Club Single Service Project Contest
Judging Criteria Checklist

Service Need

Our Kiwanis Club, East Rialto, helps at a Meal Ministry Luncheon on Wednesdays. The church dining room serves 64+ people per week and sometimes needs to add chairs to the serving tables and/or set up tables outside. K-Kids thought about what they could do to add some color, enjoyment, fun to the luncheon.

Since most of the people are homeless or low income, it was discussed that what might brighten their day would be some colorful placemats with words of encouragement on them.
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Project Plan

The project implementation consisted of talking about what the placemats should look like. Since it was just before Christmas, K-Kids decided to make the placemats with a Christmas theme. Just about each member thought they could bring in magazines or start cutting out words and pictures at home. They decided they would work on the words and pictures at home and bring in magazines for K-Kids who didn’t have access to magazines. Then they would glue the materials on at school.
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Project Implementation

A letter was sent home to parents, and several parents cut out sayings and pictures for the project. Two Kiwanis members also helped with sayings and pictures. Students collected a lot of materials. They chose colored construction paper and then began looking through magazines for inspirational, holiday, and uplifting words. They cut out some pictures, words, and phrases and put them in plastic bags. Then they pasted/glued words and pictures onto the construction paper with some making 2 or 3 placemats. The Faculty Advisor laminated all 64 placemats and gave the placemats to the Kiwanis Advisor to take to the Meal Ministry for the Christmas meal.
Placemats for a Meal Ministry of Homeless & Needy Preston K. Kids PO1389
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Final Results

Members at the Meal Ministry asked those who were eating lunch what they thought of the placemats made by the K-Kids at the elementary school. Some of the comments were “Pretty,” “Liked the words,” “Beautiful,” “Wow! Little kids did this?” It was rather interesting that the placemats remained almost 100% clean as opposed to the regular white paper placemats that are usually on the tables. Those attending the luncheon seemed to value the placemats made by the K-Kids. The placemats seemed to brighten the luncheon for the attendees.
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Public Awareness

The Preston Faculty Advisor had sent home letters regarding the project. Some Kiwanis members and church members were there to help serve the Christmas dinner.
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Member impact

The K-Kids learned that they have the power to brighten someone’s day, learned empathy, and learned that they can share joy. By spending time discussing uplifting words and their meaning, students demonstrated caring and thoughtful ways to give individuals hope and maybe even a purpose in life.
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Additional information

It was rather interesting that nothing much was even spilled or dropped on the placemats – as opposed to the white paper placemats that are usually on the tables. It seemed that the luncheon guests valued the placemats because the children made them for their Christmas dinner. We plan to use the placemats again – even though some of them represent Christmas images – because they are colorful, uplifting, and inspirational.