

MAKING WAVES AT DCS



Community Service and Leadership Class Fundraiser Benefits At-Risk Children and Young Adults

Mill Creek students make a difference while learning leadership skills

The third quarter Community Service and Leadership (CS&L) class at Mill Creek Middle School recently organized a fundraiser to help Ozone House, a non-profit organization that provides shelter and help for at-risk children and young adults. They provide shelter, food, school support, counseling and many other services for homeless youth in the area. Over the course of one week in late March, Mill Creek students brought in materials such as diapers, dish soap, detergents, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, and many more requested items, as well as monetary donations.



"As a class, we chose to help Ozone House because we felt like it could make an impact," says Julie Rascol, an 8th-grader in the CS&L class. "We wanted to be able to help out the people in our community after finding out there are people in our community around our ages affected by things such as not having a place to live, or just not having the basic things we have. We think it's important that we give back to our communities because you never know what will happen in the future. It could be you that needs help."

CS&L classes competed against each other to bring in the most items and money, with the winning team winning a popsicle party. Student leaders measured the donations based on their weight and each dollar counted as one additional pound. As a school, Mill Creek presented Ozone House with 244 pounds of donated goods and \$286. This event was a great success and CS&L students thank everyone who participated in the event.

8th-grader Catie Hoffman shared that, "As a class, we chose Ozone House because we felt it was important to give back to people in need. We know people are not as well off as the rest of us, and we wanted to help change that. We knew it was people around our age, and that motivated our decision to help Ozone House. It's important to give back no matter what because

you never know what people are going through. If you were going through a tough time, you would want other people to help you out. We felt like giving back to our community would make a good impact, and we were excited to help out as many people as we could."

On Thursday, April 7, Ozone House Assistant Director Jodi Trisdale came to Mill Creek to talk to students about the services they provide to our community, as well as to thank the students for their generous donations.

Mill Creek's Community Service and Leadership class chooses a non-profit organization to sponsor each quarter and organizes an activity/drive/contest to collect donations from students. CS&L students first do research to find non-profit organizations needing assistance and present it to their peers. The class then votes on which organization to support and puts together a plan to raise money or supplies for that organization. In addition to the Ozone House fundraiser, the class also organized a teacher vs. student dodgeball game and after-school event in late March, raising \$467 for "Building Up," a non-profit organization currently raising funds to build a health clinic in Uganda.

"It's a great way for our middle schoolers to find a voice and know that they can make a difference," says teacher Natalie Park. "We are really proud of all that they are doing!"