

TIES OF HOPE

STUDENTS MAKE, DONATE BLANKETS TO LOCAL CHARITY

Service projects ranged from entertaining children and elderly, to saving lives by donating blood, but one particular service project really hit home with the Kubena family. Last year, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) hosted a meeting where they created tie blankets and then delivered them to the Ronald McDonald House in the Texas Medical Center located in Houston.

"I started making the tie blankets after I saw how much of an effect they had on my niece, **Tara Kubena**, when she was in the Ronald McDonald House," FBLA sponsor Mrs. **Laura Kubena** said. "When we made them last year, we only created 20 blankets which covered about half of the rooms at the house. This year we made 50 blankets to ensure that everyone living there had a blanket."

While for many of the students this project was just something kind to do for someone who was sick, but to the children who received these blankets, it was so much more.

"I slept, played games and ate with my blanket," sophomore Tara Kubena said. "It was my safety blanket. I didn't go anywhere without it, and I still have it today in my room. It was something irreplaceable. It meant the world to me to know that someone cared to take time out of their day to create something for me that would ease my thoughts as I held on to it all day."



TEEN TEACHING. As an active member of Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE), senior **Corie Matura** aids kindergartener **Abby Davis** in Mrs. Marik's class. TAFE members tried to find time in their schedule once a week to assist a teacher in elementary. "Helping the kids was my favorite part," Matura said. "It helped them better themselves in their classes." (Photo by Maddie Stork)

SERVICE PROJECTS

TIE-BLANKETS



(Photo by Ishmael Blackwood)

"Making blankets for the cancer patients at the Ronald McDonald House made me happy because I know how much it meant to them." senior **Aliska Schmidt** said.

VALENTINES



(Photo by Maggie Cheatham)

"It was an amazing feeling knowing that they welcomed me and the love that they showed made me want to go back," senior **Elyssa Delgado** said.

WARM DRIVE



(Photo by Karen Riley)

"The items we donated go to C.A.R.E, and it helped me remember that Christmas was all about giving," senior **Trevor Cook** said.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. To encourage people to recycle instead of throwing away electronics, freshman **Daylon Hayes**, sophomores **Sabrina Carranza**, **Jasmine Argeta** and **Blaine Whitley** help work the Tech Drive hosted by the Green Team. "The Tech Recycle Drive is a great way for people to throw out their old electronics, but in an eco-friendly way," Green Team sponsor, Mrs. **Karen Riley**, said. (Photos by Karen Riley)

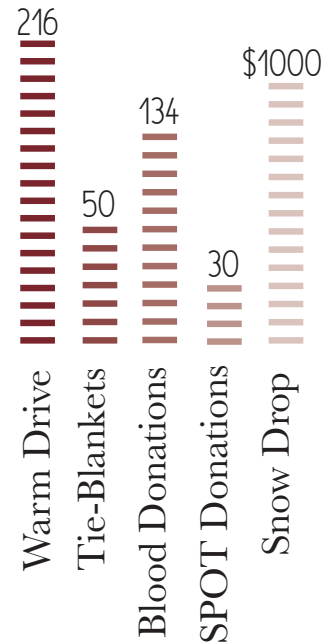


CANS FOR CARE. With boxes of cans in hands, seniors **Erin Cullers**, **Kourtney Kelso** and **Brian Barta** unload a truck full of boxes. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) paired with Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and pillaged the town dressed in Halloween costumes to trick or treat for canned goods. "It made me feel like I was bringing hope, love and comfort to the unfortunate citizens in my community," Cullers said. "I hoped that my services and the service of others have brought a smile to the deserving faces." (Photo by Andrew Hudgins)



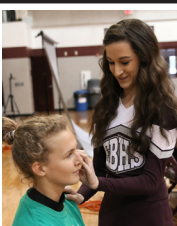
MODERN SUPERHERO. Every three to five seconds senior **Elly Sanchez** squeezes her stress ball to pump the blood from her arm into the machine. The machine takes whole blood, separates the red blood cells from the blood and returns the plasma and platelets to the donor, allowing them to safely donate two units of red cells. "Many people were afraid of the needles and the expected pain," Sanchez said. "In reality it was just a game of mind over matter. The needle did not hurt that bad, and I saved three lives." (Photo by Kayla Dobias)

NAUGHTY OR NICE? Encouraging the kids to eat their vegetables and to mind their parents, senior **Brian Barta**, dressed as Santa Claus, spreads the Christmas spirit by visiting the elementary classes. "As I put on the beard, stuffing, and red coat, I started to really feel the Christmas spirit," Barta said. "The whole experience was something only a very few get to experience, and I was fortunate enough to be amongst them." (Photo by Russell Zahradnik)



DONATION DATA

TATTOOS



(Photo by Maddie Stork)

"I loved seeing the excitement on all the little kid's faces as they came to get a tattoo every Friday," senior **Kara Gertson** said.

SPOT



(Photo by Russell Zahradnik)

"We recieved a grant that allowed us to match all the supplies that the students brought in for their SPOT donations," StuCo Sponsor **Marian Merritt** said.

PIE-ING



(Photo by Maddie Stork)

"It was a priceless moment. I waited 17 years for that and it felt so good," Mrs. **Liz Vacek** said.