

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECTS

BARTLETT MIDDLE SCHOOL (PORTERVILLE)

Bobcats Helping Bobcats

This team created a student-supported pantry to provide food and hygiene items for students in need. After recognizing that some classmates struggled with basic necessities, students took action to support their peers and help remove barriers to learning. The project grew into a sustainable, student-led effort where students organize donations, manage supplies, and promote the pantry in a respectful and welcoming way. Beyond meeting basic needs, the project helps build a culture of care, empathy, and responsibility across the school community.

BLUE OAK ACADEMY (VISALIA)

Be Kind to Your Mind

Focused on building a sense of belonging on campus, students organized a mental health fair by partnering with local organizations to provide resources, support, and activities for their peers. In addition, the team led kindness initiatives like Grateful Grams to promote connection and inclusion, using the funds raised to support ongoing care packages for foster youth. Through these efforts, students created a more supportive and connected school community.

BURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL (PORTERVILLE)

Paw-sitive Impact

With a passion for animal welfare, the “Paw-sitive Impact” project aimed to raise awareness and collect donations for local shelters. Students hosted an information night to educate the community on adoption and responsible pet care, along with a donation drive that gathered food, blankets, and supplies. Despite initial challenges, the team successfully engaged their school community and continued working toward hosting an adoption event. The project highlights their commitment to service, teamwork, and making a positive impact on animals in need.

CARL SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL (TERRA BELLA)

Hygiene Boxes

Recognizing that access to basic hygiene products is not guaranteed the team centered on creating hygiene boxes filled with essential personal care items to support families in need. The team worked together to collect and assemble supplies such as soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Through this project, students helped meet a critical need in their community while raising awareness about the importance of hygiene, health, and overall well-being.

FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (FARMERSVILLE)

Freedom Peace Garden

A collaborative effort between students, staff, and community members resulted in the creation of a Peace Garden. Inspired by a need for a safe place on campus, students worked with staff and community partners to design and build a garden where students can calm down, learn, and grow together. What began as an idea to promote peace evolved into a lasting resource that supports student well-being, leadership, and community collaboration.

KINGS RIVER UNION ELEMENTARY (KINGSBURG)

Pioneer Community Trade Post

The Pioneer Community Trading Post supports families facing poverty and food insecurity. After recognizing community needs, students worked with school staff to open a pantry offering non-perishable food, clothing, and essential items. The trading post is now open weekly, providing ongoing support to students, families, and the community, while helping ease everyday challenges.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LINDSAY)

Step Up for Health and Safety

The Step Up for Health and Safety project was created to educate the community on life-saving skills and important safety topics. Inspired by local tragedies, students organized a community event where families learned CPR, first aid, fire safety, awareness around human trafficking, and substance abuse. Through strong partnerships, the team also provided safety kits, health screenings, and essential resources to families. The project grew into a large community effort that promoted health, safety and support, and making a meaningful impact on the well-being of local families.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECTS (CONT.)

LIVE OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL (TULARE)

Grizzlies United in Kindness

Students at Live Oak promoted kindness across campus through a school-wide kindness week. Inspired by concerns about negative behavior and social media impact, students organized activities like dress-up days, affirmations, posters, and social media campaigns to encourage positivity. The goal was to create a more supportive school environment and inspire kindness beyond just one week.

PALO VERDE UNION SCHOOL (TULARE)

Senior Connection

Through building relationships with senior residents, this team helped reduce loneliness and create meaningful connections. Students partnered with Grand Oaks Care Center and Assisted Living, visiting regularly to play games, create cards, and spend time with residents. What began as simple visits grew into great relationships, helping students develop confidence, empathy, and leadership while making a lasting impact through kindness and connection.

PIXLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL (PIXLEY)

Hygiene Closet

The team at Pixley Middle School focused on promoting hygiene and increasing access to essential products for all. Students began by raising awareness through informational pamphlets and flyers. The team was able to create a hygiene closet stocked with donated items like deodorant, toothpaste, and shampoo as a result of their efforts. Through collaboration with staff and community partners, the project grew into a sustainable resource that supports students' health, confidence, and well-being.

PLEASANT VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PORTERVILLE)

Care Gram Project

The "Care Gram Project" supported McKinney-Vento families and seniors affected by the government shutdown by providing care packages filled with food and hygiene essentials. Inspired by the needs in their community, students organized donation drives, partnered with local organizations, and worked together to prepare 50 care totes. Through their efforts, the team was able to spread kindness and provide meaningful support to families during the holiday season.

REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LINDSAY)

Where Care Meets Action

"Where Care Meets Action," focuses on promoting safety, kindness, healthy living, and support for local families. Students led initiatives such as encouraging active lifestyles and safety awareness, organizing kindness week, and creating a care closet to provide clothing and essentials for farmworker families. Through community partnerships and student leadership, the project supports those in need while building a more caring, safe, and connected school community.

SANTA FE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PORTERVILLE)

Spreading Kindness

A project, led by 5th grade students, focused on creating a schoolwide kindness week to help students feel more included and supported. After hearing that some students felt left out, the team organized daily themes and activities like kindness stations, messages, and games. With participation from about 780 students, the project helped spread positivity and build a stronger, more caring school community.

