

Each year we are humbled and amazed at what students will do when they are empowered. They find and feed the need in communities across the USA and around the world. Draw inspiration and ideas from some of the projects we've received in the past.



ANIMALS

- A team of 8th graders who made dogs "more adoptable" through socializing and homemade toys and treats. They were challenged to find ways to make safe treats and toys from things they could find at their boarding school. No fundraising was allowed. They created the "Barkery and Toy Store".
- An 8th grade team of "Pooch Protectors" who worked to provide safe and permanent homes for shelter dogs. They made videos to bring attention to the dogs available for adoption and collected food and toys for the dogs to have while awaiting adoption.



CAREERS

- A high school team who worked with [code.org](https://www.code.org) to organize Hour of Code events. They taught computer coding skills to the elementary students through games. Teaching **computer skills** to all grade levels addressed the need for students to be able to find jobs outside of their rural, low income community.
- A team of 7th graders who raised funds to purchase sewing machines and supplies for women of **Haiti** to make items to sell. The money from items sold allows the women to support their families and buy food for their children.



CLOTHING & OTHER ITEMS

- Taking a fresh look at how to meet the needs of families who received food from their local Food Pantry, a team of 6th graders created **Babies and Birthdays bags**. They gathered items for babies, and items to celebrate a birthday. They made gift bags for each type of item. When families came to pick up their weekly food allotment, they could also have a baby bag or child's birthday bag if they needed one that week.
- A high school **HOSA** team worked to clothe the "Feets and Seats" of children in **foster care**. They collected childrens' new socks and underwear using creative marketing and challenges. The items were donated to a children's foundation for distribution.
- Adopting a town in need of dental care, this high school team spent months collecting and assembling dental care packages, along with business cards of dentists and providers willing to assist residents.



COOKING

- Middle and high school **FCCLA** students working together to fund and cook a full thanksgiving meal for the **veterans** in their small town. But first they were required to sit with the veterans and hear their stories.
- High school students who decided to feed the **firefighters** fighting forest fires in the Northwest. But first they had to figure out how to fund, prepare, transport and then safely store the meals at the fire station over 2 hours away. They brought enough meals to feed the firefighters 3 meals a day for 30 days!



**FOOD
COLLECTION
& DONATION**

- A high school FCCLA team worked with a local charity to receive apples and oranges for their school. Each week over 500 pounds of apples and oranges were distributed to teachers. The team also worked to coordinate meals for teachers, parents and others on select nights—Parent Teacher conferences, School Assemblies, etc.
- A high school team worked with the **Lions Club** to set up an in-school food pantry. This pantry served emergency needs of students, staff and their families.
- A high school team that led a variety of community service projects under the slogan “Go Forth and WINN” to help the Winn Parish School District to address hunger and food insecurities among their families. **FBLA** and **4H** students worked together to seek challenging tasks and make great accomplishments despite the small size and great disadvantage of their school.
- A team of high school students who learned that the hunger need in their community was **single parent families**. To fund holiday meals for these families they sold pieces of duct tape to tape their principal to the wall at a Pep Rally and then sold chances to throw pies at the principal! Why? Because they have a history of low participation in their events—they wanted to be unique and capture attention.
- A team of middle school students who had a great plan for a **can drive** to support their community food pantry. On the day of their event their teacher was in a car accident. They had to rally together and make her proud by surpassing their goal!
- A team who overcame a culture of apathy at their school by **enlisting faculty** in their project. They planned and hosted a successful food drive by offering homework passes for donations and other unique ‘trades’ likes cans for cookies to surpass their goal.
- A team of **National Honor Society** officers who taught Lead4Change leadership lessons to prospective NHS candidates so they could effectively participate in community service upon induction into NHS.
- A **Boys & Girls Club Torch Club** who planted and grew a **garden** of vegetables so they could send home items to families in need. First they had to figure out how to build a fence around their garden plot because it was next to the elementary playground.
- A high school team who worked with the **art department** students to decorate wheelbarrows. They placed the “Meal-Barrows” around town as collection spots for donated food items. After donating the food to the local food pantry, they auctioned off the painted “Meal-Barrows” to raise more money for their local Food Pantry.
- A **special needs** school that made seed packets and a recipe book for the kinds of food that would grow from the seeds. They packaged the seeds, recipe book, a trowel and garden gloves together and sent the packets to schools across the state and country. They invited the schools to join them in growing food for their community!
- Several schools created or took over the **backpack program** in their school or district. Collecting and packaging food for students to have on weekends. Students learned the extent of the food insecurity in



HOUSING

- A team of private school students who addressed the need for short term housing in emergency situations. They held a variety of fundraising & fun activities at their school to raise money toward a trailer to house a family in need.
- A high school team that worked in their “adopted” town to put a new roof on three buildings. They worked alongside their charity and the local residents to complete the work and provide hope!



**SAFETY &
ADVOCACY**

- Raising awareness of **human trafficking** is a bold new project topic. Two different teams created awareness campaigns to draw attention and offer tips for protection to other students. Using artwork, outreach messages and safe contact information, these teams provided information and solutions to their peers.
- A team of middle level **after school** students who drew attention to bullying and how to stop the trend. They worked with their local Gay & Lesbian Community Center to understand and teach others how to identify bullying, how to stop it and how to prevent it in the future. Teaching peaceful behavior and acceptance were important messages in a difficult environment.



WATER

- A team of 8th graders who read “A Long Walk to Water” and were inspired to raise funds to **build wells** in South Sudan. They teamed with the leader of a clean water for Sudan charity in their community and raised \$10,000 during the school year.
- A middle school team that drew attention to the global **water crisis** by participating in World Water Day. They organized a 2-mile walk for students to sign up and carry gallons of dirty water to raise awareness and understanding. They worked with Water is Life to create print and video messages about the water crisis and solutions. They posted their work to YouTube to extend their message.



**EMPOWER-
MENT OF
LEADERSHIP**

- A high school **JROTC** team that celebrates their 4th year of Lead4Change participation through an annual partnership with their local mission. This team really loves the leadership lessons and how they learn about themselves and others to build strength among their team.
- A **principal** who stepped in to teach the lessons himself and then inspired one of his teachers to facilitate the lessons. His students served at a soup kitchen for the first time in their lives. Difficult students realizing that they have the leadership skills inside to truly make a difference in the lives of others. Breakthrough!
- A **special needs** middle school who empowered their students through the Lead4Change lessons. Students earned the right to participate in the weekly volunteer day at the local soup kitchen. For the first time, students were viewed as leaders, able to help others in need.