

## Eagle Eye on GSS “Day of Service”

The **Mission** of Good Shepherd School is to provide every student with an exceptional Catholic and academic education, the tools and strategies to be successful in all walks of life and prepare them to be leaders in their community and world. It is also our mission to instill the desire for our students to serve their community. We called our students to honor not only Good Shepherd’s Mission, but also **Martin Luther King’s** legacy of service and commitment towards achieving his vision of a “Beloved Community.”

On January 18 our PreK to 5th Grade participated in a “**Day of Service**” where a portion of their day was spent helping the families of Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey. The second portion of their day focused on **Catholic Charities “Refugee Resettlement Services”** and the struggles that refugees encounter. The **Ronald McDonald House** is conveniently located minutes from different hospitals and provide lodging, meals and support to families with children receiving treatments for various illnesses and injuries. A representative from the House came to GSS to give a presentation to our Primary & Intermediate grades about their Mission and all the ways students can help the House. Afterwards, students visited different **activity stations** in which they learned about Dr. King, created Valentine’s Day cards for the families staying at the House and also put together **snack bags** for the families to take with them to the hospital while their child is receiving treatments.

Our students donated \$5 to make the day as successful and enriching as possible. The money allowed the faculty & staff of GSS to buy snacks that were needed for the snack bags so that there were plenty of bags to fill! I would like to thank our **Guidance Counselor**, Jessica Tracy for her work in making this connection to the Ronald McDonald House for us and staff members who were able to plan this portion of our Day of Service.

After hearing about some of the struggles that refugees encounter, from the presentation from representatives of Catholic Charities, students made cards of support and comfort. Our PreK students “spread the PEACE” in their last service project of the day making “Blessing Bags” for those who are less fortunate.

Thank you to the **St. Teresa of Calcutta Men’s Club** for donating the bus that made it possible for Grades 6 & 7 to head to **LUCY Outreach in Camden** to do some house cleaning, organizing, and helping set up their new forever home and Grade 8 to **St. John of God** in Westville who since 1965 has been committed to serving those with special needs, from infant to adult, in South Jersey.

**Mr. Ray Bonnette, Principal**



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