

## KCHS Service Program

*In keeping with her mission, Knoxville Catholic High School seeks to partner with parents, surrounding parishes, and the greater Knoxville community to prepare our students to be disciples of Christ who influence a constantly changing world. Service to others is an integral part of Catholic identity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The duty to make oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. 'As you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to me.'" (Catholic Church 1932)*

**CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY:** The KCHS Service Program **requires that hours incorporate** The Corporal Works of Mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the prisoners, and burying the dead.

**REQUIREMENTS AND TYPES OF SERVICE:** In the **2025-26 school year**, all students are required to complete **10 hours of service**, either Indirect (10) OR Direct (5) or any combination thereof.

One direct service hour is equal to two indirect service hours, so any combination of indirect and direct hours to equal 10 total hours per year is acceptable.

*Direct Service* must involve face-to-face interactions with those who will benefit from the service.

*Indirect Service* indirectly helps another. When giving indirect service, students are not personally interacting with those who are receiving the service.

**Note:** Altar serving does NOT count as direct service and can only account for three (3) indirect hours per year.

Examples: A student who works at a soup kitchen *serving* meals performs direct service

A student who collects canned food to donate to a soup kitchen performs indirect service.

### TOTAL SERVICE HOUR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS PER GRADE LEVEL:

Grade Level	Grad Year	Hours due 25-26	Graduation Total
Freshmen	2029	10	40 hrs.
Sophomores	2028		40 hrs.
Juniors	2027		40 hrs.
Seniors	2026		40 hrs.

**TRACKING:** Online tracking is provided by MobileServe. Students receive instructions for signing up in the fall. **Students who are not yet signed up, but who have performed service hours over the summer are required to keep a paper log and supervisor contact information.** Visit <http://volunteertn.org> for service possibilities. Each family is expected to vet the appropriateness of individual opportunities.

Contact information: Suzanne Judd at [suzanne.judd@knoxvillecatholic.com](mailto:suzanne.judd@knoxvillecatholic.com)

## SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Cook/Serve meals at a shelter or temporary residence (i.e., Family Promise)
- Deliver meals to poor or shut-ins (Mobile Meals)
- Hand out food at a food pantry (i.e., FISH pantry)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteer with therapy programs (i.e., STAR)
- Participate in Mission trips
- Teach Vacation Bible School or other religious education classes
- Tutor underprivileged children
- Volunteer as a camp counselor for disabled/underprivileged children
- Attend Catholic Heart Work Camp or other similar activities
- Care Cuts (haircuts for the poor)
- Ronald McDonald House (working with families)
- Nursing homes such as Arbor Terrace
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Parish activities (cleaning, maintenance, fundraisers)  
Please note, serving, cantoring, ushering, etc. at liturgies DO NOT COUNT (the exception is for wedding or funeral liturgies or if helping at multiple masses – the mass fulfilling a student's Sunday obligation does not count.)
- Pre-Approved "Campus Pride" work at KCHS or feeder school (hour limit: 3)
- Packing meals for poor or shelving items at a food pantry
- Volunteering at fundraisers for the poor or ill
- Any work for Catholic Charities or the Ladies of Charity
- Volunteering at a Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Volunteering at the headquarters of a charity organization
- Help at fundraisers for charity
- Sort/organize gifts for the poor

## SUGGESTED AGENCIES

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • KARM                        | • Catholic Charities        |
| • Boy's & Girl's Club         | • Water Angels              |
| • Ronald McDonald House       | • Columbus Home             |
| • FISH Hospitality Pantry     | • Lost Sheep Ministries     |
| • Mobile Meals                | • Ladies of Charity         |
| • STAR                        | • Emerald Youth Foundation  |
| • Nursing homes               | • YMCA                      |
| • Vacation Bible School       | • Habitat for Humanity      |
| • Religious Education classes | • Salvation Army            |
| • Love Kitchen                | • Second Harvest Food Bank  |
| • Special Spaces              | • Volunteer Ministry Center |
| • American Red Cross          |                             |

## PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARDS

Every spring at the Academic Awards Ceremony, KCHS awards "The President's Service Awards." These awards are granted to those students who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to serve the wider community. *The governing institution, as opposed to KCHS, sets the requirements for this award.* Award requirements include, but are not necessarily limited to, completing at least 100+ hours of service. The student is responsible for keeping track of his own hours and making sure that KCHS is aware that he qualifies for this award. **Completed hours and descriptions of the work must be emailed to [sedonna.prater@knoxvillecatholic.com](mailto:sedonna.prater@knoxvillecatholic.com) by the first school day of February.** Hours given in service for The President's Volunteer Service Awards must take place during the current school year (June-January).