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Dear Parents,

At Back to School Blast, I mentioned to you the emphasis we have put on service over the past school year. We want to continue to grow in teaching our children the importance of service to God and others. Last year, our students from preschool to 8th grade touched the lives of many in need, through toy drives, raising money for communities abroad, visiting nursing homes, and providing items for homeless shelters and refugees.

We gave to the Hope Center and the Ronald McDonald House. We also gave canned food to God's Pantry, Christmas presents to St. Joseph's Hospital's Outreach and the Catholic Action Center. Our children sold items during lunch to help ABLE and God's Net. Our children also read to disabled children at the Stewart Home, made blankets, set up apartments, and welcomed refugees at the airport. The 8th grade had an entire service day visiting many locations throughout our community and spent another day composting, weeding, and planting flowers at Greenhouse 17, a home for women and children of domestic violence.

This year's 8th grade service day is September 23rd. Throughout the school year, we will continue our stewardship and wish to expand our outreach to other schools in our community and in our diocese. We will be partnering with Mary Todd Elementary and Our Lady of the Mountains School to assist them with some of their needs. We want our students to understand that, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more" (Luke 12:48).

Thank you for all you do to help us with this goal. Thank you for volunteering for Oktoberfest, an event which helps the church, school, and our community. Please continue to look for opportunities to reinforce the important lessons our children are learning about stewardship. Helping them at home to learn that God's purpose for us is to serve Him and one another, will support what they are learning at school and in church.

Many Blessings,
Paula Smith, Ed.S.