

# Take Action Project Catalog

## Global Scholars Class of 2026

The Global Scholars Diploma Program culminates with a Take Action project in the students' third and final year that is meant to demonstrate the abilities that they have cultivated over the course of the first two years. Students choose a globally-oriented issue about which they are passionate, and they pursue a leadership role in making a positive impact at a local level.



To guide their Take Action projects, students use the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a globally recognized set of objectives addressing critical issues such as poverty, education, climate action, and equality. The SDGs provide a structured way for students to identify and understand the broader global context of their chosen issue while also narrowing their focus to actionable impacts within their own communities.

By aligning their projects with one or more of these goals, students gain a clearer sense of the impact their work can have, learn to apply strategic problem-solving skills, and connect their efforts to a larger global movement for change. This framework serves as a tool to help students think critically and act effectively, rather than as an endorsement of any particular agenda.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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# 2026 Take Action Projects

## SDG 1 - No Poverty



**Sophia Deimling - Westerville Central**  
*Supporting Those in Need with Furniture*

Working with Furniture Bank and Sinclair Broadcasting, I was interviewed on Good Day Extra to talk about my project and why donating furniture is important. This allowed me to reach a broader audience to talk about Global Scholars and the importance of helping those in need.



**Grace Risser - Mt. Vernon**  
*Pregnancy Poverty*

While working with Starting Point Pregnancy Center, I volunteered there twice a month in the boutique and helped clients shop. I also made five posts and videos for their social media about the boutique to help get information out about it and bring more awareness to the program.



**Ava Huber - Big Walnut**  
*Volunteering in the Face of Poverty*

Working with Big Walnut Friends Who Share, I created an educational presentation about poverty and the impact that volunteering can have, which I later presented to a class of middle school students in hopes to extend their knowledge on volunteering and poverty.



**Dipannita Sen - Columbus Academy**  
*How Wage Theft and Minimum Wage Failures Deepen Health and Living Disparities*

After interviewing professionals from organizations such as Policy Matters Ohio, I created a website featuring a podcast series with these interviews. Also, the website includes a survey for local audiences to share their perspective, and I presented it to students at my school, encouraging them to listen to the podcasts and complete the survey.



**Brenna Kappes - Westerville North**  
*Smiles4Styles*

Working with The Huckleberry House, I hosted a clothing event using donations from people in my community. I also presented a slideshow to my teammates to share causes and effects of teenage poverty.



**Kylie Simpson - Buckeye Valley**  
*Seams Legit*

I worked with PIN (People in Need) on poverty in my community. I organized a coat drive for people in Delaware because I wanted to help those who don't have enough warm clothes. Helping is important because everyone deserves to feel comfortable and cared for, especially when times are tough.



**Abigail Osei - Westerville South**  
*Rethinking Poverty*

Working with a program manager from Seeds of Caring, I was able to record an interview that I included in a presentation about the myths and realities of poverty, which I showed to an 8th grade Exploring Global Issues class at Blendon Middle School. I also talked about different types of poverty in my presentation.



**Marina Sinsel - Mt. Vernon**  
*Spread the warmth, spread the love: Children's winter clothing drive*

Working with the Salvation Army, I organized a community-wide winter clothing drive for children, collecting over 200 items including socks, hats, and gloves. I gave an educational presentation to the National Honors Society about poverty while also volunteering at the Salvation Army's annual clothing and toy drive event.



**Zander Tee - Westerville Central**

*The Dignity Drive*

Working with The Open Shelter, I worked to organize a clothing drive and “thrift store” event at the shelter, giving clothes to those who need it in a humane and fun way rather than simply giving them clothes in a box.

**Ella Dils - Granville***Food Deserts*

Working with Newark Homeless Outreach, I grew food in my school greenhouse with the help of our teachers and students and gave them to my organization to help with their food insecurity necessities.

**Madelyn Esposito - Columbus Academy***Turning Awareness into Action: Addressing Food Insecurity*

Working with WARM, I hosted a community food drive and donated food and also presented a slideshow to global scholar students at my school regarding food insecurity.

**Cadence Jones - Mt. Vernon***Food Insecurity in Ohio*

Working with Journey church, I presented a slide show talking about how food insecurity affects people around the world and people in Knox county. I then held a food drive there for a couple of weeks. Afterwards, I brought the goods to the Center of Hope and made soup starter kits that I passed out to over 70 people in need.

**Jonathan Jones - Gahanna***Seeds of Support*

Working with GRIN, I collected donations from people in the community and from GRIN itself and passed out emergency food bags with non-perishable food items. So far I passed out around 7-10 bags in my project to people with large families and people with little support. I am continuing this project as a once-a-month event.

**Kendall Leugers - Dublin Coffman***Back to the Basics*

Working with Balance Nutrition, I went to Bailey Elementary School and taught second graders the basics about building a plate that would keep them nourished. I then explained to them why staying nourished and eating the right foods are important.

**Ellie Mack - Mt. Vernon***Jackets Fighting Hunger*

Working with Mount Vernon High School, we developed a food drive that would anonymously support Mount Vernon students. We collected around 6,000 items that were set up in a store like format in the teachers lounge. Parents were given grocery list forms so that they may request items that they need and I would help package them to be sent out to students in need.

**Charlotte Reinaker - Delaware***Using Food for Fuel*

Working with the Delaware Hunger Alliance, I made 10 people follow a meal plan that included good nutrition value and healthy portions to help show the effects of proper nourishment on the body. Using the data from the survey taken after the week-long plan, we are able to see a significant improvement in students energy and focus.



**Sameera Akkenapally - Dublin Coffman**  
*Promoting Good Health & Well-Being in Teen Girls*

Working with our Cross Country coach, Joseph DePalma, I presented information about how physical activity can benefit the mental and physical health of teenage girls.



**Isaac Banks - Gahanna**  
*The Importance of Fueling*

After working with Sakiko Minagawa from the Division of Sports Medicine at Nationwide Children's Hospital, I created an educational presentation about the importance of nutrition and presented it to over 30 children. In addition, I created a take-home booklet to supplement my presentation.



**Brandon Alfred - Gahanna**  
*Mind Matters*

Working with my school's mental health specialist, Mrs. Ashley Parks, I worked to create a presentation to give to students in clubs so that I can advocate and raise awareness for mental health. I gathered information about how they viewed mental health before my presentation, and did the same after to measure my impact on the students.



**Priyanka Bellala - Westerville Central**  
*Healthy Habits*

Working with Emerson Elementary, I presented and educated around 40-50 fourth graders on the importance of forming healthy habits at a young age. This included topics like sleep, screen time and mood regulation. I knew kids would be able to live a happier, healthier life if they were exposed to topics like these at a young age.



**Dalia Arja - Westerville South**  
*Iman & Wellness Collective*

Working with Saabiqaat, I hosted a mental health workshop at the Westerville Public Library for Muslim youth, facilitating open discussions on Islamic psychology and using the Qur'an as a source of healing. We addressed stigma, explored how faith and professional support can coexist, and concluded with a dialogue on improving mental well-being.



**Persia Berko - Westerville Central**  
*Sleepy Student Support*

After collaborating with Seth Berko, a physician assistant from Nationwide Children's sleep department, I gave a presentation about sleep health to two different classes of upperclassmen. After presenting, I handed out a time management matrix and a three-week long sleep tracker to determine if the presentation had an impact on their sleep.



**Doaa Arja - Westerville South**  
*Better Nutrition*

My project focused on researching nutrition for young children and examining the role of healthy foods and hydration in their development. I consulted credible sources, including a health teachers, and used my research to design an informative and engaging way to introduce these concepts to kids.



**Alexiah Boateng - Reynoldsburg**  
*Speaking for the Unheard*

Working with Mckellvin Ofosu-Frimpong, I attended a Waggoner Road middle school health class with around 15 or more students to inform them on the dangers of Human Trafficking and how to protect themselves and those they love.


**Sarah Bush - Licking Heights**

*Makeup mindset*

Working with Jessica Rone a Sephora trainer, I created a survey of Beauty Industry Executives to get advice or little pick me ups. With their responses, I created and distributed cards in public spaces to 16 people. Working with Lori Guth, I also helped a non-profit partnership between Encore and Sephora in an attempt to develop a Free Beauty Day.


**Ferah Clark - Delaware**

*Refuse the Abuse*

Addressing healthcare worker violence, I partnered with Sherri Lyons from the Emergency Room at OhioHealth. I then took that information and presented about workplace violence to 23 students at Delaware Area Career Center. I helped with educating students about early warning signs and de-escalation to help educate future healthcare workers.


**Emma Campredon - Westerville Central**

*Mental Well-Being of Foster Children*

Working with the organization, My Very Own Blanket, I gave a presentation on foster care to my peers and then made blankets to donate to foster children. The impact of this will help individuals in the foster care system have something of their own that they can take with them wherever they go.


**Parker Cohn - New Albany**

*Cards that Care*

Working with Mrs. Cuthbert, a guidance counselor New Albany High School, I created a table twice for students to write kind notes to others. Additionally, I allowed students to write messages for the whole of the high school.


