

Service With A Smile

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Why does it feel so good to do something for others? I have often wondered if I do nice things not because it helps others but because it makes me feel good. Regardless of the reasons, a nice gesture begins to infect the surrounding area with smiles.



Our school theme at Parkview Adventist Academy this year was “Called To Serve”. We discussed the need for the faculty and students to get involved with service projects on campus, and out in the community. For many years, Adventists on “the hilltop” have not been viewed in a positive light to those in the Lacombe area. We were “those weirdoes who went to church on the wrong day.” The staff got together and came up with several ideas that we could implement to get our school population involved. There was a shoreline clean up at Gull Lake. Other students baked goodies and delivered them to the old folk’s home in town. Another group headed to a neighboring school and spent time mentoring the younger students. Initially, our students were just happy to receive a bright orange service t-shirt that all the students wore on our service days. However, the students gained more than another article of clothing to toss on the floor at the end of the day.



Overall, “project service” was a huge success. Many of the students came back to the school with triumphant stories. Students really felt heroic, especially those who were helping mentor the younger students. These projects have had a tremendous impact on our students. They are talking about other projects in the future that we might be able to undertake. The entire campus is being viewed in a new light in the community. A noticeable attitude shift has really taken place and it is obvious to the staff how these little projects can have a change in the atmosphere of our school.

We are all called to serve our Saviour in one way or another. While some believe that they do not have enough talent to do anything, it is impossible not to gain some personal benefit anytime we do something to help others. Although this may be a selfish revelation, it is better than hunkering down on “the hilltop” and neglecting our neighbours.