Academy Collects Nearly One Ton of Food for Local Food Bank

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A hallmark of a Notre Dame education is a commitment to community service.

One of the ways the Academy of Notre Dame students, faculty and administration demonstrate that commitment is with the school’s annual food drive. This year, more than 1,740 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected and delivered to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank in Lowell earlier this month.

With additional monetary donations, the equivalent total was well over one ton of food. According to officials at the food bank, that amount will feed 400-500 families.

"The goal was to fill an Academy bus and we certainly accomplished that," says Clarissa Samuels, a long-time Academy employee and currently Director of Transportation. "We've been doing this as long as I can remember. Our efforts this year beat, by at least 20%, anything we've done in the past."

Although donations came from throughout the school, nine 7th and 8th-grade students from the Lower School’s Beta Club helped load the bus and six of them pitched in to help deliver the bus load of food to the bank. Three Upper School students from the National Honor Society also assisted the efforts. Additionally, two bus drivers donated their personal time to make the delivery.

"It’s impressive what they’ve done here today. We are blessed to have NDA as a partner in the community. They are doing a great job preparing the students to continue serving our communities," said Amy L. Pessia, executive director for the food bank.

When asked how they felt about their accomplishments today, the students all described how grateful they feel for their own good fortune and how good it makes them feel about helping those who are less fortunate.

Participating students included:

Upper School seniors Olivia Sergi, Corinne Chinnici, Sara McKearney (not pictured), and Advisor Stacy Marsden.

Lower School Beta Club 7th and 8th graders Sophia Jean, Alicia Glasheen, Meghan Anderson, Liam Fisher, Connor Callahan, Christopher Bucci and Advisor Jillian Boudreau. Not pictured are Sophie Torres, Alyssa Kazanjian, and Caroline Rizos.

Transportation Department Volunteers were bus drivers Debra Cloutier and Ron Gauvin as well as Clarissa Samuels, Director of Transportation.