt great to benefit the animals of my community."* Sponsor: **Mrs. Kimberly Taylor**, Parent.



Frisco ISD

Patrick Mireles, 9th grader, **Lone Star High School**, 1st year member

Project: A Helping Hand – Patrick, with the help of a few other students, set up a system to apply to help teachers with special projects and/or tutoring for other students. Patrick said, *“It felt good to be able to offer help to the teachers in my school and I hope the project will grow in future years.”* Sponsor: **Ms. Allison Lau**, Teacher.



Grand Saline ISD

Cassidy Milam, 11th grader, **Grand Saline High School**, 4th year member

Project: Helping the Helpless - Cassidy continued her efforts this year and collected 50 pounds of food and \$200 in donations for the Van Zandt Humane Society. The items she collected will help care for the approximately 15 dogs and cats sheltered at the Van Zandt Humane Society. Cassidy said, *“I learned not all years are as successful as others. It is a struggle to always be successful, but you always must keep pushing forward making each project the best you can make it.”* Sponsor: **Ms. Donna Taylor**, Teacher.

Greenwood ISD

Taylor Callicoatte, 7th grader, **James R. Brooks Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Operation Activity - Taylor hosted a party with seven friends and collected 27 donated items including board games, cards, books, and puzzles to stock the activity room at the Polo Park Retirement Center. Polo Park Retirement Center in Midland has about 75 residents and Taylor's grandmother is one of them. They only had a few puzzles in their activity room so the new items will be enjoyed by all. Taylor said, *“It was hard to find a way to get everyone involved but once I did, we had a lot of fun with it. Being able to give to the residents was a good feeling.”* Sponsor: **Mrs. Judy Pardo**, Director, Polo Park Retirement Center.



Holliday ISD

Brendan Toulan, 8th grader, **Holliday Middle School**, 2nd year member

Project: Holliday Clothes Closet Clothing Drive - Four recruits helped Brendan collect four large bags of clothing for the Holliday Clothes Closet facility. In addition, the students volunteered to sort and hang clothes and discard unusable items. Brendan said, *“I learned that you have to persevere and remain optimistic even though the desired outcome may not be obtained.”* Sponsor: **Mrs. Kristen Toulan**, Parent.



Houston ISD

Rahul Dsilva, 11th grader, **DeBakey High School**, 5th year member

Project: Kids' Hope - At Kidz Harbor, a shelter for abandoned, abused, and neglected children, Rahul connected, empathized, and shared happiness with the facility's young residents by putting together and distributing 30 goody bags and spending quality time with them. Rahul said, *“It dawned on me that we take so much for granted and often forget to appreciate what we have. I am now much more grateful and thankful for everything.”* Sponsor: **Mr. James Carrasco**, Youth Ministry Coordinator.



Killeen ISD

Ian Drake, 8th grader, **Union Grove Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: UGMS POLITICS Club - Ian created a blog and a club and published YouTube videos with the overall purpose of educating young people about politics. Ian said, *“I learned about the current events in our nation, and I gained a deeper understanding on how to share important information with others.”* Sponsor: **Mr. Anthony Simpson**, Teacher.



LaVernia ISD

Kollin Fitch, 9th grader, **La Vernia High School**, 2nd year member

Project: Giving a Helping Hand - Ronald McDonald House - Kollin organized craft activities and games and lead group sing-alongs for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House over Thanksgiving. This gave the parents free time to take care of personal matters while their children were involved in the activities. Kollin said, *“Being involved with Ronald McDonald House has given me a chance to see innocent children injured, disabled, or chronically ill. I think life and our health is precious and should never be taken for granted.”* Sponsor: **Mrs. Erin Uribe**, Teacher/Coach.



Lewisville ISD

Kaeyla Hulsebus, 7th grader, **Creek Valley Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Operation Pet Helper - Kaeyla collected donations of food, toys, and blankets from her neighbors for Operation Kindness, a no-kill animal shelter. Kaeyla said, *“I know animals can't talk, but in my heart I know they were thankful that I helped them.”* Sponsor: **Mrs. Dawn Hulsebus**, Parent.



Lovejoy ISD

Jessica James, 11th grader, **Lovejoy High School**, 3rd year member

Project: Dresses for Africa - Jessica recruited 12 volunteers to help her sew over 50 dresses. The dresses they made will clothe young girls living in African orphanages. Jessica said, *“I was able to grow in confidence and leadership skills by teaching my volunteers how to make dresses.”* Sponsor: **Mrs. Theresa Williams**, Girl Scout Troop Advisor.

