



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

## TRANSFORM (Community Service Program)

Holly Scott, Director

In order to help fulfill our mission to educate and equip students to change the world for God's glory, FPD maintains a community service program in order to bring the light of Christ to Macon, to Georgia, and to the world. The community service requirements outlined below have been generated from our vision and mission, which is outlined below.

### THE VISION

- We believe the Bible calls Christians to serve others—"whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Mark 10:45)—and that that service should include "looking after orphans and widows" (James 1:27) and others in distress.
- We believe that meeting real community needs means ministering face to face with underserved or distressed populations. The love of Jesus is best shared in person. Monetary and other kinds of donations are valuable and important, but Jesus took time to personally and individually heal the sick, feed the hungry, and comfort the troubled. We believe we should follow his example. We also believe that as we go out and seek to **transform** our community, our hearts are **transformed**, becoming more like Jesus.



- We believe the best community service comes from the bottom up, meaning that it be student led, student motivated, and student generated. While many students will contribute community hours as volunteer followers, we also encourage students to take leadership positions in organizing and implementing community service programs. Chick-fil-A Leader Academy and Project LEAD are service/leadership programs to which FPD students can apply. They are specifically designed to facilitate community service leadership, but any student who is interested in organizing either a community service organization or a community service event is encouraged to meet with the community service director for help in seeing your vision implemented.

## The Requirements

- Hours: 30 per year/120 total required for graduation; hours over 30 may be carried over from one year to the next.
- Types of Service: FPD defines Community Service (CS) as unpaid work to benefit the community emotionally, materially, and/or spiritually. FPD understands our community to consist of both our local community in Middle Georgia as well as our broader human community in the United States and across the globe.

### At FPD, all CS hours must be:

- completed through a *non-profit agency* or event, and
- delivered to
  - a *distressed population* in the community such as the elderly, the sick, impoverished, disabled, widows and orphans, recent immigrants, and those experiencing homelessness, or
  - to FPD, a local church, a non-political civic group, or a non-profit museum or fine arts organization. **See limitations** below on the number of these kinds of hours that may count towards the 120 hours.

### At FPD, CS does not include:

- work completed for *profit-making businesses/services*
- work completed for *individuals who are able to pay for the services* rendered (whether they pay or not)
- work for *family members* (including family-owned businesses)



- Specific Requirements:
  - **Direct Service:** 50% (60 hours) or more of a student's donated hours must come in the form of *direct service* to the distressed people groups noted above. Direct service involves students engaging directly with distressed people. *Preparation for this direct service* cannot be included in the 50%/60 hour total but may be included in the indirect hours (see below). All of the required 120 hours can come in the form of direct service, but at least 60 must come in the form of direct service.

- **Indirect Service:** A student may submit up to 60 hours of indirect service to count towards the required 120 hours. This kind of service may still benefit a distressed population but does not involve direct contact with that population. An example would be preparing meals or care packages for a distressed group but not actually interacting with the group. Service with animals at nonprofit organizations is also considered indirect service. As noted above, preparation for direct service can also count as indirect hours, however travel time does not count.
- **Special Category Indirect Hours:** Students may count up to 15 indirect hours per year (for a total of 60 over four years) of work donated to FPD, a local church, a non-political civic group, or a non-profit museum or fine arts organization. Students may only receive 15 hours per year for all of these organizations combined. So, for example, they may receive 15 hours from FPD OR 15 hours from a local church, but not both.



- **Mission/Service Trip Requirement:** As part of the 120 required CS hours, students must complete one extended service learning experience, typically known as a mission or service trip. This trip may take place in Macon, the United States, or in a different country. **Students must complete this project by the end of the first semester of their senior year.** Mission/service trips are offered through FPD both in Macon and beyond. This requirement may also be met by participation in a church-sponsored mission trip **with the approval of the CS office.** Hours counted towards the 120 hours are only those in which the student is engaged in service/ministry; hours not counted towards the 120 hours are travel, sleeping, eating, social time, and recreation with one's team. Students may submit training time for the trip as indirect service hours.



**A reflection piece must be submitted to the CS Office upon completion of the trip.** The reflection piece must include a daily

journal during the trip, a “pre-reflection” describing your excitement/apprehensions/expectations before the trip, and reflections on what you learned after the trip. The forms outlining what should be included in the reflection piece can be found in the high school office or on this community service page. The entire reflection piece should be submitted BY EMAIL to [holly.scott@fpdmacon.org](mailto:holly.scott@fpdmacon.org).

- **Summary of Requirements:**
  - Students must complete at least 120 hours of CS
  - At least 60 hours (50%) of CS hours must consist of direct service to a distressed population, but ALL can be direct service hours.
  - Students may count up to 60 hours of indirect CS to organizations that serve distressed populations (which would include distressed animals) or to special category groups mentioned previously.
- Documentation: Students must complete and submit a Community Service Form to the Director for each project; the form must contain a verifying signature from the agency at which the service had been performed. Once obtained, students must upload their hours to their x2VOL account for approval. Students may make an appointment with Mrs. Scott for help submitting CS hours to x2VOL.
- Timetable: Forms may be submitted at any time during the year up to the last day of the school. The summer is considered a grace period during which students can complete any necessary hours from the previous year. However, any participating in an extracurricular activity should have all previous year’s hours completed by July 1. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may begin counting hours for their high school requirement the day after school ends at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Please Note:
  - Students lacking thirty hours of CS for each academic year will **NOT** be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored **co-curricular activities** until the requisite hours are completed **and** documented in the CS Office.



- Summer hours must be submitted to the CS Office by **October 1** of the following academic year or they will not count.
- Mrs. Scott will help each student set up his/her x2VOL account and give instructions on how to upload hours.
- ***Seniors must submit forms no later than March 1 of their graduation year. Any senior who has not completed and submitted documentation for the required 120 hours will lose their off-campus lunch privileges and must attend all study halls until the hours have been completed and the requisite form submitted to x2VOL and approved.***

- Additionally, any seniors with incomplete hours shall have their **diplomas and transcripts withheld until the hours are complete.**
- **Seniors will not be able to participate in Senior Honors Night or Commencement unless the requisite hours have been completed.**
- A student should always ASK FIRST if he/she is unsure whether an event/service opportunity/trip will count towards the requisite 30 annual/120 total hours.

