

A School Dedicated to Christian Service: St. John the Evangelist in Canton

Like many Catholic elementary schools, St. John the Evangelist School in Canton is dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence, Catholic faith formation, and promoting Christian service. But the school takes service to others to another level for an elementary school. Starting in the first grade, when youngsters collect items for Chernobyl victims, St. John's students participate in structured service projects. In fact, Grades 1 through 8 each have a specific community service activity that make the school known for student generosity not only at the holidays, but year round.



First Grade Community Service Project Chernobyl Children's Project

The Boston-based Chernobyl Children's Project USA (CCP USA) receives help from first graders, who run a drive for toiletries, personal care items and educational items.

Second Grade Community Service Project Canton Food Pantry

A different group of second-grade students visits the Canton Food Pantry every Monday morning with a parent chaperone. The children bring food items to donate to the Food Pantry, and spend their time stocking shelves.

Third Grade Community Service Project Father Peyton Center

Third graders help carry out the late Father Patrick Peyton's mission of spreading the rosary around the world by packaging rosary beads and prayer cards for distribution.

Fourth Grade Community Service Project Meals on Wheels

The fourth-grade students participate in the Meals on Wheels program as their community service. Each week three students, along with school principal Mrs. Charlotte Kelly, deliver lunch to some of the homebound members of the St. John Parish community.

Fifth Grade Community Service Project Hellenic Nursing Home

Fifth graders assist the staff at the Hellenic Nursing Home in Canton with bringing the residents together for weekly gatherings and Bingo games. Five children leave the classroom once a week for an hour, rotating weekly according to a schedule coordinated by a volunteer parent.

**Sixth Grade Community Service Project
Breast Cancer Awareness**

Sixth graders raise over \$1,000 each year for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund – and educate themselves and others about cancer.



**Seventh Grade Community Service Project
Rosie's Place**

Seventh graders volunteer at Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston. Each student brings a non-perishable item for a donation and assists Rosie's Place staff with the preparation of lunch for the Rosie's Place guests.

**Eighth Grade Community Service Project
Wheelchair Basketball**

Every March St. John eighth-graders play a basketball game against students at the Massachusetts Hospital School in Canton. Since the Mass Hospital students are confined to wheelchairs, the St. John students play in wheelchairs too. The game takes place in the evening and all monies earned from ticket and concession sales go to the Mass Hospital School. The eighth graders are continually inspired by the Mass Hospital School students, who play with great persistence and always win the game!

<http://www.stjohnsschoolcanton.org/>