

LO Interact and the 2019 Northwest Children Outreach

Report of 11.13.2019 Service Project by Ted Ricks

"We stand in the gap between poverty and caring agencies with resources to help children"

This is the mission statement of the Northwest Children Outreach in the Rolling Hills Church on Borland Road in Lake Oswego where LO Interact spent 2 hours sorting and packing clothes for needy children in the Portland area Tuesday night from 7:00 to 9:00. We chose them for our service project.

Northwest Children's Outreach is an all-volunteer, Christian-founded and -led group, providing for children's most basic needs. They function as a collection and distribution center, collecting resources for these children and distributing the goods to local care providers who meet directly with and prescreen the children.



Our three LO Interact members: Pauline Petersen, Hope Williams, and Ainsley Williams, all Freshmen at Lakeridge High School along with Hope's mother, Natalie and I, made up the Interact volunteers from Lake Oswego. Our job for the night was to sign in and then get a ticket with the generic needs for boys and girls to hang around our necks before heading to the bagging table to sort clothes.

At the bagging table, we chose a garbage bag tagged with a specific aged child, e.g. boy, 8 in my case who was tall and thin and "wanted warm winter clothes." Then, we went to the shelves and bins behind us where there were socks, underwear, shirts, pants, pajamas, shoes, gloves, hats, and on hangers, coats.



Next, we went looking for books, stuffed animals, games, and crafts to add to the growing pile of clothes to fill the garbage bag on the table. The whole area, the size of a high school gymnasium, was full of shelves, tables, and teenagers sorting, bumping into each other, taking selfies, and chattering.

At last, we took a group photo, thanked our hosts, and stepped out into the November nightly chill feeling a little better about what we had done and about ourselves.

Our members did a great job – what a way to start the Holidays!

