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Helping Others is the Mission of the South Williamsport Key Club

Making a difference is the focus of South Williamsport Area Jr/Sr High School's Key Club. Every year the club works together to give back to the community through their frequent service projects.

They do annual fundraisers and projects such as ringing bells for the Salvation Army during the holiday season, selling daffodils for the American Cancer Society and Walk-A-Thon to raise money for the club.

"When we hear about new ways to make a difference, we get together and figure out how we can help," said Mr. Scott Manning, Key Club advisor.

This year the group of 130 members has touched a wide range of people's lives through volunteering and monetary donations.

The club members donated \$1,000 to Tricia's Totes, a local organization that gives bags of goodies to people going through chemotherapy at Divine Providence Hospital. Their generous donation made 20 bags filled with headphones, crossword puzzles and other items to help patients through the process of chemotherapy.

"We received letters from patients who got the tote bags who really appreciated them," said Monica Boone, Key Club webmaster. It warmed her heart knowing how the club's kindness made a positive impact in the lives of people with cancer.

The club also donated \$480 to the Lycoming County SPCA and \$500 to the Lycoming County Children's Development Center. Both gifts were given to help improve the lives of animals and children across the county.

The two advisors Mr. Manning and Mr. Jamie Bloom have been overseeing Key Club for more than 20 years. They have seen the club exponentially grow over the years and enjoy helping the



The South Williamsport Area Jr/Sr High School's Key Club has made a positive impact on the community through their service projects and generous donations. Shown are club members with tote bags from Tricia's Totes for people going through chemotherapy.

the members make a difference in the world.

“When you see all of the great things they do, it keeps you young,” said Mr. Bloom.

Both advisors are incredibly proud to see students thrive as leaders and give their time to helping others.

“Key Club is for anybody who wants to help make a difference,” said Mr. Manning.

Both Boone and Samantha Branton, club president, have been in Key Club for their three years of high school. They originally joined because a lot of their friends were participating in the club.

“Everyone is in Key Club,” said Boone. “It makes you want to be a part of all the good they’re doing. We are a workforce to get things done.”

Recently Branton has been more involved in the club which resulted in her getting into leadership roles. An older student saw her dedication so they nominated her to be the club editor last year. She rose through the ranks to become the club’s president.

“It’s cool to see people step up to do good for others,” she said.

Next year she hopes to do a book drive and collect old mascara wands to donate to Wands for Wildlife where they use the wands to clean up animals the organization cares for.

Boone got into her leadership role because she wanted to be more involved in Key Club. As the webmaster, she aims to find an effective way for members to communicate outside of their club meetings every other week.

As they reflect on the good that was done this year, they all are looking ahead to the endless possibilities to change lives during the 2019-2020 school year.