

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all” - Aristotle

# Educating Minds and Hearts:

Creating a Culture of Service at  
Mineola High School

# The Falk Sysak Student Service Center

- Walter B Sysak
- Diana Falk



Mineola was funded by Learn and Serve America Grant for Service Learning from 1989 until 2011



Currently....



**Nassau County Bar Association**  
**We Care Fund**

WALTER KANER ♥ CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION  
.....The Foundation with a Heart

Everybody can be great

because anybody can serve....

You only need a heart full of grace

A soul generated by love.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Over 15 programs designed for every interest...

## For Senior Citizens

- Nursing Home Visitors
- Computeers
- Lunch Bunch



# Our School Community

- Peer Tutoring
- MS Homework Helpers
- Math Helpers
- PTA Babysitting



# The Larger Community

## Gingerbread University

- Ronald McDonald Dinner Project
- SPARC
- The Mary Brennan INN Youth Board





# Designed for every schedule

## Once a year:

- 9.11 Day of Service
- Gingerbread University
- We Care Children's Party
- MINNeola Macaroni
- Prom Boutique

## Once a month:

- INN Youth Board
- SPARC
- Lunch Bunch
- Ronald MCDonald Dinner
- Project
- 8 Ways to Serve
- Leadership Council

## Once a Week:

- Nursing Home Visitors
- Computeers
- Peer Tutoring
- MS Homework Helpers
- Math Helpers

Especially designed for our 8th graders...



8 WAYS TO SERVE





# Recognition by Newsday's FutureCorps



**Newsday**

**FC**

**FUTURECORPS**

*A Newsday Community Alliance Expedition program engaging students in community service.*

**A message of peace**

The issue of bullying is a common theme in schools. At Mineola High School, student members of the "Increase the Peace" organization have made it their mission to ensure a safe, inclusive and nurturing school environment for all students.

As part of that mission, the students recently visited fifth graders at Hampton Street School to discuss issues like bullying, gender, race and physical appearance. Spreading the message of acceptance and tolerance, senior Jill Wetzel told the younger students, "We want people to have a better understanding of each other."

Fifth grader Genevieve Peters came away with a lesson learned, "You should treat people the way you want to be treated."

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## Home Sweet Home

On a cold snowy Saturday, while many were still sleeping in their warm beds, 17 members and 4 advisors of the SPARC/Interact club from **Carle Place** and **Mineola High Schools**, joined forces, showing up at an abandoned house in Roosevelt. They spent the day tirelessly assisting the professional staff from Habitat for Humanity of Nassau County, breaking up concrete, painting and insulating a basement, installing a chain link fence and much more. "I enjoyed learning new skills and meeting many new people. It was great working together with all these kinds of people and helping to improve someone else's life," said Liam Lofgren a junior from Carle Place High School. Ryan Tomarro, treasurer of the Carle Place SPARC/Interact club offered a similar response. "The opportunity to step in and help out Habitat for Humanity on a project site is truly a rewarding experience, as I was able to directly contribute to the building of a home for a family in need of shelter."



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April, 2012



### Mineola Macaroni Making a Difference

As part of a service learning initiative, Mineola High School students united to raise awareness of and help fight hunger on Long Island. The project began with the students researching the history of hunger in America and the extent of the problem in today's society. Armed with information, they presented their research to 8th graders and enlisted the younger students' help in two hands-on activities to battle hun

They conducted a district-wide food drive to benefit Long Island Cares, a food bank and hunger action organization. The weeklong drive resulted in 2,000 non-perishable food items. With that success behind them, the students coordinated the "Mineola Macaroni Making a Difference" pasta dinner to benefit the Mary Brennan Inn. The students donated, cooked and served the food. Over 300 people attended, raised \$3,000 for the soup kitchen. "This whole project has been such an eye-opener and I'm glad that I was p of it," said Danielle Martinez-McCormack, grade 11. Julie Fabiano, also an 11th grader, summed up her experience. "It is such a great feeling to go home after a long day of school and know that you changed



Service Learning:  
APUSH and AP Lit

2013



A Newsday Community Affairs Department program engaging students in community service.



### High School Metamorphosis

As part of a service learning initiative, two senior classes at Mineola High School taking Advance Placement (AP) Literature and (AP) Biology partnered with physically and mentally challenged Life Skills students for a "Metamorphosis" project on the cycle of the butterfly. The 12th graders prepared lessons for science and literacy, and the students all worked together to prepare the larvae and caterpillars to begin their metamorphosis. The students learned about the life cycle of the butterfly, wrote stories and poems about butterflies and, more importantly, got to socialize with each other. Deanna Thilbourg shared, "I liked working with the seniors because I made a lot of new friends and they taught



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Eileen Burke, far right, and members of the SPARK club in Mineola bag Thanksgiving food donations at The INN in Hempstead

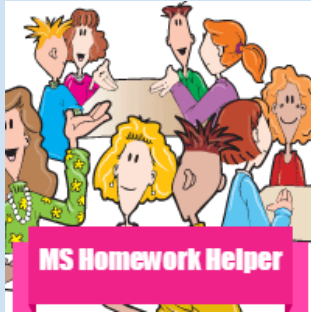
# giving to others

Where young people can volunteer during the holiday

1280







# kidOYO Badges



**Contributing  
Positively to a  
Global Society**

# Tracking & Organization

Event Name	Badge Image	Description	Criteria	Category	Award Schedule
Lunch Bunch		Joining this program means you'll have lunch once a month with senior citizens from the community.	Active Participation	Contributes Positively to a Global Society	Cumulative Year-end
Computers		This a group of student volunteers who provide technological training to senior citizens who want to become computer, Ipad, Iphone, Tablet literate	Active Participation	Contributes Positively to a Global Society	Fall (Oct- Nov) -end of Nov Winter (Jan-Feb) -end of Feb Spring (March-April) -End of April
Initial Participation in an Event		Student participates in his/her first event through the Student Service Center.	Active Participation	Contributes Positively to a Global Society	Incremental -awarded monthly through January
10 hours of Service Badge		Volunteer	At least 10 hours of service	Contributes Positively to a Global Society	Aligned to submission of Progress Reports

# Student Digital Portfolio



OYOCCLASS

44

Community

mu8586

## Badges



10 hours  
of service...



Service  
Hours ...



NURSING  
HOME...



COMPUTE  
ERS...



Initial...

## Portfolio

You don't have any portfolio shown here, please  
[click here](#) to add your first one.



mu8586

## Joined Communities



Code Mineola  
Mineola, New York



Mineola UFSD  
Mineola School District