**Addison Caudill - Licking Heights**

*Eating disorder awareness and prevention*

Working with the National Eating Disorder Association, I gave a presentation on eating disorder awareness and prevention to the health classes at my highschool during eating disorder awareness week.


**Veronica Curtis - Dublin Coffman**

*Healthy Bodies: Improving Mobility*

After working with OhioHealth Athletic Trainer Rachel Reinhart, I visited Thomas Elementary to present about how crucial it is to stay moving, but more importantly why you should stretch before physical activity and in general to 65 students. I taught them about different muscle groups and how to appropriately stretch prior to physical activity.


**Roma Chitale - Dublin Jerome**

*Dancing for Joy*

Working with Brittney Hanks from Adaptive Programming at the Dublin Community Recreation Center, I organized and taught two adaptive dance workshops for around 33 adults, teens, and children with disabilities. I produced adaptive lessons, created engaging slides, and used themed music to ensure that everyone enjoyed the experience.


**Gracyn Dean - Big Walnut**

*Dental Health for Kindergarteners*

Working with Dr. Grandstaff/Anthony Dental Care, I learned about the basics of dental health, then presented it in a fun and engaging way to kindergarteners at my local elementary school.



**Stuti Deshpande - Dublin Jerome**  
*Pages of Comfort*

Working with George Frank at Dublin Methodist Hospital, I was able to set up a mini library in the surgery waiting room for families to use, and it held around 20 books. To collect those books, I hosted a 2-week book drive in my school district and asked donations for children's books from families in my neighborhood.



**Sophia Edick - Delaware**  
*Connecting through Community*

My project was to bring in a group of high school students into the nursing home to do crafts with the elders. Specifically the dementia care unit to better spend time and just make them happy.



**Lulu Ely - Delaware**  
*Zines for Teens*

Working with counselor Nicole Marroni, I created a series of homemade miniature magazines (or zines) for teenagers and distributed them at both my town's middle school and high schools. Each 'zine focused on a different mental health topic and gave the reader ideas and sources.



**Jenelle Enoabane - Pickerington**  
*Little Hearts, Big Health*

Working with The American Heart Association, I created a set of 3 presentations where I taught a 2 classes of second graders the importance of keeping your heart healthy and ways one can do that.



**Aseda Essandoh - Dublin Coffman**  
*Homelessness Impacts Access to Sanitation*

Working with Home For Families, I have been able to put together care packages for the homeless shelter. I have hosted an informational meeting sharing what homelessness looks like in Columbus.



**Yasmine Ferzli - New Albany**  
*Pantry to Plate*

Working with Sara Kate Hill at the Healthy New Albany Food Pantry, I created and distributed a cookbook full of nutritious recipes using ingredients found at the pantry and shared it with over 100 pantry clients during Open Pantry shopping. I took inventory of pantry ingredients and created both digital and physical versions of the cookbook.



**Zachary Fling - Johnstown-Monroe**  
*Youth Athlete Mental Health presentation*

I worked with our school counselor, who was also a collegiate athlete, to create a presentation to inform students about the struggles they may face with their mental health while playing sports.



**Reagan Frazee - Mt. Vernon**  
*Nutrition In Athletes*

Working with a nutritionist, I learned a lot about the importance of nutrition and how it relates to athletes (mainly gymnasts). I created informative slides on nutrition and then presented them to the Mount Vernon YMCA gymnastics team. In addition to that, I had them track what they ate for 2 weeks and compared it to the information presented to them.



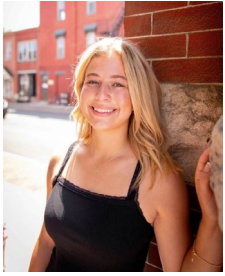
**Erica Golden - Bexley**  
*Bridging the Care Gap: Improving Quality and Equity*

Working with the Columbus Alzheimers Care Center, I worked to educate 5th grade students at Cassingham Elementary on neurodegenerative diseases. I then led an activity where we made positive greeting cards for the patients.



**Alejandra Gonzalez Varela - Westerville North**  
*Dental Awareness In Kids*

Working with Westerville Smiles Clinic and Dentist Kenneth Warden, I presented to 91 elementary students about the importance of oral health. My project also provided simple dental care products to these kids that included toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss.



**Meg Gottermeyer - Mt. Vernon**  
*Healthy Habits For Preschoolers*

Working with my dance teacher Bree Presley from Knox Community Hospital, I led activities teaching young children healthy habits and emotional wellness through movement and discussion, reaching multiple students. The project encouraged kids to practice healthy coping skills and understand ways to support their mental health.



**Prajala Gurung - Licking Heights**  
*Healthy Choices, Healthy Teeth*

After consulting with Dr. Sushen Sharma of My Family Dental and receiving donations from Columbus Dental Society, I created an educational presentation and hands-on activities concerning the significance of oral health and nutrition. I presented this slideshow and conducted these activities with a group of second graders.



**Alexis Hamm - Westerville North**  
*Posters of Encouragement*

Working with Westerville North's Hope squad, I was able to create and post posters regarding mental health around my school during midterm week, reporting a positive difference in over 150 students' day. This took place during one of the most mentally draining weeks of the year, midterms.



**Arden Heckman - Westerville North**  
*Global Healthcare Systems and the United States*

Working with Rita Collura at Cardinal Health, I created a presentation for high schoolers in Personal Finance and Financial Literacy classes in order to teach them about global healthcare systems to better understand and navigate our healthcare system here in the U.S.



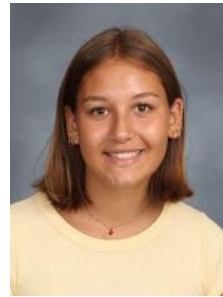
**Isabelle Hertzell - Westerville North**  
*Supportive Smiles*

After working with hygienist Ashley Felton of New Concord Family Dental, I created a presentation on how to build a hygienic dental routine and what a healthy smile looks like. I also did a hands-on activity with the elementary students, where I had them chew disclosing tablets and brush their teeth to show how important this two-minute ritual is.



**Eileen Higginbotham - New Albany**  
*Active & Ageless: A Dance-Based Wellness Project*

Working with Ebony Crockett of Wesley Woods Senior Living, I designed and led a structured movement class that taught 20 senior residents practical exercises they can continue using to maintain strength, mobility, and overall health.



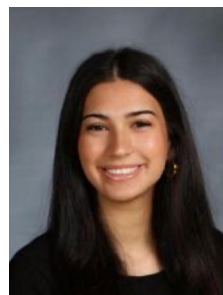
**Sydney Hobbs - Gahanna**  
*Signs of OCD in Elementary-Aged Students*

Working with Ms. Joan Brandstaetter, I created a slideshow on signs of OCD in young students and presented to 35 staff members at High Point Elementary. I also had these teachers complete a survey, which exemplified that their understanding of the topic increased following my presentation.



**Mayla Huoch - Reynoldsburg**  
*Disconnect to Reconnect: The Impact of Short-Term Social Media Breaks*

Working with Ms. Baylis, my school psychology teacher. I was able to get five students to go a full week without using social media, and understand how it affected each person differently.



**Usir Hussein - Dublin Coffman**  
*Caffeine & Student Health*

Working with our school nurse, I presented to health classes about the effects of caffeine on high school students and surveyed students to collect data on their caffeine use and sleep habits. I shared healthier alternatives and encouraged lifestyle changes to improve student well-being.



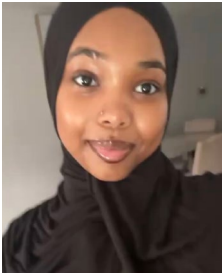
**Jahnavi Ikkurti - Dublin Coffman**  
*Project VITA*

Working with Mrs. Oppliger and Mr. Zesiger from Dublin Coffman High School, I created an organization on social media sharing mental health and neuroscience information targeted to teens. Through this organization, I released a song, True, providing an empathetic approach to different mental illnesses. I presented to Hope Squad to collect data.



**Sydney Kiess - Delaware**  
*Share the Love and Donate Blood*

Partnering with the American Red Cross, I organized a Valentine's Day themed blood drive at my school. I created a presentation to increase awareness about the blood shortage and shared it with 45 of my classmates. I developed a connection with my school and the Red Cross, and created a tradition of themed blood drives that will continue next year.



**Ismahan Jama - Westerville South**  
*Vaccine Health Education and Awareness*

Working with a registered nurse from Ohio Health, I took information learned from my interview on Vaccine Health and created a presentation that I gave at a local library to community members so they could learn more about vaccine health.



**Elizabeth Killey - Licking Heights**  
*Project Balance*

Working with a licensed professional counselor and at the Counseling and Resource Center of Dearborn, I created a two week long challenge for over 10 student athletes with daily tasks/mechanisms for improving time management skills, reducing stress, and boosting confidence.



