

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

- Make dogs "more adoptable" through socializing and homemade toys and treats. Find ways to make safe treats and toys from things they could find at their boarding school.
- Work to provide safe and permanent homes for shelter dogs. Make videos to bring attention to the dogs available for adoption and collect food and toys for the dogs to have while awaiting adoption.



CAREERS

- Teach computer coding skills to elementary students through games. Teaching computer skills to all grade levels addresses the need for students to be able to find jobs outside of their rural, low income community.
- Raise 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

- Create Babies and Birthdays bags. Gather items for babies, and items to celebrate a birthday. Make gift bags for each type of item. When families came to pick up their weekly food allotment, they can also have a baby bag or child's birthday bag if they needed one that week.
- Clothe children in foster care. Collect children's new socks and underwear using creative marketing and challenges. Items can be donated to a children's foundation for distribution.
- Adopt a town in need of dental care, collecting and assembling dental care packages, along with business cards of dentists and providers willing to assist residents.



COOKING

- Work together to fund and cook a full thanksgiving meal for the veterans in their small town. Sit with the veterans and hear their stories.
- Feed the firefighters fighting forest fires. Figure out how to fund, prepare, transport and safely store the meals at the fire station.



HOUSING

- Hold a variety of fundraising & fun activities at your school to raise money toward a trailer to house a family in need.
- Work to put new roofs on buildings. Work alongside a charity and the local residents to complete the work and provide hope!

**FOOD
COLLECTION
& DONATION**

- Work with a local charity to receive apples and oranges for your school. Work to coordinate meals for teachers, parents and others on select nights—Parent Teacher conferences, School Assemblies, etc.
- Work with the Lions Club to set up an in-school food pantry. This pantry serves emergency needs of students, staff and their families.
- Lead a variety of community service projects to address hunger and food insecurities among families.
- Fund holiday meals for single-parent families. Sell pieces of duct tape to tape their principal to the wall at a Pep Rally and then sell chances to throw pies at the principal!
- Plan and hosted a food drive by offering homework passes for donations and other unique ‘trades’ like cans for cookies to surpass your goal.
- Plant and grow a garden of vegetables so you can send home items to families in need.
- Decorate wheelbarrows. Placed the “Meal-Barrows” around town as collection spots for donated food items. After donating the food to the local food pantry, auction off the painted “Meal-Barrows” to raise more money for the local Food Pantry.
- Make seed packets and a recipe book for the kinds of food that would grow from the seeds. Package the seeds, recipe book, a trowel and garden gloves together and send the packets to schools across the state and country.
- Create a backpack program in your school or district. Collect and package food for students to have on weekends.



**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.