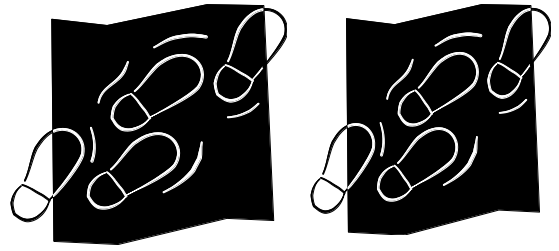


Franciscan Footsteps

Mount Alvernia High School



Dear Parents,

As we gather with loved ones to give thanks during this month of November, if you're like me, you become so aware of your many blessings. Even though each of us has worries, we are so very blessed by God in so many ways. It's appropriate that we pause to notice our blessings at least once a year. And, what better way to express our gratitude than to reach out to those in need, as Jesus and St. Francis did.

If your daughter needs help in finding a place to volunteer, she can always begin with her elementary school, her parish, or with some organization where your family is already involved. In this newsletter I hope to offer some additional ideas, or she may want to stop by my office and we can together try to find something she'll enjoy doing.

May God bless you and your loved ones at Thanksgiving! I thank God that you and your daughters are among my many blessings!

Sincerely,

Community Service Coordinator

Holy Name School, Craft Fair

The Parent-Teacher Association at Holy Name School, West Roxbury, needs help with their Craft Fair on Friday, Nov. 13 for set up and on Saturday, Nov. 14 for the actual fair. For more information contact Tracy Di Carlo 617-719-8344. She is looking for firm commitments from volunteers ASAP.

Cradles to Crayons

This organization, located at 82 Myrtle St., North Quincy, MA 02171 (near the "T") endeavors to provide children their basic needs so they can be safe, ready to learn and feel valued. Because of the present economy, requests for help at this organization have skyrocketed recently, and volunteer help is being sought. Since helpers are often needed weekday afternoons, students could plan to help out when we have a half day of school or a day off. For information on how you can help, especially with the "Gearing up for Winter" program contact: Lindsay Jensen: Lindsay@cradlestocrayons.org, phone: 617-471-8417 ext. 117. Or check the web: www.cradlestocrayons.org

Christmas in the City

Christmas in the City was founded in 1989 by John "Jake" Kennedy and Patricia "Sparky" Kennedy, who wanted their children to be familiar with people less fortunate than themselves. Over the years, the project has grown to undreamed-of proportions, and currently helps provide for thousands of Boston's less-fortunate children. This organization of all volunteers, provides Christmas gifts, a meal and a huge Christmas party for Boston's homeless people at the Bayside Expo Center. Help is needed on December 19 to wrap gifts, a volunteer opportunity for students under 16, and on December 20, the actual Christmas party day, for students older than 16. For more information see www.Christmasinthecity.org or contact Susan Hamilton, mother of one of our 9th grade students who is willing to be the captain of a team of volunteers, at 781-724-1351 or 781-326-7411.

Sancta Maria House

Located next door to the Cathedral at 11 Waltham St, in Boston, this shelter has offered assistance to one of our alums. Volunteers are needed to do housework, especially on Saturdays, (students accompanied by an adult). Another possibility is to stop by on Saturday, November 28 between 2-4 to bring a gift, especially of socks, gloves, underwear, long johns, Dunkin Donuts or MacDonaldis gift certificates, or toiletries (in small amounts). Or a student might want to organize a collection of these items. For more information contact Shena Pappalardo at 508-653-8128.

Ladders Program

This program, which serves children with autism and their families, is located at 59 E. Militia Heights Rd, in Needham. They need help with child care Wednesday evenings, 6:15-8:30, November 18 and December 9, 6:15-9:00pm. Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. For information contact Julie O'Brien at j-obrien20@partners.org or call 781-860-1726. Web: www.crarc.org

SNCARC

This agency, located in Westwood, offers services to children with autism and other developmental disabilities and to their families. Volunteer opportunities include clerical work, fundraising, weekend programs (music, teen club), holiday parties, etc. For more information Contact Nancy Borr at nborr@sncarc.org or call 781-762-4001 x 412.

Mt. Alvernia Academy, Chestnut Hill,

located about one mile away, would love to have student volunteers for their after school sports program on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday or, for their Extended Day Program, Monday through Friday. Call 617-527-7540 extension 1 for more information.

Newton Parks and Recreation Department

has a sports program for people with special needs which includes soccer, track, swimming, ice skating, hockey, tandem bikes and other events. Help is needed. This is a great opportunity for student athletes! Programs occur on both weekend and weekday evenings throughout the fall. For more information contact Mark Kelly at 617.796.1527.

Nursing homes

Maristhill Nursing Home in Waltham needs student volunteers to help with activities and with transporting patients. Interested students should contact Bill Driscoll at 781-893-0240. He especially needs help with special holiday events.

If Waltham isn't convenient for you, contact your local nursing home to inquire about opportunities, especially in the activities department and at holiday time. Nursing homes welcome student volunteers.

Franciscan Sisters, Newton

The sisters who live here at 790 Centre St. are looking for help at the receptionist desk evenings and weekends. Interested students should see Sr. Julie. This service would be greatly appreciated!

Great general resources worth checking out:

- www.teenlifeBoston.com
- www.bostoncares.org

Dates to Remember

January 5: Evaluation Forms for 15 hours of Community Service due for Seniors.

February 23: Evaluation Forms for 15 hours of Community Service due for grades 8-11

I do hope some of these suggestions appeal to your daughter. If not, please encourage her to come and see me in the community service office and we can look at other options. I believe it's important that each student choose something she's going to enjoy doing! (There are no bonus hours for being miserable while doing community service!)