**Jasmine Jones - Bexley**  
*The Hangout Spot*

Working with the Bexley Public Library, I hosted weekly spaces for teenagers ages 13-18 to hangout and meet new people; an inclusive, intentional space for authentic connection and belonging. These weekly meetings consisted of games, snacks, movies, crafts, and lots of fun and comfort.



**Brayden King - Johnstown**  
*Preventative Habits in Neurological Health*

Working with Dr. Elizabeth Kirby from The Ohio State University, I created a presentation showcasing different neurologically-healthy habits that are easy to incorporate into people's lifestyles. Additionally, I highlighted several common neurological diseases to raise awareness for those as well.



**Kiana Khuu - Licking Heights**  
*Brush-a-boo*

Working with the Columbus Dental Society, I presented to kids, around the ages of 7-8, on how to develop a healthy oral hygiene routine/create good habits by teaching them to correct ways to brush their teeth, tricks and tips, and some nutritional benefits.



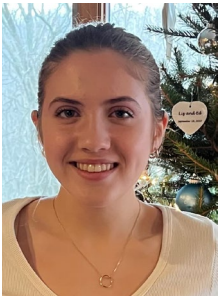
**Hyunyoung Lee - Columbus Academy**  
*Bringing Music to the Elderly: Mental Health in the Aging Population*

Working with the Chamber Music Connection program and more than a dozen senior communities across Columbus, I founded the Student Music Initiative for Local Elderly (SMILE), bringing chamber music performances to more than 600 attendees. SMILE continues to bring joy for both listeners and its sixteen student musician volunteers.



**Anna Leslein - Westerville North**  
*Pronounce With Purpose*

Working with staff at Westerville North High School and others in the Westerville City School District, I have created a database that allows students to store the phonetic spelling and voice recording of their name. This resource is shared with teachers and will be updated annually to account for each incoming class and reduce the anxiety of name pronunciations for students.



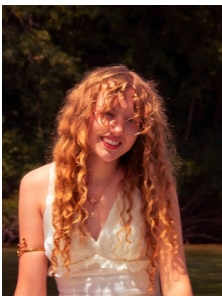
**Isabella Lestini - Bexley**  
*Nutrition In Female Athletes*

Working with Sakiko Minagawa from Nationwide Children's Hospital, I hope to raise awareness about the effects that poor nutrition can have on female athletes. Many women don't know about the impact that poor nutrition can have on their body especially if they are an athlete.



**Reese Lyons - Johnstown-Monroe**  
*Johnnie Clothing Closet*

Working with Angels Persist, I worked to collect donations, and I created a clothing closet at my school to help students have accessibility to uniform clothing.



**Chloe Mack - Gahanna**  
*The Power Art Plays*

Working with Rose Hawk, an artist, I arranged for students who don't do art to make art to understand the connection that mental health has with art and how art can help.



**Lily Miller - Teays Valley**  
*Pen Pals*

Working with an elementary school I created pen pals with students to work and talk about individuals mental health and well being. Students got to write to high school students and talk about different topics each week.



**Najmo Mohamed - Westerville South**  
*Awareness of Vitamin D*

Working with a registered nurse at Nationwide Children's Hospital, I hosted an educational seminar about Vitamin D deficiency and presented it to my peers at my local library. I shared examples of common symptoms, ways you you can improve vitamin D levels, and how it effects our overall health.



**Cassidy Muller - Johnstown-Monroe**  
*Stress Relieving Companions*

Working with Beth Curran, a dog handler from Canine Companions, I brought in a therapy dog to my school to help 52 students with their stress. The dog was able to help with the stress of many high school students and it made many people like dogs even more.



**Maureen Nafula - Delaware**  
*Creating Third Spaces: The United Way of Delaware County Crochet Club*

In partnership with United Way, I have held a crochet club biweekly for high school and college students to learn the art as a stress-relief strategy. In the space, conversations about academic stress and the benefit of intergenerational connection with our community advisors occurred, and we've donated multiple blankets to a local nursing home.


**Eva Noguerras - Licking Heights**
*Peaceful Pets*

Working with the Look Up Center, Simply Spoiled Pets and Newark Homeless Outreach, I created a permanent shelf for access to pet supplies for homeless pet owners, who are more likely to use their few resources on their pets than on themselves. I also coordinated a network of continuous donations from smaller local shops to keep the shelf stocked.


**Samantha Park - Teays Valley**
*Healthy Heroes*

Working with Theresa Miller of Nationwide children's hospital, I met with four local second grade classrooms at Ashville Elementary and taught them the importance of healthy appropriate eating and the benefits that reap from taking care of ourselves.


**Karina Pingarron de la Cruz - Westerville Central**
*Sunscreen Saves*

Working with an OSU Dermatology resident and faculty, I developed a sun safety education presentation to high school student-athletes to increase awareness of UV damage and skin cancer prevention. I also implemented pre- and post-surveys to measure changes in knowledge and attitudes toward sunscreen use and provided a variety of sunscreen samples.


**Sakthivel Pitta Sivakumar - Dublin Scioto**
*Promoting Sugar Awareness Among Children*

Working with Ms. Jessica Hoaglin (local professional) and Dr. Aadhithyaraman V. Santharaman, I taught Mr. Shaver's 5th-grade class at Wright Elementary, which had about 25 students, on the effects of sugar, using a visual demonstration of the amount of sugar in drinks and snacks with sugar cubes.


**Lucy Rush - Mt. Vernon**
*Nutritious Notes*

Working with a local medical assistant (CMA-AMAA), I created and shared a blog for athletes which focused on nutrition that discussed different nutritional topics. Over the course of January and February, I researched and wrote about all three macronutrients as well as Iron. My blog also included recipes for practical insight on how to eat healthy.


**Rania Safi - Delaware**
*Promoting Children's Dental Health*

Working with CC Early Education Center, I created and read an oral health story to a preschool classroom of 15 students that was engaging for young children while teaching the importance of dental care. I also created a parent survey to assess impact and community dental health accessibility.


**Jerald Sanford-Schmenk - G.I.S.A**
*The Importance of Oral Hygiene*

Working with Legacy Family Dental, I partnered with one of their members to teach high school students the importance of oral care.


**Hazel Seng - New Albany**
*Socks for Souls*

Working with Jennifer Rieser-Braunm from Jordan's Crossing Resource Center, I organized a sock drive that raised over 500 socks. In addition, I created resource cards that include warming stations, food pantries, and more helpful places in that area to distribute along with the socks.



**Shanaya Shah - New Albany**  
*Prepare With Pedro Fire Safety*

Presenting curriculum and teaching fire safety skills to groups of kindergarteners through interactive activities and a story book.



**Katie Slater - Licking Heights**  
*Young Girls Conflict Crisis*

Working with Zach Yocum at Enhancing Harmony, I started a Conflict-Resolution group for the girls at my districts middle school. The group consisted of around ten young girls, where they learned how to handle conflict in their personal relationships with activities and lessons I created.



**Genesis Stewart - Pickerington**  
*Moments That Matter: Addressing Understaffing through Connection*

My action was to host an event where I did fun art activities with the residents of the facility. The goal is to brighten their day, create meaningful interpersonal interactions and learn about their experiences through conversation.



**Anna Swager - Big Walnut**  
*Food Insecurity Booklets*

I am working with Friends Who Share food pantry to tackle food insecurity and quality of life. I have worked with them to create recipe booklets of dinner and lunch recipes that are very affordable, tasty, and low effort. Using ingredients often found in food pantries and clearance sections, I crafted these recipes and turned them into books.



**Audrey Tooley - Mt. Vernon**  
*Creating Community*

Working with the Mount Vernon Middle School, I met with 7th grade students to talk about isolation and community when entering high school, followed by games and conversation. After a survey was taken, students were found to like the advice and conversation. Some students requested my return, reassuring my project had impact.



**Aashi Varia - Columbus Academy**  
*Eye Health Care Among Elementary School Students*

Working with Complete Family Eyesore, I had them review my slideshow about eye care and healthy eye care habits. I then presented this slideshow to a fourth grade and second grade classroom which in total was 31 elementary children.



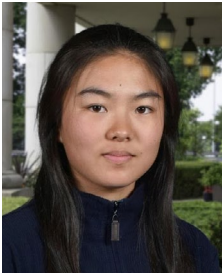
**Josie Vida - Johnstown-Monroe**  
*Heart to Heart*

Working with Jennifer Herr, the middle school counselor, I created a group that paired one high school girl with a middle school girl. We had three sessions of crafts where the pairs worked together and created a safe space to talk and relax. My goal was to reduce stress and make opportunities to communicate and guide the younger girls.



**Alexis Walz - Dublin Jerome**  
*The Education of Well-Being*

After collaborating with Kirsten Borton through Hope Squad, I created a podcast focused on mental health, working to educate listeners on the importance of mental well-being and breaking down stigmas surrounding it.



**Melody Wang - Columbus Academy**  
*Reducing Disparities in Oral Health*

Working with Han Zhang from HW Dental, I created an educational presentation about the importance of maintaining Oral Health through Dental Hygiene. Through Star House, I was able to donate dental supplies and present to homeless youths who tend to lack typical dental knowledge gained from guardian figures.



