COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service engagement is an integral part of our school culture and the student experience. In each division, students learn the importance of discovering, exploring, and bettering their communities. Students join faculty in planning a variety of service projects throughout the year, at the divisional level and through all-school efforts. In each division, students take the initiative to meet needs on the local, regional, and global levels. School-wide efforts include our Thanksgiving meal drive and Gift for the Unknown Child Cathedral service, as well as outreach to assist local senior-serving organizations.

The significance of service to our school is evident in our Mission Statement, which names service as a core value:

_We believe in the power of young women and educate them to embrace our core values of excellence, service, courage, and conscience. We believe we have an obligation to make a difference in the world, to contribute to the greater good, and to respond with purpose to the needs of others._

**In the Lower School**

In recent years, the Lower School’s Read-A-Thon has helped to support the building of infrastructure projects for our partner, Home of Grace—an orphanage in Cambodia. Throughout the year, programming includes in-class projects, food and supply drives, fund-raisers, and other social service events. Students in 4th through 8th grades collaborate on several projects.

**In the Middle School**

Through their 8th-grade Ethics course, students actively engage in service learning and initiate service projects. Our Middle School Service Board organizes social service events throughout the year. Students in 4th through 8th grades collaborate on several projects.

**In the Upper School**

During 10th grade, students engage a year-long exploration of Washington, D.C. through their Geography class and a Center for Ethical Leadership and Service seminar; these include 2-3 local service trips. Student clubs partner with organizations near and far in advocacy and service. The Upper School Service Board leads the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service for the entire school, as well as monthly grade-level activities throughout the year. Before the start of 12th grade, students are required to complete 60 hours of direct service with an underserved population and 12 hours supporting needs on the Cathedral Close under the supervision of a staff member.