

Mission opens arms to partner with Lakes Community High School

Community service work begins with Easter basket drive

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ANTIOCH - **Open Arms Mission** will integrate Lakes Community High School's administration, staff, students and school organizations into the mission's programs that serve needy Antioch and Lake Villa Township residents.

The partnership will allow students and staff to lead certain programs sponsored by the mission and integrates some of the components of these programs into the school curriculum.

The first project started this month with students and staff assembling and delivering 2,500 Easter baskets to **Open Arms Mission** in Antioch, other area food pantries, nursing homes and the children's units at Condell and Vista hospitals.

"This community service partnership creates many opportunities for our students at LCHS to not only volunteer at OAM but have a voice in the creation and implementation of programs," said the Rev. Scott Keenan, mission director.

"This is a tremendous learning opportunity for our students and community," said Lakes High Principal James McKay.

"I see this as a win-win relationship." McKay said a goal of the school is to reach out to the local community. "Our students now have the opportunity to help give back to the less fortunate in their very own community," adding that he believes community service is an important facet to a well rounded education.

Besides a food pantry that is open to the public three days every week, **Open Arms Mission** sponsors a number of community service programs throughout the year.

In addition to the Easter basket program, Lakes High staff and students will create and implement the Milk Jug Program, raising money to help fund the mission's weekly distribution of fresh milk, and the Food Pantry University for younger children to learn about the mission's food pantry.

"We are especially excited that the (Lakes High) students and staff will create, develop, implement and manage the Milk Jug and FPU programs that have been a vision of outreach for the past few years.

We can't wait to see what the students come up with." Keenan said.