**Chiara Wood - Bexley**  
*The Dangers of Lyme Disease and Preventative Measures*

Working with The Ohio State University Veterinary Department, Bexley Library, Bexley Parks and Rec, and Bexley Animal Hospital, I created a postcard with information and a personal story on Lyme Disease to educate the public. This pamphlet is distributed at Bexley Animal Hospital and is available at the Bexley Dog Park for the public to view.



**Morgan Watkins - Licking Heights**  
*Mental Health in Student Athletes*

Working with NAMI, I got resources to put on a paper to pass out at a wrestling meet and educate student athletes and parents of student athletes. I got 27 people to learn about mental health and take my survey.



**Gabrielle Williams - G.I.S.A.**  
*Stage Fright*

Using the arts to address mental health awareness, I helped teens by hosting a talent show through B.A.T.S.(bringing awareness.to.students). Students perform on a topic that revolves around their fears or mental struggles. The goal is to help teens talk about their issues.



**Blake Witter - Granville**  
*Fuel. Train. Recover.*

Working with Granville High School's cross country coaches and athletic trainers, I created and presented evidence-based workshops on fueling and training to 16 adolescent female runners. I designed self-assessment tools and distributed information to regional coaches to promote long-term injury prevention.



**Anshula Agolla - Dublin Jerome**  
*STEM Programs for Kids*

Working with Columbus Metropolitan Library, I created a fun STEM program at the library with 20-45 participants at each session.



**Anish Amin - Dublin Scioto**  
*STEM Pathways: Imagining Your Future*

Working with Niraj Patel, an Aerospace Engineer for HX5 LLC at NASA GRC, I gave a presentation to a 4th-grade classroom of 20 students about STEM career awareness.



**Fadumo Awil - Horizon**  
*Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowerment Through Technological Education*

Working with an English language teacher at my school, I developed and delivered ESL and digital literacy lessons to adult immigrant mothers to improve their communication and technology skills. I integrated my sessions into an existing class and am adapting lessons based on participant needs while collecting feedback data.



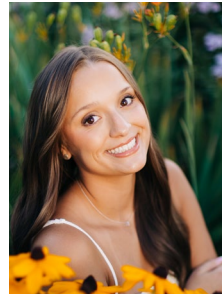
**Thuraya Azzam - Dublin Scioto**  
*American Culture, Slang, and Careers*

Working with Columbus Literacy Council (CLC), I filmed a presentation highlighting the differences between the U.S. and other countries when it comes to careers, slang, and culture. After the research, I have found that the U.S. is not that vastly different from the other countries.



**Mira Bartal - Mt. Vernon**  
*3rd Grade Trip Around the World*

I gave four presentations on different countries to an underprivileged third grade classroom. I included an activity for each country, and tried to make the project as immersive as possible so that these third graders could be made aware of other cultures outside their own.



**Adeline Biles - Westerville Central**  
*Language Barriers for EL students*

Working with Melissa Simashkevich an EL specialist at Westerville South, I created an assortment of YouTube videos teaching simple English terms, phrases, and locations for immigrant students who struggle with language barriers to use and practice. These videos have been shared amongst many EL classes throughout the Westerville district.



**Aayusha Bista - Licking Heights**  
*Hygiene Hub*

Working with Licking Heights Summit Station, I created a hygiene hub for 836 students to obtain better accessibility to hygiene products. Middle school can be difficult with so many changes occurring and being teased for hygienic reasons can definitely make that worse, which can affect student's quality of education.



**Hannah Brady - Westerville Central**  
*Language Barriers for Quality Education*

Working with an Alcott Elementary non-English speaking third grader, I have developed and implemented English speaking lessons so that she could establish a speaking vocabulary. Her growth over the course of this school year is based on consistent efforts, tools and resources that her teachers helped provide while I worked with her to learn English.



**Addison Brown - Teays Valley**  
*Tutoring*

I worked with the librarian at Teays Valley High School to help students with their academics. I created and implemented a peer tutoring program during testing times to help students with things like midterm and missing assignments. I successfully served 34 students with this program.


**Sydney Chilton - Gahanna**

*Website Education: Resources to Success*

Working with my school's guidance office, district communications, and a couple of teachers, I taught 53 students how to find educational resources on my school's website and received feedback from them on how to make it better.


**Brielle Eghan - Gahanna**

*Inclusive Education Through Sport*

Working with Jill Long, an intervention specialist, I expanded what is called the "Peer Collaboration Program" at my High School. I had 5 general education students join me in three gym classes with Exceptional Student Services (ESS) students in order to raise awareness to quality education programs and how crucial they are for all students.


**Mabyn Evans - Bexley**

*Belonging at a Career Center*

Working with Chad Hemmelgarn at Bexley High School, I found out why students at Bexley thought that going to a career center is a more valuable high school pathway for themselves. I now have more information for Bexley students, so they can understand and value the opportunity given by vocational schools.


**Mazie Fitzharris - Delaware**

*Middle School Youth in Government Program*

Working with YMCA Youth in Government, I developed a project to expand middle schoolers' understanding of how our legislative system works by creating a hands on experience for them. Through this program, students learned how to write bills and how to properly go through debate procedures as if they were in Congress themselves.


**Lily Grace - Mt. Vernon**

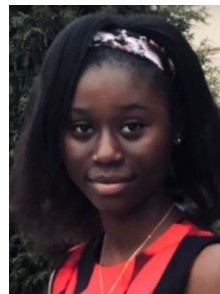
*Art Around the World*

Working with Wiggin Street Elementary School and The Annex Art Center, I ran an after school art program where around 11 students, 3rd-5th graders, learned about art practices from three different cultures, and completed activities that mirrored those practices. At the end of the project, all of the artwork they created was displayed in an exhibition for the community to view at The Annex in Mount Vernon, Ohio.


**Isaac Guerrero - Westerville South**

*Community Awareness for the 2025 Levy*

Working with YesForWestervilleSchools, I planned and coordinated events in my community as well as operated a social media campaign to raise awareness and the consequence of the levy not passing as it would degrade the opportunities that students would have.


**Blessing Gyimah - Horizon**

*Brighter Beginnings: Enhancing the Accessibility of Extracurricular Opportunities for Newly Enrolled and Immigrant Students at HSA Columbus High School*

I worked with my school's assistant principal and my counselor to create a resource that compiles student clubs and STEAM opportunities offered at my high school. I provided this comprehensive list to 25 recent immigrants and new students, with details including the dates, times, and locations for activities, and club advisors' names and emails.


**Lauren Heimerl - Johnstown**

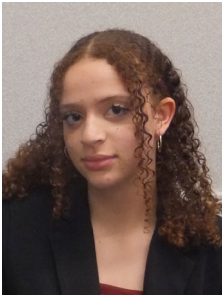
*Growing Minds Through Agriculture*

Working with Johnstown Intermediate School and their principal, Mr. Wehrman, I hosted an ag day where 200 4th and 5th graders rotated around six different stations to learn about agriculture. They then wrote thank you notes that I mailed to local farmers in Licking County.



**Leah Hohenbrink - Big Walnut**  
*Pages to Possibilities*

Working with Megan Bryant at Big Walnut Elementary, I provided literacy activities for third-grade students with the goal of improving education. I supplied these literacy activities every other week, and saw improvement in engagement and eagerness.



**Lauren Johnson - Reynoldsburg**  
*A Day of Music*

Working with local music directors, I organized a Day of Music, bringing instruments to local schools and leading interactive sessions introducing students to the basics of music and music therapy. The goal was to show how music can support self-development and expression. Over 85% of students reported increased interest in joining music programs.



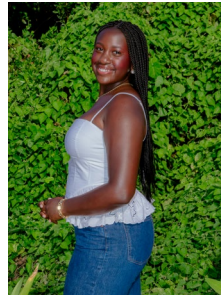
**Sahana Katta - Big Walnut**  
*Added Assistance: Making Math Tutoring Accessible*

Working with math teachers at Big Walnut Middle School, I remotely tutored 2-4 middle school students through Google Meet once a week over several months. Each session included working through practice problems and allowing students to ask questions throughout.



**Elina Katz - Granville**  
*Bridging Languages, Bridging Gaps*

Working with École Kenwood, a French immersion public school in Columbus, and Madame Salima Zendah, I helped to student-teach a class for Francophone Month. Their project focus was Switzerland and Swiss culture, so we made a poster board with drawings, information, and more that I shared from my experience with Switzerland.



**Sekela Kibonde - New Albany**  
*Global Education Through Dance*

After working with New Albany Ballet Company and teacher Kelli Mitchell, I learned how to interweave culture teachings and movements through culture themed dance classes I taught to children at New Albany Ballet Company, to expand their knowledge of cultures throughout the world.



**Ayden Luichinger - New Albany**  
*STEM Beyond the Classroom*

Working with Andrew Moore of RoboThink, I created a STEM based learning project that helps create a better understanding of scientific concepts and taught it to 3 groups of 10-15 students aged K-4.



