



Students Helping Students

How do you help students understand giving and giving back to their community? Experts say teaching students at a young age about the world from another person's point of view allows them to develop respect, promote personal growth, and the ability to foster empathy, and helps them learn more about their community.

Mr. Preston Gennet, a Social Studies teacher and the Marshfield High School Student Council Advisor understands how important helping in the community is. The student council has done and continue to do many volunteer projects in our community – from toy drives for the Salvation Army, bell ringing at Christmas time, gifts for children in need, making cookies at Hope Lodge, and preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House. He is helping the students understand the needs right at the high school. How might they be able to help their own peers?

Many high school students do not have the financial resources to afford the fees, clothing, and other necessities most high school students have and many take for granted. The number of children who qualify for free or reduced lunches in Marshfield is alarming. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website reports 34% of all children in our public schools qualify for free and reduced meals. It also states that we have 68 homeless children. More and more children are living in poverty in Marshfield.

The Marshfield High School Student Council Partnership Fund was created in February of this year to help. The students decided to dedicate \$3000 of their yearly fundraising to a fund to help their fellow students. The Marshfield Area Community Foundation was willing to match the amount they raised and double it to \$6000, doubling the potential to help even more students.

Together we helped:

- 5 students received vouchers to Goodwill or St. Vincent's - approximately \$60 of value
- 4 students received funding for art class fees totaling \$55.00
- 2 students received funding for their CNA exams totaling \$90
- 1 student received funding for a field trip totaling \$7
- 1 student received funding for an engineering class fee totaling \$5

4 students received funding for Spanish workbooks totaling \$64.80
5 students received funding to cover construction class fees totaling about \$210
5 students received funding to cover French class fees totaling \$80
1 student received funding to cover an auto class fee totaling \$10
1 student received a graphing calculator (over \$100)
Other class fess: \$296.91

In the first few months since establishing the fund the students were able to provide almost \$1000 in aide for their fellow classmates. How wonderful! Students helping students!

In addition Keep Kids Warm helped about 30 high schools students by providing warm coats, boots, and mittens. Some of these coats were donated but many needed to be purchased. The value of this was approximately \$2100.

Our community needs to thank the Student Council and Mr. Gennet. What a terrific idea!
Thank you!



*20 Years of
Giving*

2013
1993

Marshfield Area
Community Foundation

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