

2013-2014 Service in the OJCL: A Year in Review (by 1st VP Ryan Thaxton)

- 2013 has been an absolutely amazing year of service for the OJCL. Together we have helped so many around us and spent many hours giving back to our schools, cities and states. And when I say many hours, I mean many MANY hours.
- Across the OJCL I received service hours from ten schools spread out across Ohio. While this is a good number it is only a third of the chapters in the OJCL, and I know that every chapter is involved in service in one way or another. That is why I am presenting a challenge. By next year I'd like to see that number at least double for the upcoming First Vice-President. I know you all can do it.
- Across the ten schools that submitted service hours we totaled 1,787 hours with an hours per capita average of 5.1 hours. With all those total hours you can tell that we were busy. Those many hours were invested in many projects including our three regional MADDs, Project Linus, Christmas gift wraps, Relay for Life, disaster relief projects, and many more projects.
- Overall this has been a great year for service and we have done so much. However, there is always room to grow. I'd love to see those 20 schools submit their service hours for the 2013-2014 year. Just imagine how much those numbers above would grow if everyone was included. Let's make this upcoming year even more amazing for service in the OJCL.



Here is the summary of the Cleveland MADD by NW Gubernator Eleni Packis (Westlake):

On November 16th, OJCLers from the Northeast and Northwest regions joined together for an "Olympic Day" at Youth Challenge. Youth Challenge is a nonprofit organization that brings together children with physical disabilities and volunteers for adapted sports and recreational activities. OJCLers dressed in togas and led fun activities for the YC participants, such as chariot racing (using their wheelchairs as chariots), javelin throwing (using pool noodles as javelins), and fresco painting, giving brief historical blurbs before each event. At the end of the night, there was a closing ceremony where all of the YC participants were crowned with laurel wreaths and given grape juice and crackers (to simulate Roman wine and bread). Thank you so much to everyone who came and helped out!



Here is the summary of the Columbus MADD by Central Gubernator Henry Bacha (Wellington):

Each Thanksgiving, the Broad Street Food Pantry in Downtown Columbus supplies enough food for a complete Thanksgiving feast to 150 needy families in neighborhoods surrounding the Broad Street Presbyterian Church, and for the second year in a row, students from the Central Region helped make the 2013 project a success.

Despite the frigid temperatures, students and their advisors began arriving around 8:30 a.m. the morning of Saturday, November 23, to help Food Pantry staff and other volunteers prepare for

the annual Thanksgiving food give-away. It was the Region's Make a Difference Day and approximately 50 students volunteered their time that morning.

People had begun lining up outside in the cold much earlier, so everyone jumped into action to get the food lines set up. Students immediately began helping setting up tables in an assembly line, unpacking food items and making trips to the recycling bin. Once set-up was complete, students split up among different food stations and helped families fill their carts with vegetables, broth, cranberries and turkeys. One group of students assisted families transport the food from the church to their cars in carts.

Afterward, students helped with clean-up, which included pushing brooms and taking more trips to the recycling bins and trash receptacles.

The Food Pantry is one of the largest food donation stations in Columbus, providing a five-day supply of food to 30 families daily. Twice a month from May to October, the pantry provides additional fresh produce to 200 families. Director Kathy Kelly Long appreciated the support provided by the Central Region. "Your group was great to work with," she said.

Here is the summary of the Cincinnati MADD by SW Gubernator Ra'ad Dowod:

I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Southwest Regional MADD. A great deal of work was accomplished to clean up the environment at California Woods Natural Preservation. I even received a call back from the people at California Woods, thanking us for all the work that we did. Around 50-55 people showed up. In addition to all the hard work, many new members of the OJCL attended. It was an awesome experience, and it was great to see everyone again! Hope to see you at State Convention!