**Oumou Ly - Pickerington**  
*Future Finance*

Working with financial advisors from the CME Federal Credit Union and Heritage Wealth Group, I provide first-generation and immigrant families with financial education on various topics such as budgeting, credit, saving, and investing. We hosted three meetings at our local Library with the financial advisors.



**Leah Miller - Teays Valley**  
*The Next Act: Building Job Skills*

Working with Abe Gerken in Teays Valley High School, I created a curriculum rooted in improvisational theatre to teach to teen about how to build job skills and impacted 5 teachers circlumns for how they teach these job skills.

**Emerson Milliken - Delaware**

*Mastery Catastrophe: The Correlations Within Mastery Learning*

Working with Dr. Shafer, I researched and calculated the correlations between how the teachers use mastery in their classes and the students' academic stress, motivation, and achievement. I did this through surveys and interviews with teachers and students. I then presented my findings to the teachers and gave suggestions for what they could change.

**Riveen Pattinige - New Albany**

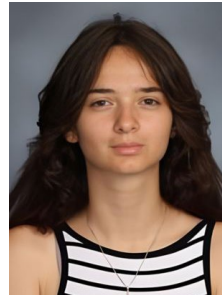
*Expanding Reading Access and Engagement*

Working with Cornerstone Academy and Winterset Elementary, I donated books and created reading comprehension worksheets to support elementary students' literacy development, impacting dozens of young readers. The project also included designing grade-appropriate materials to strengthen reading comprehension and engagement.

**Sydney Novotny - Gahanna**

*Growing Great Readers*

Working with Mrs. Stacy at High Point Elementary, I supported young students who struggle with reading by teaching them targeted reading strategies. I also created kid-friendly tools to help build confidence and improve comprehension.

**Vivian Preçi - Gahanna**

*"¡Vamonos Preschool!": The First Steps to Learning Spanish*

Working with Ms. Lavoie of the Gahanna Preschool, I worked with about 11 preschoolers to teach them Spanish, and they have begun to pick up a few words. If they retain their interest in this subject going into the future, they could become almost fluent.

**Ashely Ofori - Reynoldsburg**

*Navigating The Internet Safely*

Working with NetSmartz, I taught kids how to navigate the internet safely in order to protect themselves. Being able to work with 12 kids, I feel as if they learned a lot that they can pass down to even their friends and family.

**Disha Purkar - New Albany**

*Heads Up Mentors: Inspiring a Love for Learning*

Working with Lauren Brookover at the Strengthening Families program at United Way of Delaware County, I held a S.T.E.M. workshop for primary school students, ran a booth at the Supplies for Scholars Back to School event, and tutored and also trained other high schoolers to tutor at United Way.

**Hemal Patel - Dublin Coffman**

*Latchkey STEM*

Working with my school's latchkey program, I designed and led interactive STEM workshops for elementary students, introducing foundational engineering concepts through hands-on building challenges for groups of 20+ participants. The program blends mini-lessons, teamwork, and problem-solving activities to spark curiosity and confidence in science.

**Lilliann Robinson - Granville**

*Spanish Fluency Opportunities Program*

Working with my Spanish IV teacher, Señora Mosquera, I set up challenges and events that gave students the opportunity to practice language learning outside of the classroom. Each event varied in size, but typically drew around 5-15 students, oftentimes including more than just those learning Spanish, as well.



**Rista Sapkota - Licking Heights**  
*The H.E.I.G.H.T.S Initiative*

Working with Broad Peak Elementary School of Licking Heights Local Schools, I implemented a weekly tutoring program which serves to strengthen the foundational math and english skills of 14 students (ranging grades 1st-4th) via one-on-one and small group sessions, aiming to help them improve academic performance and build confidence.



**Sam Snyder - Mt. Vernon**  
*Mr. Snyder's Book Club*

With Dan Emmett Elementary School in Mount Vernon, I worked in parallel with kids in their already established after school program to get the kids more interested in discussing literature via multiple different types of activities. I held both tactile and fully literary activities to facilitate many different ways of learning and discussing.



**Gabriel Sarabia - Gahanna**  
*NextGen Careers*

Working with the Final Third Foundation, I created a 6-week Career Exploration curriculum to help Columbus Global/ International students map out their future careers. I also co-managed weekly strength and conditioning sessions to get the students ready for the 2026 spring soccer season.



**Meera Srin - Columbus Academy**  
*Financial Literacy Education for Kids*

Working with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Ohio and Families Flourish, I taught fifty 4th-7th graders about the importance of financial literacy for children. I taught them about financial literacy methods utilized by countries and cultures around the world. In addition, I shared a one-pager with Families Flourish to educate their children.



**Zoe Schemrich - Mt. Vernon**  
*Elementary Literacy Rates*

Working with Twin Oak Elementary School, I organized an after school program with a group of third graders where I led them reading activities in order to increase their reading fluency and comprehension. I also helped them prepare a readers theater that they performed for their parents.



**Deana Tilahun - Gahanna**  
*Read it Forward*

After collaborating with a 9th-grade English class, I organized and led a book club for seven freshmen, meeting twice a week to discuss "Hollow Fires." Selected from a student survey, the novel supports my project's goal: helping students explore new genres and learn that they don't hate reading, they just haven't found the right book yet.



**Scout Sjoblom - Westerville North**  
*Student To Student Skills*

Working with Harambee Christian School, I conducted three life skills classes, which taught underprivileged students important skills for high school and beyond. The students were able to have fun learning about the scary steps of upcoming life events and how to handle them.



**Chloe Titus - Delaware**  
*Reading Boxes*

By working with Conger Elementary School I helped 10 kindergarteners better their reading and writing. I used many hands on activities to help them with their literacy.



**Eason Wang - Dublin Jerome**  
*Finance for the Future*

Working with Dublin Capital Management, I taught financial literacy at the Ohio Chinese School to my class of 3 students.



**Keara Wasem - Teays Valley**  
*Summer Book Club*

Working with Teays Valley West Middle School, I spent my summer hosting a weekly book club with middle schoolers in my local area. We read "One of Us is Lying," and spent our weekly meetings discussing the characters and our wild predictions for the ending, with the goal of rekindling these students' love for reading.



**Nawal Yusuf - Westerville Central**  
*Bridge the Gap*

My action provided free academic tutoring to students from low-income families in order to help close achievement gaps and increase access to education support. I hope to improve students' academic confidence and performance by offering consistent, individualized tutoring at no cost.



**Zander Young - Gahanna**  
*The Benefits of Providing Fidgets in the Classroom*

Working with Mr. Erb, a guidance counselor, I created and provided a box of fidgets to a high school classroom that the students could use. I then looked at the changes in students' ability to focus and work.



**Charlotte Niedecken - Bexley**  
*Women's Representation in Medical Studies*

Working with Dr. Weber, I taught a middle school health class about the history and effects of female injustice in medical trials.



**Tara Twomey - New Albany**  
*STEM Starts With Her*

Working with Mrs. Gundlach at New Albany Primary School, I worked with 10 elementary girls to improve their confidence with math. I did this by playing math games with them and learning about their curriculum.



**Jocelyn Sigman - Delaware**  
*Building Curiosity, One Project at a Time.*

Working with CoolTechGirls, I created lesson plans for engineering activities to help girls start experiencing STEM through fun, school-based activities. I shared the lessons at an after-school program where I had a total of 12 kids, and 3 of them were girls.



**Collin Haffer - New Albany**  
*Water Quality Wonders*

Working with Columbus Water and Power, I incorporated water quality learning into my soccer drills as a volunteer soccer coach at the Ronald McDonald House. I worked with 4 kids there, all around the ages of 7-8 years old. Additionally, I organized a litter clean up at the Hoover Reservoir.



**Aspen McMahon - Mt. Vernon**  
*Forever Changing My School One Drop at a Time*

Working with my superintendent and maintenance director, I led a district-wide effort to replace sink aerators, reducing flow from 2.2 to 0.5 GPM. This change cuts water use, lowers costs, and promotes sustainability. I also calculated projected annual savings to show the long-term environmental and financial impact.



**Rachel Ta - Westerville Central**  
*Access to Clean Water: From Global to Local*

Working with Pioneer Academics and Professor Mark Jones, I presented an informational slideshow to the Environmental Club at Westerville Central High School where I emphasized the importance of water access, safety, and testing. I ended the presentation by handing out water testing kits from Home Depot.



**Ryland Wade - G.I.S.A**  
*Finding ways to make water quality better for the water that has harsh chemicals in it.*

Working with the Springfield water plant, I created 3D printed water filters and gave a presentation to a 10th grade science class at my school where I shared how they could use the filter to test the water safety in their homes.



**Collin Zupnick - Bexley**  
*Clean Water Presentation*

Working with Megan Meyer at the City of Bexley Sustainability Department, I presented to Bexley Rotary, around 20 homeowners, about identifying lead pipes, health risks, and grants for replacement to improve local water safety. This educates residents on practical steps to protect families and waterways while connecting global clean water issues to Bexley action.