Lubbock ISD

Emily Evans, 12th grader, **Lubbock High School**, 5th year member



*Project: **Goats for Malawi*** - Emily spoke to over 800 students about the importance of self-sustainable agriculture in developing countries and worked with a group of her classmates to sell 75 t-shirts promoting the Circle of Hope International's project. She also hosted a pancake fundraiser that raised \$2,000 for the cause. These donations will assist the Circle of Hope International's project which teaches families in Malawi to raise goats as a source of nutrition and income. Emily said, "Sharing my passion for service and global nutrition through agriculture is an extremely rewarding experience that allows me to grow as a leader in my school and community." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jennifer Harris**, Teacher.

Mesquite ISD

Mia Bullock, 7th grader, **Agnew Middle School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Books for Baylor*** - Mia collected gently used books and donated them to Baylor Children's Hospital. Mia said, "Seeing the smiles on the faces of the children who are patients made me want to help them even more." Sponsor: **Mrs. Samantha Solomon**, Teacher.



Midland ISD

Wilson Clark, 11th grader, **Robert E. Lee High School**, 6th year member

*Project: **Toys for Cops*** - Wilson created a 501(c)3 non profit corporation, Toys for Cops, this past year and under this non-profit corporation 1,000 toys and almost \$12,000 in kind and monetary donations were collected. Toy collections were conducted at Lee High School, Claydesta businesses, and the Grassland Clubhouse. Oil companies and individuals made monetary donations and held collections at their offices. Almost 1,000 kids were helped through the collection and distribution between Crisis Intervention, Ector County Hospital District, Ector County Schools, and Martin County Sheriff's Office. Thoughtful staff at a law firm that does pro bono work for Child Protective Services helped deliver the toys slated for the Houston area. Wilson said, "As Toys for Cops grows, my goals has always been to be able to help every child who finds themselves in a crisis situation." Sponsor: **Mrs. Cindy Wiebusch**, Teacher/Coach.



Mission ISD

Erika Miller, 8th grader, **Mission Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Clothing Drive for Mujeres Unidas*** - Erika donated clothing for women and children to Mujeres Unidas, a shelter for battered women and children. She was assisted by her two best friends, her mother, and her mother's friends. Since many of the women and children staying at the shelter have to run away with almost nothing they were very grateful for the donated clothing. Erika said, "I feel very good knowing that we had helped make the lives of these women and children a little better. I know they are all trying to start over and they appreciate any help they receive." Sponsor: **Ms. Annalisa Santana**, Teacher.

North East ISD

Jacob Morse, 9th grader, **Engineering and Technology Academy at Roosevelt High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Katie's Roadside Rescue*** - Jacob created a fundraiser using social media to sell raffle tickets. Katie's Roadside Rescue will receive all the funds raised by the raffle so they can continue rescuing the street dogs of San Antonio. To date they have rescued 40 dogs. The money will help with food, shelter, and medical costs associated with the organization. Jacob said, "It helped me to become a better problem solver and to realize that things don't always go as planned but you can't give up." Sponsor: **Mr. Robert Lerner**, Teacher.

Pearland ISD

Rohit Dsilva, 8th grader, **Berry Miller Jr. High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Tutoring*** - Rohit tutored 8th grade students in Pre-AP Algebra for five months, from November 2013 through March 2014. The students who attended the tutoring sessions learned the concepts thoroughly and improved their math skills. Rohit said, "Tutoring junior high students has increased my self-confidence and reinforced my belief that students can overcome their difficulties and achieve success through hard work and dedication." Sponsor: **Mrs. Georgette Arthur**, Teacher.



Eric Li, 8th grader, **Pearland Junior High School West**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Recovery for the Philippines*** - Eric received donations with the help of his sister and her friend, Eric collected donations of clothing, toys, books, and shoes. The donations were packaged in boxes and shipped to the victims of the Phillipine typhoon. Eric said, "Donating to the victims of the typhoon made me feel that I accomplished something important and made a difference in the world by making the world a better place." Sponsor: **Mrs. Sarah Sim**, Family Friend.

Kyle Neitzey, 10th grader, **Glenda Dawson High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **Putts for Cans*** - Kyle had great success with his Golf-A-Thon the last few years so he continued his efforts again this year. He collected pledges for the number of putts from 60 feet or further that he could make in one hour. The money he raised was donated to Christian Helping Hands, a non-profit food pantry in Pearland, TX. Kyle said, "I feel very good when I can combine something I love (golf) with helping my community." Sponsor: **Mr. Jason Adams**, Youth Minister.



