

Class of 2014 Community Action Projects

Jo Baslot

Wilson High School

Florence, SC

Jo created a Science Fair entitled "Science Around the World" for students at Florence District One. Students learned about various science projects and countries. Projects were led by fellow students

Nikhalia Cheepurupalli

Spring Valley High School

Columbia, SC

Nikhalia created a program called Infinity and Beyond at Spring Valley High School. She involved various high school math groups to tutor Dent Middle School students. The focus was to help students who struggle in math and do not have the solid math foundation needed to perform complex problems.

Natrone Davis

Scott's Branch High School

Summerton, SC

Natrone created a mentoring program called "Saving Eaglets" for males in 3rd - 5th grade. The program matched elementary school aged children with a male between the ages of 16-21 who served as a positive influence on the child. The program fostered community involvement by having local leaders and ministers involved. Students who participated in the program were rewarded with a week-long basketball camp led by Natrone and his fellow high school teammates.

Luke De Mott

Mauldin High School

Greenville, SC

To help poverty stricken children in Greenville, Luke created a mentorship/tutoring program that would showed low income Elementary school aged children "the value of a good education" and how it can help them accomplish their goals. This mentorship program encouraged high school students to visit elementary schools once a week to encourage students to do well in school and assist them with reading. Donations from community members were collected in order to provide prizes for those students who participated and showed progress.

Mary Beth Grant

Greenwood High School

Greenwood, SC

Mary Beth wanted to address the issue of literacy in Greenwood. She is organized a book drive called "Reading Round-up" at her high school and local churches and distributed these books to the United Way of Greenwood, Healthy Learners, Bowers Rodgers, The Children's Center, and Laurens Safe Home. The project collected over 500 books total.

Westin Hardesty

Travelers Rest High School

Travelers Rest, SC

Westin created a program called "Puppet Outreach Program" that assisted children at the Frazee Dream Center to make their own puppets. These puppets were then used to act out difficult scenarios in these childrens' lives.

Brittany Joyce

Hartsville High School

Hartsville, SC

Selected officers within the City of Hartsville Police Department distributed gift certificates of less than \$5.00 in value to students in Thornwell Elementary, Hartsville Middle, and Hartsville High School when they "catch" a student doing a good deed or making a good decision. Local businesses who donated were McDonald's, Markette, Sonic, Wendy's, Subway, and members of St. Luke UMC. This program is a collaboration between the City of Hartsville, the Hartsville Police Department, the Community Foundation for a Better Hartsville, local businesses, and residents. The goal of the program is that, as police recognize good behavior and distribute the certificates, they begin to build positive and strong relationships with the children and teens in the community and encourage them to make good decisions. For more information or to make a donation, please contact the Community Foundation for a Better Hartsville.

Mani King

St. Joseph's High School

Greenville, SC

Mani wanted to raise awareness of the problem of drug abuse in Greenville. To do so, her program created social media pages to advertise the issue and make it well known. Student mentors from high school were assigned to middle school students to discuss the dangers of drugs and peer pressure.

Kenny Nguyen

Greenwood Christian

Greenwood, SC

Kenny believed that the promotion of education in Greenwood is essential to the community's continuing growth. He created "Stellar Kids: Start Young, Start Smart, Start Here" a mentor program in which high school students tutored and assisted elementary students twice a month. At the end of the program, an evaluation was sent to the students' parents to inform them of their child's progress.

Lucas Paquette

Johnsonville High School

Johnsonville, SC

The program's objective was to entertain senior citizens in Johnsonville and show them that their community cares about them. The closest form of entertainment for senior citizens in Johnsonville is over an hour away and most senior citizens do not participate due to the distance. The Senior Prom has given the senior citizens and the students in the Johnsonville community a chance to enjoy entertainment and to involve high school students in service projects close to home. On April 4, 2015, with assistance from local businesses, Johnsonville will hold its first Senior Prom at the Periwinkle Pavilion. Johnsonville High School and Prosser Law Firm have graciously provided the venue and decorations. Additional sponsors include Industrial Contractors, CMA Clearing and Excavating, The Tackle Box, Scotts' BBQ, Anderson Brothers Bank, Haselden Brothers, and Piggly Wiggly. The Florence County Senior Citizen's Association has provided the invitations and postage. At press time, 62 senior citizens plan to attend.

Susannah Pazdan

Christ Church Episcopal School

Greenville, SC

Susannah addressed the problem of homelessness in Greenville by creating a student photography show. The profits from the show supported the Triune Mercy Center in Greenville.