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Mount Mercy Senior Helps Feed the Hungry

Many people feel empathy for others in Third World countries who suffer from hunger and other afflictions. It takes a special person to act on this empathy and to do something tangible to help. Mount Mercy Academy senior Megan Fabian felt the need to help and she has taken the steps to make her dream of helping others become a reality.

At first it probably seemed like a daunting task for one person to undertake. Fabian needed to raise 3000 dollars in order to participate in the Meal Packaging Event sponsored by Stop Hunger Now. Once the money is raised, volunteers will form an assembly line to fill bins, scoop food items, package and weigh them and then seal at least 10, 152 meals. After all of this, the group of volunteers will package the meals and load them onto pallets and move the pallets onto a truck.

Fabian was aware of world hunger but discussing it in her classes the past two years struck something inside of her. She wanted to do something to help those less fortunate than herself. She researched the options online and then decided to try to raise the funds for the Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging Event.

After making the decision to try to raise the funds, Fabian then approached Mount Mercy principal Margaret Staszak for permission to fundraise for the event. Staszak wholeheartedly supported Fabian's plan. "Our students learn to respond to the corporal works of mercy, which include giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, and feeding the hungry. Megan Fabian's project is a response on a grand scale, however there was never a doubt that she would be successful in this personal endeavor. Megan is a caring, intelligent and lovely young woman of Mercy, and we are extremely proud of her fortitude and her intention to alleviate suffering in our world."

One of her fund raising ideas that has gained much support from the student body, as well as the faculty and staff at Mount Mercy is the "Pie a Teacher" event. Students donate money to jars of the participating faculty and staff and then the person with the most money in his or her jar will receive a pie in the face. In addition, Fabian will be pied and students will donate money for the opportunity to pie ten other volunteers from the faculty and staff. So far this event has raised over 300 dollars.

The school also raised money through a casual dress day. Members of the Mount Mercy community, Fabian's family and friends and other generous souls have also made donations. "I am so surprised with how generous and supportive everyone has been," Fabian commented. "So many people have volunteered to help me in whatever ways I might need help." After all of the fund-raising projects were completed, Fabian was gratified to have attained her goal of at least 3000 dollars. She will continue to accept donations in order to package as many meals as possible.

The Stop Hunger Now organization will send a representative to help Fabian with the packaging event which is scheduled for May 2, 2016. The Mount Mercy Class of 2016 will serve as the assembly line for the event. "I witnessed an event at the Adam's Mark recently," Fabian said. "They have a gong that sounds for each 1000 meals bagged and there is music to make it a fun and upbeat atmosphere."

Fabian has enjoyed the whole experience and is excited to be providing meals for Third World orphanages, schools and medical centers. "I learned that anyone can act on and make her ideas a reality with help from family and friends. The smallest donation makes a huge difference in a child's life. A meal only costs 29 cents. No one should be afraid to take the first step and ask for help. It could make a major impact on the lives of others."

Mount Mercy students are encouraged to serve and help the community. It is quite evident that Megan Fabian has taken this message to heart. Mary Colby, the senior theology teacher at Mount Mercy had the following to say about Megan's efforts. "As women of Mercy our students are learning to give back in meaningful ways. Through creative fundraising ideas Megan has gathered her classmates to support the Stop Hunger Now campaign. Megan has educated the Mercy community to increase awareness of the challenges of hunger faced by millions around the globe. Megan Fabian has shown through her leadership and actions that she is truly a woman who is empowered to influence the world; she is a woman of Mercy.

Mount Mercy's munificent senior is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Fabian of West Seneca.



Mount Mercy Academy

A Catholic College Preparatory High School for Young Women
88 Red Jacket Parkway | Buffalo, New York 14220 | www.mtmercy.org | T (716) 825-8796 | F (716) 825-0976