Round Rock ISD

Sydney Swain, 5th grader, **Cactus Ranch Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: Cuddles for Kids - Sydney, with the help of her sister and a friend, collected 486 stuffed animals from six sites in her school district for the Williamson County Crisis Intervention Team. The stuffed animals were distributed to several internal groups including the Crisis Intervention Team to comfort children in crisis and Brown Santa to provide Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children. Sydney said, "I gained confidence by contacting the principals for permission and working with two older girls on the project. I was honestly surprised by the number of stuffed animals we collected and excited that we went over my prediction of 200." Sydney's sponsor, Mr. Dennis Garrett, said, "I am really proud of Sydney for choosing this project and seeing it through. A lot of kids are going to benefit from her efforts." Sponsor: **Mr. Dennis Garrett, Williamson County Sheriff's Department Officer.**



San Angelo ISD

Kinley Martin, 8th grader, **Glenn Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Humane Society Drive - Kinley asked her youth group at church to help collect old blankets and towels for the animals at the Human Society of Tom Green County. Kinley said, "By striving to help my community be a better place to live for both humans and animals, the quality of life has improved for all of us." Sponsor: **Mr. Kevin Huddleston, Youth Minister.**



Stanton ISD

Jo Beth Myrick, 6th grader, **Stanton Middle School**, 1st year member

Project: Blessing Bags - Jo Beth collected toiletries and snacks to make "Blessing Bags" to be delivered to the Salvation Army in Midland for the homeless. Two of her friends helped make the 16 Blessing Bags that were filled with the supplies Jo Beth collected. The homeless people of Midland were given a small gift to help with their personal hygiene and self-esteem. Jo Beth said, "I became more aware that there are people who are not as fortunate as me and my family. I don't have to worry about not having a toothbrush or shampoo. I am glad that I could help others." Sponsor: **Ms. Karla Canada, County Extension Agent (retired).**



Sterling City ISD

Chance Ferguson, 5th grader, **Sterling City Elementary School**, 1st year member

Project: H.E.B. Camp Fundraiser - Chance raised \$500 which was given to the Sterling City Elementary school principal to help Sterling City fourth and fifth grade students attend the H.E.B. Camp. These fourth and fifth grade students would not otherwise be able attend the camp. Chance said, "By leading this service project, I learned people like to help out and it takes all of us to make it come together." Sponsor: **Mrs. Ashley Glass, Counselor.**



Wyatt Ferguson, 11th grader, **Sterling City High School**, 3rd year member

Project: Eagle Fun Run - Wyatt organized a fun run to help raise money for the Venzor family who lost their daughter in a car accident. Wyatt said, "I learned how valuable community is when tragedy strikes." Sponsor: **Mrs. Ashley Glass, Counselor.**

Sunnyvale ISD

Joey Rosato, 10th grader, **Sunnyvale High School**, 4th year member

Project: Assistance for the Elderly - Joey's aunt is a physical therapist at The Manor at Seagoville and she expressed to him how the residents can be very bored. Joey decided to spend an entire day at the facility helping with the residents' physical therapy and taking time to listen to their stories, and sharing some of his own. Joey said, "I had such a great day. The residents were wonderful and they were so appreciative that someone wanted to spend time with them. I definitely will do it again." Sponsor: **Mrs. Marci Rosato, Parent.**

United ISD

Kevin Cantu, 9th grader, **United High School**, 4th year member

Project: Food Drive for Bethany House - Kevin collected over 100 non-perishable items for Bethany House, a facility which provides food for the homeless and disadvantaged people in Laredo, TX. The food items were distributed to people who depend on Bethany House for their meals. Kevin said, "I learned a lot about being a leader working with my volunteers this year. It always feels nice when you can give back to your community." Sponsor: **Ms. Marla Alfaro, Teacher.**



Wichita Falls ISD

Brandon Vaughn, 9th grader, **Eider High School**, 4th year member

Project: Janitor for a Day - Brandon recruited three friends to help with the set up and tear down of the anniversary celebration at the School for Little People, a pre-school/daycare facility in Wichita Falls. The faculty at the facility were very grateful as this freed up their time to run various errands for the celebration. Brandon said, "I felt so good that I was able to help with this celebration. It was a good experience to help the teachers so they could free up some time." Sponsor: **Mrs. Kristen Toulan, Parent.**



Wilson County ISD

Madison Summy, 9th grader, **LaVernia High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Casino Night Fundraiser** - Madison hosted a casino night fundraiser to benefit several charities in LaVernia. She raised \$1,700 which was distributed between Alto Frio Children's Camp, Youth Ministry First Baptist Church, Alamo City Pit Bull Rescue, Discovery School, and La Vernia Food Pantry. Madison said, "I improved my leadership skills organizing the food and games for the Casino Night fundraiser as well as recruiting workers. I felt a real sense of accomplishment being able to help so many in my community." Sponsor: **Mrs. Karen Summy**, Parent.*

Wylie ISD

Elisabeth Teitelman, 10th grader, **Wylie East High School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Coats for Caring** - Elisabeth collected 74 coats, 12 hats, and six scarves to donate to the Medina Children's Home. These winter clothing items will benefit the at-risk adolescents and single mothers and their children in the Dallas area. Elisabeth said, "This project really helped me expand my leadership abilities by talking to large groups of people, being held responsible for my work, and being able to successfully organize my own project." Sponsor: **Mrs. Angela Arp**, Student Council Advisor.*



