Our Community Helping Our Community

An AVID-Kids Club service learning project in partnership with SoWashCo CARES

MARCH 6, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

$24,962
Grant Award

SO WASH CO SCHOOLS

Innovation in Service Learning Grants
State Fiscal Years 2024-25

Purpose: The Minnesota Department of Education has funding available for grants to initiate or expand and strengthen innovative service learning opportunities for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Partnerships consisting of youth, community-based organizations, and schools will identify a community need or opportunity that could be met, expanded, or strengthened through youth-led service learning. The partnership collaborates on all aspects of the initiative, establishing sustainable relationships based on mutual interest and trust. The result of this work will be more systemic support in schools, which results in more opportunities for underserved youth to participate in service learning.

WOODBURY ROYALS | PINE HILL PANTHERS | Woodbury Wolverines



Winter Clothing (Fall)
$9,000 of boots and gloves



Snacks (Winter)
$5,000 raised



School Supplies (Spring)
In progress..

AVID | KidsClub | SOWASHCO CARES

Our Community Helping Our Community

Other partners: Finance, Nutrition Services, TLS, Communications

AVID/Kids Club Mentoring Program

The Grant work titled, “Our Community Helping Our Community, Student-to-Student Service Learning," was designed to **foster mentorship, leadership and empathy while strengthening community relationships.**

The diversity of our district continues to grow, and our AVID students represent **the very best of SoWashCo**, acting as **role models for younger students**.

The grant funding has allowed us to continue to grow this impactful **student-to-student service-learning project**, further **strengthening mentorship, community engagement and leadership opportunities for all students involved**.



AVID/Kids Club Mentoring Program

Building Community Through Service Learning

Program Beginnings

- **Spring 2022:** Launched with 35 Woodbury HIgh School students at Bailey and Woodbury elementary schools
- **2022-23 School Year:** Continued with Bailey and Woodbury elementary schools; Pine Hill Elementary joined in the second half
- Participation grew to 100 students

AVID/Kids Club Mentoring Program

Program Expansion and Support

- **December 2023**: Received Innovation Grant from the Minnesota Department of Education
- **Summer 2024**: Developed program structure and curriculum
- **Fall 2024**:
  - Woodbury High School seniors received training on working with Kids Club students
  - Dr. Cheryl Jogger presented on community needs
  - First lessons: Winter Clothing

Trimester 2: Focus on Healthy Eating

- **Guest Experts:**
  - Bobbi Jo Grummons & Erica Pawletzki introduced nutrition concepts
  - Students engaged in hands-on recipe creation

Program Impact & Future Goals

- Hands-on **experiential learning**
- Developing **teamwork, leadership and civic responsibility**
- **Grant-funded resources** making meaningful community service



Winter Clothing

OUR COMMUNITY HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

- AVID students chose, purchased, sorted and delivered winter clothing
- 158 pairs of boots and 104 gloves were purchased through grant funding
- Kids Club students crafted caring messages to place inside the boots and gloves
- The Winter Clothing project helped more than 400 students across the district this year



Healthy Snacks

OUR COMMUNITY HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Students raised $5,000 and learned about:

- Why school meals have requirements
- Fundraising
- Careers in school nutrition
- Sugar content in different beverages
- How to create balanced MyPlate meal
- Making your own health snacks
- Taste testing new fruits, vegetables
- Food insecurity in our community





SOWASHCO CARES

What it Means to Our Students

I learned how you have to go out and do something to make a difference. It's people wanting to help other people, not just some random corporation donating toward helping, but people that surround us are the ones going and doing the work needed to be done to help.

It wasn't just about providing for their physical needs—it was about showing we care and making sure they felt supported. Every small act, like packing winter essentials, reflects a bigger goal: to make a real difference in their lives and show them they're not alone.

We are out in the community, not just hoping for difference, but making a difference.

I learned that because it is our community, it is us that can make the biggest impact and offer the most help.