

LO Interact & Heart2Heart Organic Farm

Report on 1/29/2016 by Ted Ricks

What do four teenagers with the Lake Oswego Interact Club do on their final exam day off?



Head to a local, organic farm to volunteer for the day. That is what Rachel Winningham, Greg Bisbjerg, Radhika Subrahmanyam, and Samantha Hoebet did on Friday, January 29th. They drove to Heart2Heart farm in Sherwood/Newburg on a drizzly, rainy day to see what it was like to volunteer on a working farm.

As part of the Lake Oswego Interact Club, these high schoolers spend their time helping the community as part of their mission as Interact members supported by the local Lake Oswego Rotary Club – “service above self” is their motto. Every month the club chooses a local charity, NGO, or service opportunity and then puts in the hours to help on their own time.

The high schools require 10 hours of service or career work to graduate and the LO Interact hours count toward that goal, if not beyond. Rotary sponsors Interact clubs throughout the world (some 18,000 with 400,000 members) to help teens make “service above self” a life-time routine.



After introductions all around, these teens went to work hauling fencing material for a new, organic, Korean piggery. Unique in construction, the new, organic pig sty was built in layers: charcoal bedding, crisscrossed 12” in diameter logs, shredded straw, and finally, bacterial enzymes to

destroy all animal waste – good for 20 years without cleaning out the sty and odorless as well. Then the LO Interact team spent the rest of the day, through the downpours, breaking apart bales of shredded straw and hauling the straw to the new pig sty. In between breaks, they threw straw into existing pig pens and mingled with the newborn calves, much to their delight.



Happy, if straw dust laden, with muddied boots and tennis shoes, the teenagers left Heart2Heart, very tired but satisfied in doing their part on this working farm”.