SEQUOIA MIDDLE SCHOOL (PORTERVILLE)

Streetlight Safety

After recognizing that poor lighting was putting students at risk, the team mapped unsafe areas, raised awareness on campus, and provided flashlights to students. They also advocated for change by presenting to the city council and connecting with local partners, working to improve safety for students in their community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECTS (CONT.)

SYCAMORE VALLEY ACADEMY (VISALIA)

S.N.A.C.

Students aimed to create a snack pantry on campus to support their peers who may not have consistent access to food. They took action to provide a simple accessible solution after noticing that many students come to school hungry or lack snacks, especially on short days or before activities. The pantry is accessible to any student in need, helping ensure they have the energy to focus, participate, and succeed throughout the school day.

TRAYER SCHOOL (TRAYER)

Stronger Together

This project focuses on raising mental health awareness and reducing stigma in the Trayer community. Students led initiatives like “Mindful Mondays” social media campaigns, classroom presentations, and a mental health fair to provide resources, education, and support for students and families. This initiative expanded to include community outreach with senior citizens and the development of a student-created app “MindSpace” offering coping tools and resources. Through these efforts, students are creating a more supportive, connected, and informed school community.

WEST PUTNAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PORTERVILLE)

Campus to Community Project

This team focused on keeping the campus and community clean. After noticing litter on campus, students launched a clean-up campaign and partnered with Pathway Students and the City of Porterville. What began as a school effort grew into a community initiative, helping students take pride in their environment while promoting responsibility and teamwork.

WOODVILLE UNION SCHOOL (WOODVILLE)

Warriors for the Earth

The “Warriors for the Earth” project focused on addressing local water contamination caused by nitrates in groundwater. Inspired by prior research, students developed solutions such as creating an organic school garden, starting a composting program, and promoting rain gardens to reduce pollution and support groundwater recharge. Through research, field trips, and community partnerships, students gained a deeper understanding of environmental issues and created a documentary to raise awareness. The project highlights how small, sustainable actions can lead to meaningful environmental change.

HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS

BRAVO LAKE HIGH SCHOOL (WOODLAKE)

Food Pantry for the Needy

The team focused on supporting families who may feel unsafe or fearful when accessing basic necessities like groceries due to concerns about immigration enforcement. Students recognized that food pantries can provide a safer, more supportive environment where families feel protected and less isolated. This project was inspired by a team member's extended family member and it motivated the group to take action and support others.

DEEP CREEK ACADEMY (FARMERSVILLE)

Blankets of Hope

"Blankets of Hope" project was created to provide comfort to individuals and families experiencing difficult situations such as emergencies or crisis. After connecting with local emergency services, students learned how blankets could offer immediate support during these moments. What began as a small idea grew into a collaborative effort involving multiple students and schools. Together, they created and distributed 60 blankets to first responders, making a meaningful impact by showing care, and compassion to those in need.

MISSION OAK HIGH SCHOOL (TULARE)

Hawk Hearts: Totes of Love

Students decorated and filled duffel bags with essential and comforting items such as hygiene products, blankets, journals, and personalized messages. The goal was to support foster youth who often move placements with limited belongings while also helping students understand the challenges these individuals face. Through donation drives and hands-on activities, students collaborated to assemble and personalize 60 duffel bag by adding creative touches like keychains, cards, and encouraging notes.

PORTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL (PORTERVILLE)

Healthy Hearts: Hygiene Drive

"Healthy Hearts: Hygiene Drive" was created to address hygiene insecurity among vulnerable families in their community. After learning about local needs through conversations with staff and the Family Crisis Center, students organized a school-wide hygiene drive, collecting essential items such as shampoo, deodorant, and baby care products. Students worked together to promote donations, organize supplies, and raise awareness about this often-overlooked need.

STRATHMORE HIGH SCHOOL (STRATHMORE)

Step Up for Wellness

"Step Up for Wellness" aims to raise awareness about mental health among students and families. Students recognized that many teens experience stress and anxiety, and the stigma that makes it difficult to talk about or seek help. To address this, the team organized a wellness fair that brought together students, families, and community organizations to share resources, encourage open-conversations, and promote a supportive environment where everyone feels safe and heard.

TULARE TECH PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL (TULARE)

A Change Starts With Me

Centered on personal growth and change, students reflected on their past experiences, behaviors, challenges, and recognizing how their choices were impacting their future. Through regular meetings, writing, and honest conversations, they began to take accountability and committed to making better decisions. The project evolved into creating a book of their personal stories to show that change is possible. Throughout this project students found motivation to improve themselves and become positive role models.

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL (VISALIA)

Hope in Helping Young Adults

Students created a project to support young adults in transitional housing. The Step Up team assembled 20 care packages with essential hygiene items and handwritten notes, which were delivered to Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus. Through the process they provided meaningful assistance while raising awareness about challenges faced by their peers. The team plans to continue their efforts by sharing resources with others in the community.