

Community Service Projects

Community service and involvement are an important part of the educational experience at NH. Staff and parents impart this to the students, and the students are always willing to help. NH students, staff, and parents have historically been involved in helping the Shawnee County community. This school year has been no exception. The NH tradition of involvement with community service projects is evidenced by many recent efforts:

Penny Drive for TNO

The Northern Hills Penny Drive has been exciting this year. Students participated in pieing teachers for every \$250 raised towards our goal of \$3000. Contributions were also put in jars so one of three staff members could be duct taped to the wall. One seminar class designed a scavenger hunt based on background information from the staff and another seminar sold frozen yogurt. Members of our community joined in the fun agreeing to be pied if we reached our goal. Businesses also helped by contributing money or gift certificates. This has been a positive experience for our students, staff, and community. Topeka North Outreach counts on Northern Hills each year because we are their single largest contributor. Many thanks go out to everyone helping to bring a little brighter Christmas to those families and individuals helped by TNO.

FCCLA Stuffed Animal Drive

The members of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club have been very busy this year. After making over 400 buckets of delicious cookie dough from scratch for a fundraiser, members baked and donated cookies for the Kansas Neurological Institute of Topeka to serve at their Christmas Party. Members also ran a successful drive for winter clothing, toiletries, and school supplies for the Salvation Army. The members estimated the drive collected \$300.00 worth of items. FCCLA also selected 5 local foster children to receive a Christmas gift on their wish list.

Adopted Families

Mr. Steve Denny's 2nd/3rd hour class adopted a family for the holiday season and the NH staff adopted a family. Spirit Council members helped wrap presents for the families adopted by the staff. Thanks to all students and staff who provided a happier holiday to others.

Toys for the Topeka Rescue Mission

Ninth grade industrial technology students under the direction of Mr. Eddie Tomanek made wooden toys and delivered them to the Topeka Rescue Mission on December 1. The project is done in partnership with the Topeka Sawdusters' Club.

Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots Program

In November the NH Honor Society spent money raised through pumpkin sales to purchase over \$250 worth of toys. The toys were then delivered to the Marine Reserve Center for the Toys for Tots program.

Spirit Council

The 9th grade members of the NH Spirit Council purchased 26 books for the children at the Rescue Mission. The students delivered the books to Ace Cleavenger, education coordinator at the Rescue Mission, who was a school administrator for 44 years. The students had a great time picking out books at Barnes & Nobles that brought back fond memories of their childhood. The spirit council and the NH spirit squad hope that their contribution helped make Christmas a little happier for the children at the Rescue Mission. Students making the trip were Dustan Boleski, Nick Schwerdt, Heidi Dreschler, Kyle Knudson, and Bryce Simons. Mrs. Penny Guy is the Spirit Council sponsor.

Pumpkin Sales at Parent Teachers Conferences

The Northern Hills Honor Society will be selling pumpkins on Thursday, Oct. 20th during Parent-Teacher Conferences. The funds raised from this event will be used to purchase toys for Christmas for children who are in need in Topeka. Please buy your Halloween pumpkins at NH.

Recycling Containers at NH

NH has two recycling containers on the north side of the building for school and community use. One container is light-colored and labeled for cardboard recycling. The other container is bright yellow and is for paper (newspapers, inserts, magazines, office and school papers, and mail). NH will earn money (about \$15 per ton) from the newspapers collected in the container. Please be a conservationist and NH booster and use our recycling containers.

Foster Children Benefit From NH Community Service Efforts

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of FCCLA members, students in Miss Renner's Literature and Algebra classes, and the wonderful staff at Northern Hills, 22 children in foster care in Shawnee County received clothes, shoes, toys, and books for Christmas.