**Cooper Curry - Mt. Vernon**  
*Hydrogen Energy*

Working with the Ariel Corporation, I was able to learn more about hydrogen as a fuel source and then teach a middle school class about hydrogen being a replacement for our modern inefficient and unclean fuels.



**Henry Whittington - Westerville South**  
*Charging Change*

Working with the Ohio EPA and Westerville Electric Division, I started a Battery recycling course which taught students about the negative environmental impacts of batteries, and started a Battery Drive in my school, encouraging students and teachers to bring dead batteries. Over the course of a month, I collected 4549 batteries to be recycled.



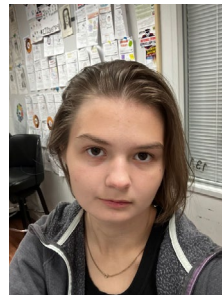
**Autumn Reed - Pickerington**  
*Pollution Problems*

After discussing with Kristen Ramsdale at Tollgate Middle School, I prepared a presentation about the causes and effects of air, water, and land pollution, as well as solutions that can be done locally.



**Mohammed Ahmed - Westerville North**  
*Critical Thinking in the Age of AI*

Working with Mr. Johnston, AP Computer Science teacher at Westerville North High School, I led a one-hour AI literacy workshop at Westerville Public Library to help community members identify AI-generated misinformation. The session included interactive examples and a QR survey to measure impact.



**Abigail Graham - Granville**  
*AI Mis- and Disinformation in Vulnerable Populations*

Working with Granville High School, the Licking County Library, the Granville Public Library, and the Denison University Head of AI Strategy, I facilitated and gave a series of lectures to community members (specifically young adults and the elderly) on recognizing and negating AI misinformation.



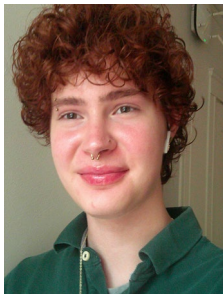
**Anisa Abdullahi - Westerville South**  
*Everyone Belongs: Autism Awareness*

Working with Best Buddies, I hosted a meeting with classmates and presented a short slideshow about my brother to teach what autism is and how we can create an inclusive environment. We discussed ways to help everyone feel a sense of belonging.



**Siraj Bhagat - Dublin Scioto**  
*Equality in Standardized Test Preparation and Resources*

Working with the Dublin Library, I have been able to provide free standardized test prep as well as free education on financial resources and opportunities to help relieve the costs of taking these exams. Many students were educated on the numerous free opportunities they have available.



**Tokyo Black - Westerville North**  
*The Wallflower Organization*

Working with Nationwide, I created an LLC website that partnered with Kaleidoscope Youth Center and GAAP, as well as students within the Westerville High Schools to share status on LGBTQ+ legislation, resources, and newsletters. Together, we were able to cover not only nationwide factors, but individual states, too.



**Kacee Bohan - Westerville North**  
*Building Belonging: One Buddy at a Time*

Working with Best Buddies International, I founded a chapter of Best Buddies at my school, connecting students with and without disabilities to get to know one another. I am working to break down barriers and stigmas surrounding disabilities, and encouraging connections with students who may not typically get to know each other.



**Samantha Braun - Gahanna**  
*Signing for Change*

After volunteering in a kindergarten Deaf classroom with Emily Carter, my ASL skills and knowledge grew, and I felt compelled to share the beauty of the Deaf World. Then, I created an educational presentation on ASL and Deaf Culture, that 45 eighth graders at Middle School East attended.



**Brynn Drewyor - Big Walnut**  
*Gold Star Advocacy*

Working with Advocacy and Protective Services Inc., I worked with developmentally disabled adults to increase their literacy skills and confidence. All members of the group self reported having higher confidence in their literacy and ability to understand their reading.



**Oliver Frericks - New Albany**  
*Coat Drive for Refugees and Immigrants*

I interned at a local non-profit called CRIS (Community Refugee and Immigration Services). After my internship, I started a coat drive that raised 74 coats for local refugees and immigrants that are clients of CRIS. Also, I gave a presentation about CRIS to my world civilizations class.



**Elaina Gatch - Gahanna**  
*Combating Misinformation about Foster Kids*

Working with The Dave Thomas Foundation, I presented possible ways to spread awareness about reducing misinformation about foster children to about 30 members of their Marketing and Communications Team as well as their Board of Trustees.



**Sarah Hasan - Dublin Coffman**  
*The Menstrual Equity Project*

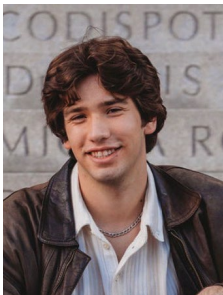
Working with The Period Pantry Project, I presented an informational slideshow over the causes of period product poverty and how it affects others locally, nationally, and globally to fifteen high school students. I also created a menstrual equity drive for students at my high school where I received 60 boxes of donated products.

**Abiel Hernandez - Pickerington***Get Ready Finance*

Working with Jeff Towles, a financial advisor from Fidelity, I used his feedback to improve my financial education presentation. I showed the presentation to a group of people and received 25 responses.

**Julia Lewis - Licking Heights***Advancing African American Historical Education*

Working with the Cultural Identity club through Licking Heights High School, I created a week during February that showcased African American history that usually isn't taught in schools and informed my peers more about the culture and history behind African Americans. Many individuals report learning new things they weren't taught before.

**Filippo Mazur - Dublin Coffman***Cultural Cooking*

Working with my Global Gourmet teacher, Linda Worden, and Katzinger's chef, Valentina Gallo, I created the Dublin Coffman Cultural Cooking club, receiving 40+ active members. The club allows students to teach others about their own cultural experiences through quick presentations and cooking demonstrations for cultural recipes of their choice.

**Adam Merzel - Bexley***Community Sports Equipment Drive: Increasing Access to Youth Athletics*

Working with Bexley Recreation & Parks and DARN, I organized and led a Community Sports Equipment Drive to collect and redistribute gently used sports gear to local schools and youth programs. In addition to the drive, I created educational and promotional materials to raise awareness about unequal access to youth sports in my community.

**Caleb Ofosu - Westerville Central***Economic Success for Immigrants*

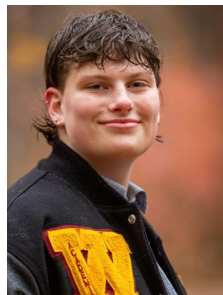
Working with Vineyard Columbus, I taught immigrants financial literacy by going through vocabulary terms with them and playing a game where we went through different scenarios that helped them choose good financial decisions.

**Pari Ottman - Dublin Coffman***Period Poverty*

Working with Dr. Lauren Bar-Lev, I hosted a drive with my church and educated people on the effects of period poverty.

**Ella Peterman - Johnstown***Breaking Barriers*

Working with Johnnie Mentoring, I have brought opportunities for English Language Learners in my school district to receive mentors. With this addition to the established program, ELL students will not be overlooked when high school mentors are paired with younger students.

**Cam Richey - Westerville North***Autism Perceptions*

Gaining credible information from Kevin Spencer, PhD., and Mary Helen Richer, owner of Autism Connections, I, as an autistic individual, created a website entitled "Autism Perceptions", educating website visitors on Autism to lessen discrimination and stigmatization of the Autistic community.



**Jenna Rusnak - Westerville North**  
*Deaf Culture and Inequalities*

After working with Deaf Services Center, I created a video for medical professionals about what they should know about Deaf individuals and their culture. I sent the video to multiple different medical professionals from many different hospitals to get their feedback.



**Matthew Woodmansee - Dublin Coffman**  
*SLC Activity Week*

Working with the Dublin Coffman High School SLC, I worked with a class of 7 special needs students and helped lead fun activities through a week of their class. We played games, did crafts, and took a trip to get some snacks.



**Nina Shah - New Albany**  
*Healthcare Accessibility*

To expand the outreach of the Physicians Care Connection Center for Optimal Health, I created an informational flyer and distributed it to a total of 4 local locations. I also have spoken with a club dedicated to medical interest to explain this volunteer opportunity.

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities



**Gabriel Almasanu - Bexley**  
*Wolfe Park Trash Pickup*

Working with Green Bexley, I led a trash pickup to help to clean up Wolfe Park in my community while also educating volunteers on the impacts of waste pollution and the importance of consistent trash cleanups. By the end, we picked up about 15 full bags of trash, helping the environment, ecosystem, and overall cleanliness of the park.



**Aubree Falcon - Pickerington**  
*Sustainable Actions Workshop*

Working with Simply Living, I created and taught three sustainability workshops to those in the community as well as a group of students at Whitehall Yearling High school. These workshop shops covered actions individuals can take at home to combat issues with energy, water, and waste.



**Mia Beavers - Johnstown**  
*JHS Connect*

I created a page on my high school website full of community service opportunities for my peers. We need 60 hours to graduate, and some people struggle to find opportunities to finish. My goal is to make community service more accessible and therefore make my peers more likely to help their community.



