

The Afternoon of Service was first introduced to staff at the opening faculty meeting in August of 2023 and re-introduced at the October faculty meeting when a spreadsheet and letter were shared with teachers. The PTO meeting in October discussed grant applications and donations from the community to aid with organizing and gathering supplies.

Teachers submitted their project proposals before Thanksgiving break, including the title, description, items needed, monetary requirements, necessary supplies, and requested donations. From November through January, a spreadsheet was created to track all the items for the Afternoon of Service. On December 6th, a homebase lesson titled "Building a Culture of Kindness With a Day of Service" prepared students, and the full list of projects was posted on Schoology that same day. Student scheduling took place from December 8th through the 22nd, and staff received rosters and final numbers on January 5th.

Finally, on January 23rd, 2024, the inaugural Afternoon of Service occurred at Dorseyville Middle School. The categories spanned animal welfare, charitable organizations, elderly care, school appreciation, homelessness, hospitals, and veterans/first responders. This variety allowed students to engage with causes that resonated with their interests and values.

Some popular animal projects included making dog biscuits, creating toys for shelter pets, and assembling adoption bags. For the elderly, students made bouquets, window clings, and care packages. School appreciation saw inspirational rocks, appreciation bracelets, book readings for teachers, and new student guides. Community-giving examples included art kits, birthday boxes, valentines, and care packages. Hospitals received posters, pillows, and gift bags. Veteran/first responder projects included tokens for police, banners for WWII vets, survival kits, and comfort boxes.

This thoroughly planned and executed first-time event encouraged students to actively contribute to meaningful causes. Their enthusiasm exemplified the spirit of service that Dorseyville Middle School aims to instill.

For more information on Afternoon of Service, contact Program Principal, Dr. Laura Miller at laura_miller@fcasd.edu.