



NORTHRIDGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

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Northridge Prep Students Support Local and International Charities

By Gregory Knapp, Class of 2013

In just four months, Northridge Prep students have served their community in eight service projects. The small school in Niles has made a big impact in the lives of many as they raised money for a leukemia patient at Lutheran General, sent 435 pounds of food to needy families at Thanksgiving, and sent medical supplies to Haiti.

In November, the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation asked for student help in providing a special experience for Joseph, a 12 year old fighting leukemia at Lutheran General in Park Ridge. After getting to know Joseph and learning of his love for hockey, and the Blackhawks in particular, students organized a three day bake sale and provided four Blackhawks tickets, a Blackhawks jersey, and a limousine ride for Joseph and his friends to watch a game. "It's amazing to see so many people sacrifice some of their time to help others," junior Paul Brown commented after students met their fundraising goal. The rest of the money was donated to Bear Necessities for cancer research projects. Joseph's parents spoke with teachers and staff about their thankfulness for the effort that Northridge students were putting into Joseph's big weekend.

As the holiday season approached, students sponsored a Food and Toiletry Drive to fill the cupboards for the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Elderly in Palatine. Their food drive resulted in a donation of over 435 pounds to the local charity. Realizing the difficulty many families would have this holiday season, students also donated 62 frozen turkeys to the Missionaries of Charity on the West Side of Chicago so that suffering families could enjoy the holiday.

In the last few weeks of the semester, students took part in three different charitable opportunities. Northridge families donated over 250 toys to the Women's Center of Chicago, a resource center for disadvantaged mothers. Northridge families also bought Christmas presents for the 26 residents at the St. Joseph's Homeless Mission in Osceola, Indiana. "I loved seeing people bring in toys, and caring for people less fortunate," junior Will Strenk said after seeing the piles of presents to be delivered by history teacher, Dr. Kelliher. Students also worked to collect shoes and medical supplies for the Little by Little Foundation, a relief agency in Haiti. These medical supplies and donations will be sent overseas in January.

**Northridge Prep High School is an independent college preparatory school for young men, located in Niles, Illinois. To learn more about Northridge Prep, or to schedule a shadow day for your son, contact Jack Conroy at jconroy@northridgeprep.org.*

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Northridge Prep Seniors Andrew Kuczynski, Liam Holohan and Marko Culjak prepare to deliver toys to disadvantaged mothers.