**Chyler Katona - Granville**  
*Community Nighttime Lighting Reduction*

Working with Granville's Village Planner, Debi Yost, I gave a presentation to the Village Planning Commission and members of the Environmental Sustainability Committee to inform them about the effects of light pollution and make recommendations for changes the village can implement to make its nighttime lighting more sustainable and efficient.


**Olivia Katona - Granville**
*Rain Garden Guide*

Working with Peter Lowe and Shannon Barnett from Dawes Arboretum, I created a guide to help community members design their own rain gardens and distributed it to five local garden stores and community groups so far. The creation of these rain gardens will help promote clean water, prevent flooding, and support native species in my community.


**Amelia Martin - Mt. Vernon**
*Growing The Future*

Working with Community Roots and Mrs. Firebaugh at East Elementary, I taught a class of 3rd graders about hydroponics by presenting a slide show and guiding each student in building their own water-bottle hydroponic system to grow a plant without soil.


**Collin McFarlane - Mt. Vernon**
*Growing The Future*

Working with Knox County Litter Prevention program, my project was educating the younger generation on how to properly dispose of trash and recycling. I also taught them safe methods to pick up litter.


**Banita Mishra - Pickerington**
*Eco-Awareness: PICK Clean*

Working with The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and Keep Columbus Beautiful, I held a community cleanup, where volunteers collaboratively picked and sorted trash and recyclables along a local park and trail. Along with the cleanup, we also held an electronic-waste drop off, promoting the proper disposal of electronic waste.


**Aseel Musa - Dublin Scioto**
*Dublin Strong Community Fair*

Working with Dublin Interact Clubs, I formed the first community service fair directed at all of Dublin. We brought together the community to help the community.


**Benjamin Ornstein - Bexley**
*Eyes on the Road*

Working with Bexley Police Department's Paul Kaultenacer, I held a meeting to explain the dangers of driving distracted and had attendees take home an Ohio official driving agreement stating, once they signed, they will be safe on the road.


**Andrew Reis - Johnstown**
*Basic Auto Maintenance*

Working with Brazilian Auto Collision, I shared with kids from my school how to basic car maintenance like changing a tire, how to change an air filter, and how to check tire PSI. My project consisted of around 9 kids who I took out to our school parking lot where I showed them where and how to do these maintenance.


**Penelope Sidel - Bexley**
*Electronic Waste Recycling*

Working with Green Bexley, I researched electronic waste recycling, wrote a proposal to the city administration for creating a site in Bexley, and presented my proposal to the Bexley City Director of Administration and Development.


**Ella Smith - New Albany**
*Clean Parks Project*

Working with New Albany Parks and Recreation, I hosted a park cleanup with many participants where we cleaned up our community space.



**Will Taylor - Johnstown**  
*JYAA Sports Pantry*

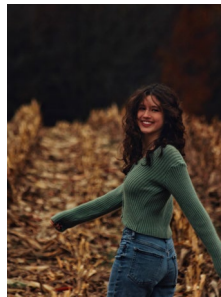
Working with Johnstown Youth Athletic Association, I created and ran a reuse program for sporting equipment for the youth athletes in my community. I was able to help make sports more accessible and affordable to many families in my area.

SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production



**Sidney Andre - Pickerington**  
*Sustainable Composting in Pickerington*

Working with Tia Johnson of Compost Clubhouse, I proposed a composting program to Pickerington City Council. The presentation included data I collected from surveying city residents, offering practical ideas to implement the project. After favorable city feedback, I'm presenting to Parks and Recreation with hopes that this project will start soon.



**Evi Brodie - Mt. Vernon**  
*Waste Reduction*

Working with Matthew Baugher of Knox Recycling and Litter Prevention, I canvassed to businesses about joining a new program for performing a waste audit, as well as eventually installing recycling containers, either individual to the business or shared for a cheaper cost. This will hopefully provide a cheaper alternative to a greener business plan in my community.



**Max Berry - Columbus Academy**  
*Generative AI and Sustainability*

Working with the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, I created an educational slideshow about the effects of generative artificial intelligence on the environment for middle school science teachers to share with their classes and presented it to the Environmental Club along with an activity to calculate students' individual carbon footprints.



**Teddy Davitt - Dublin Jerome**  
*Neighborhood E-Waste Collection*

Working with Brian Herrington from Scotts Miracle-Gro, I led an electronic waste collection drive and presented to multiple clubs to boost awareness and participation, ensuring responsible recycling of collected materials.



**Ilana Binsky - Bexley**  
*From Shelters to Sofa: Learning about Pet Adoption, Overbreeding, and Puppy Mills*

Working with the Columbus Humane Society, I led an informational seminar at my public library to inform people about sustainable ways to adopt, make sure you're not buying from puppy mills, and how to identify good breeders to avoid buying into overproduction. I will continue sharing my presentation and speaking for/with the Humane Society.



**Suhani Dutta - Westerville Central**  
*One Thread At A Time*

Working with Westerville Central Environmental Club, I ran a workshop teaching their members about the negative effects of clothing wastage on the environment and how repurposing clothing limits clothing wastage. I taught the members how to sew so that they can utilize that skill for repurposing their own clothes going forward.



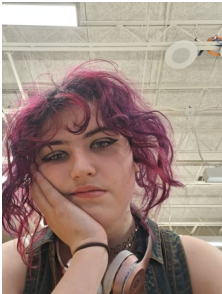
**Alana Fernandez-Busto - Marysville**  
*The Art of Waste*

Working with the Marysville Art League, I organized a community art show featuring pieces made with repurposed and recycled materials. I also had an educational station set up with information about pollution. In March, I will be teaching a group of elementary students about pollution and sharing my project.



**Noor Khurram - Licking Heights**  
*Dunya*

Working independently, I have created a cardboard reverse vending machine for Licking Heights High School, inspired by a Youtube tutorial. This project was about raising awareness and showing people a simple way to recycle. I made a prototype and explored how plastic waste affects school communities and the need for eco-friendly solutions.



**Samantha Gilchrist - Westerville South**  
*Fast Fashion and the Cult of Consumerism*

Working with some of the teachers at my school, I put together a presentation and lesson plan to present to middle school students to educate them on the issues that fast fashion causes.



**Taylor Larason - Delaware**

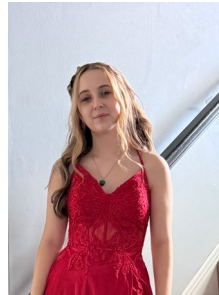
*Waste Management: Where Does Your Trash Go?*

Working with Mrs. Ault at Schultz Elementary, I educated 5th grade students on what they could do with their trash other than throwing it away. I presented a short slideshow and gave the kids a worksheet to see how much they learned.



**Luke Helon - Bexley**  
*Composting and Food Rescue in Bexley Restaurants*

Working with Columbus Food Rescue, SWACO, Harvest, and Brassica, I am proposing new methods to restaurants to reduce food waste and food insecurity through composting and reallocation.



**Isabelle Phillips - Pickerington**

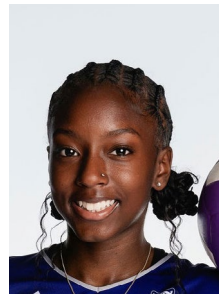
*ECOBLOCKS and Battery Collection: A New Way To Dispose Of Trash*

Working with Ridgeview junior high, Lakeview junior high, and central high school, I presented about ECOBLOCKS at the junior high school. Most of the kids enjoyed the activities and felt like it was possible to make a difference with this contribution. At central, I collected batteries, and had the principal make an announcement about it.



**Quinn Kaminski - Westerville North**  
*Thread Lightly*

Working with Neighborhood Bridges, I hosted a clothing drive at Westerville North, presented to the APES classes and Interact Club about clothing overconsumption, and went on Neighborhood Bridge's KindnessCast. I collected over 640 articles, weighing 700 pounds in total, with an estimated \$10,000 valuation, which was given back to the community.



**Genesis Poke - Pickerington**

*Bin There, Done that: Effective Waste Management*

Working with Kim Chapman, an education specialist at SWACO, I invited members of my community to attend a tour of the landfill. This tour gave out valuable information that can be used to make an impact on the way we manage waste.



### **Sydney Price - Delaware**

#### *Food Sustainability*

Collaborating with Amanda Zolman of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, I was given an opportunity to create an informational presentation on food sustainability (GSD 12) and present to a class of 25 at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. I provided pamphlets with responsible food companies to buy from as well as a post presentation survey to collect data.



### **Jack Shepherd - Pickerington**

#### *Neighborhood E-Waste Collection*

Working with Columbus Micro, I created a one-time door-to-door electronics recycling program in my neighborhood. In addition to picking up and recycling these electronics, I created and handed out resource guides to provide locations for people to continue recycling in the future. I also sent Thank-You notes to encourage all participants.



### **Annie Waltz - Delaware**

#### *Tennis Ball Waste*

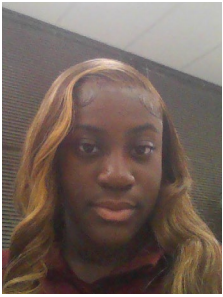
Working with multiple organizations, I hosted a tennis ball drive and found different ways to recycle and repurpose tennis balls. Then, I hosted an event for my tennis team where I gave a presentation about the environmental impact of tennis ball waste, and we made crafts out of recycled tennis balls.



