

Goddard High FCCLA Students Serve

With the holidays coming up, grades, sports, recitals, tests, projects, and more, it's easy to see how teens can become absorbed in their own daily lives. But the Goddard High chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, or FCCLA, have been giving back to the community this fall. These students are among the busiest at the school. Many are honors students, they have jobs, are members of sports teams, they're taking advanced placement classes, and are busy working on leadership skills, not the least of which, is community service. You may have seen them doing service and not even noticed.

On Wednesday, November 9, approximately 30 FCCLA students took time from their busy academic schedules to serve elementary schools throughout the school district. Parents of elementary school kids will remember the Thanksgiving Feast held on that day at their child's school. FCCLA students were there helping to serve all those extra people. Cafeteria services at RISD just don't have enough man power to serve the extra people, so FCCLA stepped in to help. "It was fun watching the smiles on the kids' faces when their parents were able to take time out to eat lunch with them at school," said Kayla Sisneros, FCCLA Chapter Vice President. Another FCCLA member, Kwyneci Smiley, noted, "Those cafeteria ladies work really hard!" FCCLA students not only got to serve our community, but gained a better appreciation of their own hard-working cafeteria members. Shelley Montgomery, RISD Kitchens Manager thanked the students, "The students did a fantastic job and they are a very big part of the reason we were successful with the Thanksgiving Feast!" Heidi Shanor, Principal at Military Heights Elementary School, thanked all the hard work of the cafeteria staff and students, "THANK YOU to you and your staff for a WONDERFUL Thanksgiving lunch!! Sending an additional adult and 3 GHS students to help serve today was a LIFE SAVER!! Everyone was AMAZING and hard-working and oh so friendly too. Kudos to everyone."

Another service opportunity was the very next day, November 10, at GHS for their annual Veteran's Day Assembly. FCCLA students prepared for several weeks in advance to ready Goddard's Little Theater for the arrival of their Veteran guests the day of the assembly. Plans for decorating and providing refreshments for the Veterans prior to the assembly went off without a hitch. Students were proud of the cookies, brownies, fruit, and vegetable trays they were able to provide to the Veterans, and were seen serving beverages and chatting with Veterans before the assembly began. "We have a lot of respect for the Veterans and all they have done for our country. We are just glad we can serve them in return," said Leo Melendez, FCCLA Chapter President.

FCCLA has plans underway for more service within our community. There will be a "Presents for Pets" drive starting in the New Year, that will benefit our local animal services, and students are planning their second annual trip to the Roadrunner Food Bank in Albuquerque as part of their service during their attendance at the FCCLA State Leadership Meeting in March.

So in a time when most people are noting teens in the news for the mistakes they have made, or crimes that have been committed, or when it is often said that teens are fonder of their cell phone than the community in which they live, take some time to notice the service that our teens provide. There are numerous organizations out there helping our teens to learn to give back to their communities. So thanks, FCCLA, and thanks to others as well.