

Burke 4-H'ers Serve the Community

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Citizenship and Community Service. These words are often seen on college applications and encouraged by many different groups and organizations, but where can kids really learn to serve? 4-H is giving Burke County students from 5th to 12th grade opportunities to participate in citizenship and community service every day. Through service activities, students are learning what it means to give back to the community, help people in need, and become productive members of society.

Each month, 5th and 6th grade 4-H'ers participate in a service project with their class. In September, students collected can tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. 4-H'ers collected a total of 151 pounds of can tabs, and Mrs. Dixon's class at BES donated the most – 32 pounds. Can tabs are collected at the Extension Office year-round, so if you have can tabs to donate, bring them by any time!

In October, students collected canned food items to donate to the food bank at Free Indeed Ministry in Waynesboro. 4-H'ers collected a total of 1310 canned and dried food items. Mrs. Johnson's class at EBA collected the most – 255 cans.

In November, 4-H'ers collected books for a statewide 4-H book drive to help re-stock the shelves of the Twiggs County Library which burned in 2010. Burke County 4-H'ers collected a total of 898 books – more than any other county in the state! Mrs. Small's class at BES collected the most – 218 books.

This month, students are collecting personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and chapstick. If you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them by the Extension Office or give to a 5th grade class.

Additionally, Community Service Club was started this year for 7th – 12th grade 4-H'ers. The club meets monthly to conduct a project around the community. Since August, students have helped clean up after the Burke County Fair, sort and donate canned food items to Free Indeed Ministry, and sang Christmas Carols and made Christmas door hangers with the residents at the nursing home.

There are never enough opportunities for students to serve the community. It is our goal to help young people in Burke County become committed and service minded members of our community. If you or your child is interested in joining Burke County 4-H, please contact the Burke County Extension Office at 706-554-2119 or visit our website www.ugaextension.com/burke.

Picture Caption: Burke County's 4-H Community Service Club singing Christmas Carols and helping nursing home residents make Christmas crafts.

Picture Caption: EBA 5th and 6th 4-Her's donated a total of 680 canned and dried food items in November.