### **Ellie Wynia - Big Walnut**

#### *Beyond the Algorithm*

Working with my AP Environmental Science teacher, I conducted research examining the environmental impacts of generative artificial intelligence. I presented my findings to English 9 classes at Big Walnut, with the objective of increasing students' awareness of both the global and local environmental consequences associated with negligent AI use.

**Lois Agyeman-Dua - Horizon***Clean Up Our Roads*

Working with Keep Columbus Beautiful, I was able to put a litter pick-up together and get volunteers from my school to take part. My litter pick-up consistence of picking up trash along Dublin Granville road route 3 with my volunteers. We were able to clean the majority of the street and a small section of the grass area.

**Kevin Asare Jr. - Westerville South***Breathe Easy: Knowing your Air Quality*

Working with Mauro Diaz-Hernandez of MORPC, I created an educational presentation about the causes and effects of Air Pollution and presented it to students in my school's Ecology and AP Environmental Science classes.

**Evelyn Chandler - Gahanna***Empathy and it's Place in the Environment*

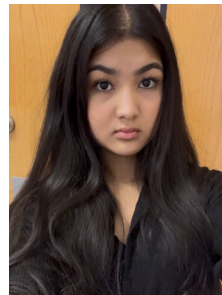
Working with the Ohio Wildlife Center, I presented and performed an activity with a total of 48 4th-5th grade children attending One Church, where I emphasized the importance of bugs and insects in the environment to instill a sense of empathy for smaller life. Empathy towards even the "creepier" parts is needed to keep our environment safe.

**Jonah Gorsuch - Bexley***Bexley PEP*

Working with The Bexley Public Library, at family night I handed out over 100 bookmarks to families which led kids to a website I created that taught them about how to be an environmentally friendly citizen. Additionally, I plan on going to COSI Scifest to do the same thing and adding on more to my website in the future.

**Indio Silva - Bexley***Combatting Climate Change:**Sustainability and Activism*

Working with the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University, I gave an educational presentation with ways people can get involved in fighting climate change focusing on sustainability and activism to twenty high school students. Then, I got them involved in climate activism by writing letters to representatives as a group.

**Arpana Thapa - Westerville North***Impact of Climate Change on Trees*

Working with Green Columbus, I created and shared informational slides to educate others about the role trees play in reducing climate change. I then participated in a community tree-planting initiative, turning awareness into action by helping increase local tree coverage.

**Lynn Yoon - Columbus Academy***Go Green or Go Home*

Working with Ohio University Professors and Riverview International Center, I coordinated 5 sessions of an afterschool program that focused on raising awareness about climate change for about 10 students.

**Gabby Robertson - Delaware***Fountain of Change*

Working with Lisa Roberts and Stacey Glatz, I held a river clean-up at Blue Limestone Park in the Delaware Run. From the trash collected, I created an art piece called "Fountain of Change." I shared this art along with a lesson on recycling for 40 kids attending summer camp at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

**Griffin Beach - Mt. Vernon***On Par with Pollinator Gardens*

Working with Vernon View Golf Course, I am planting a pollinator garden on the golf course and raising awareness among golfers and community members on the importance of having native pollinators in communities. Additionally, I have provided milkweed seed packets with an information display for golfers.

**Addison Houser - Delaware***Invasive Species Illumination*

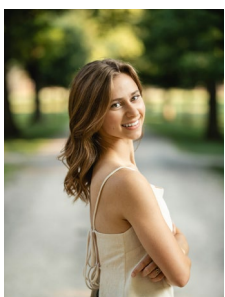
After working with Anne Scott of Audubon, I was able to inform 4 people of the dangers of invasive species along with leaving coloring sheets for children visiting the center to learn as well. I made those coloring sheets to simply inform children and adults alike of the threat invasive species pose.

**Natalie Dudgeon - Mt. Vernon***Livestock Disease Affecting Global Food Supply*

Working with Town and Country Veterinary Clinic, I researched common livestock diseases, how they are transmitted, prevented, cured, and potential symptoms for the certain disease. I then had the clinic check my research and after confirmation that my information was correct, I educated my 4-H club about this matter, and steps to take to prevent diseases.

**Liam Loughrige - Pickerington***Removal of Garlic Mustard from Coyote Run*

Working with Coyote Run, I created and shared a presentation with a group of Boy Scouts to inform the group about what invasive species are and where they can be found in Ohio. This will then be followed up with an invasive species pull of garlic mustard on March 28th with 2 planning on attending.

**Sala Glandon - Mt. Vernon***Pulling Privet: Invasive Elimination*

Working with the Brown Family Environmental Center, I organized a group of volunteers to pull invasive privet plants to clear space for native plants along a trail. This land is now more available to all native plants and, in particular, to a batch of native trees that will be planted this spring.

**Abigail Mauk - Westerville Central***Saving the Monarchs*

Working with the Parks & Facilities Superintendent of Westerville Parks & Recreation Department, Matthew Urey, we made my plan of planting over 1000 Milkweed seeds to increase the Monarch butterfly population possible in Westerville's Hoff Woods Park. Also, a sign labels the Milkweed's planted area to spread awareness of the issue.



**MacKenzie McCray - Westerville Central**

*Speak For the Animals, they Can't Do it Themselves*

Working with PETA, I made a presentation for my medical classes that I take at Westerville Central High School, to inform them about the negative affects of animal testing. I did this in hopes of spreading more awareness to animal testing, and bringing awareness to other components of everyday life that we can control to help protect animals.



**Charlie Vilensky - Bexley**

*Bexley for Birds*

Working with Wolfe Park and the Audubon Center, I installed bird feeders across Wolfe Park to support birds that are unable to migrate during the cold months. I recorded how much bird feed was eaten every couple days to accurately see how my efforts were making a real impact.



**Ava Menendez - Delaware**

*Keep It Clean*

For my project, I organized a group of teens to get together biweekly and pick up trash at local parks or areas that needed work. Connecting through our passion for the environment that we all share, we built community while cleaning up our community.



**Corinne Miller - Westerville Central**

*Flash Flooding: Preventing through Education*

After consulting with Lora Pierce of Catholic Charities West Virginia, I created a lesson on flood dangers and safety and presented it to second graders at a local elementary school. I also sent a flood planning packet home with the students for them to create with their families.



**Avela Umland - Delaware**

*The Life of Native Plants*

Working with Heather Sheets from Project Learning Tree, I was able to put design and create a lesson plan to teach 2nd graders about native plants. For this lesson, I hand-painted watercolor native plant trading cards the kids could use. Three classmates and I presented this lesson to the entire 2nd grade at Conger Elementary on September 17th.



**Aya Sofia Al-Saadoon - Westerville North**

*Bridge to Belonging*

After consulting with Michael Collins of the Michael Collins Group, I created a website call Bridge to Belonging. This website is designed to help people prepare for their citizenship test in a stress free way. It offers free study guides and tests, and it breaks down important civics topics into easy-to-learn sections and using plain language.



**Eesha Tanneru - Columbus Academy**

*Engaging Ohioans in Local Government and Politics*

In collaboration with the Matriots, I conducted interviews with county commissioners to explore how national issues impact local communities in Columbus. These discussions provided valuable insight into strategies for increasing voter turnout and strengthening civic engagement among Ohioans in local elections.



**Cameron Mason - Westerville South**

*The Importance of Studying Abroad: How Foreign Exchange Can Foster Global Peace*

Working with the Westerville Rotary, I made a presentation about the importance of the foreign exchange program and it's impact to current level 1 and 2 Global Scholars, as well as the Interact Club. I had a guest speaker from the Rotary, and a post presentation survey to gauge student interest into the foreign exchange program.



**MC Thrush - Bexley**

*Know Your Rights - Immigration Policy and Advocacy*

Working with local businesses and professionals in immigration law such as Mariam El Shamaa, I have created a pamphlet about immigration rights in Columbus Ohio, work opportunities and information about how to fill out certain forms like a work permit, and am getting this pamphlet distributed by various local businesses.



**June Mauldin - Dublin Jerome**

*Valuable Voters*

Working with The League of Women Voters of Delaware County, I created an informative video to educate students at my school. I included information about voting from why it is important, the ways in which you can vote, and how you go about voting.



**Emma Wing - Marysville**

*Culturally Educating the Educators*

Working with my high school Spanish teacher, Madison Yoakam, I gave a presentation to the staff at my school to educate them on Hispanic cultures and their norms so that they could help their students better. I used my skills from helping tutor English Learner students and the skills from my AP Spanish course to help with this presentation.



**Samantha Pokhrel - Gahanna**

*Informed Today, Empowered Tomorrow*

Working with City Council Members, I was able to gather 25 students together to be able to share my presentation about the importance of being an educated voter. The students also participated in an engaging activity set up to be a mock election, allowing students to be able to see from the perspective of a voter.