Yorktown ISD

Kaleb Mikeska, 6th grader, **Yorktown Junior High School**, 1st year member

*Project: **Yorktown Elementary Story Hour** - Kaleb developed and taught three hands-on grammar-related lessons for story hour at Yorktown Elementary school. The first and second grade students received hands-on small group instruction and lessons. Kaleb said, "I worked hard developing the lessons and I also had a great time working with my fellow student council members to help provide a fun and educational experience for the youth in our community." Sponsor: **Ms. Ashleigh Peyton**, Teacher.*

Charter Schools

Whitney Barrett, 9th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Educating the Youth about JFK's Legacy** - Whitney produced a 10-minute video explaining the many accomplishments of JFK. The video was shown to many students and adults. Whitney said, "I learned that history retold from people who were alive during a specific period is the best way to become fully immersed in a topic." Sponsor: **Mr. Michael Barrett**, Parent.*



Khalia Simon, 5th grader, **Harmony Science Academy**, 1st year member



*Project: **Collecting Aluminum Tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Fort Worth** - Khalia recruited two students to help place tab collection boxes in several classrooms and in the teachers' breakroom. They collected over 550 tabs which were turned into cash at the aluminum recycling plant. The money was donated to the Ronald McDonald House, Fort Worth, to help with their day to day operations. Khalia said, "I was able to tour the Ronald McDonald House and now I have a greater appreciation for the wonderful service they provide for the families of sick children. When I am 12 I intend to become a weekend volunteer." Sponsor: **Ms. Kieran Brodie**, Teacher.*

Melissa Singing, 11th grader, **IDEA Frontier College Preparatory School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Christmas at the Alta Vista Nursing Home** - Melissa and 34 of her Catholic group of friends visited Alta Vista Nursing Home to sing carols and perform for the residents. During their visit they gave each patient a pair of warm socks for Christmas. The patients enjoyed the performance and their small gifts. Melissa said, "This project allowed me to interact with many nursing home patients. Seeing the smiles on their faces while we sang and performed was worth all the work." Sponsor: **Mrs. Jemma Singing**, Mother.*



Private Schools

Holden Hill, 8th grader, **Trinity Christian Academy**, 1st year member



*Project: **Treats for Troops** - Holden enlisted the help of two volunteers to help promote, secure, and deliver donated items to the Dallas USO Chapter at D/FW Airport. They collected over 490 food and snack items, numerous personal hygiene items, board games, movies, etc. to be provided to troops flying both in and out of D/FW. Holden said, "I wanted to do something for our troops that would be personal and immediate. When I found out how our local Dallas USO had been significantly impacted by reduced donations, I knew I wanted to try and help. People easily supported this project and were excited to donate. I really was amazed by all the donations that rolled in. 'Ask and you shall receive.'" Sponsor: **Mr. Dennis Saffold**, Teacher.*

Anna Kimata, 8th grader, **Punahou School**, 3rd year member

*Project: **A Christmas Surprise** - Anna exceeded her original goal to create 50 gift baskets by delivering 60 gift baskets that contained personal hygiene items and food snacks to people staying at the Ronald McDonald House during the Christmas season. On December 24th, 2013 the baskets were distributed to the families who were staying there through the holidays. Anna said, "I am glad I was able to accomplish this project. It felt amazing to know that in some way, I was benefiting a family or making someone's day brighter." Sponsor: **Mrs. Kimberly Long**, Teacher.*





Hayden McCormick, 8th grader, **St. Stephen's Episcopal School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Clothes Drive for Eastside Community Connection** - Hayden collected about 400 articles of clothing and about 80 other accessories that she donated to Eastside Community Connection. Hayden said, "This project showed me how incredibly generous most people are and how many people are willing to donate so many things to help the community." Sponsor: **Dr. Miriam Murtuza**, Advisor/Teacher.*

Additional Participants

Conroe ISD

Sydney Bell, 11th grader, **College Park High School**, 4th year member

*Project: **Leading Little Christians***

Copperas Cove ISD

Brianna Thornton, 6th grader, **Copperas Cove Junior High School**, 2nd year member

*Project: **Pennies for the Phillipines***

North East ISD

Danielle De La Paz, 10th grader, **Ronald Reagan High School**, 5th year member

*Project: **T.E.A.M. Danielle***

Charter Schools

Alisha Sircar, 8th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 3rd year member

*Project: **Cards for Soldiers***

Anisse Sircar, 11th grader, **Westlake Academy**, 5th year member

*Project: **Christmas is for Children***



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