



July 11, 2022

Spirit of Unity Award Application 2022-23

Applicant: Blanchet Catholic School
Address: 4373 Market St NE, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 391-2639
School Fax: 503-399-1259

Advisor: Mrs. Chris Lieder
School phone: (503) 391-2639
Personal cell phone: (503) 931-2034
Email: info@blanchetcatholicschool.com

Name of Club: We have two clubs that we have combined for a single purpose; they are GOSPEL and FOB. Blanchet's GOSPEL Club (**Go Out Spreading Peace, Encouraging Love**) is for Blanchet mid-high students in grades 6 through 8. And FOB (Friends of Benedictine) is for our high school students grades 9 through 12.

Purpose: We create relationships between senior residents and Blanchet students. Before COVID both of these clubs made monthly visits to Salem's Lancaster Village and Mt. Angels Benedictine Nursing Home. Traditionally we played board games, did crafts, had seasonal celebrations, and much more. In the last two years, we have continued to reach out to the residents at these facilities with personal cards, gifts and treats. We want to stay connected with their residents and to let them to know that we are thinking of them.

Budget: \$500 for crafting supplies and treats for students to make monthly gifts to send to the residents of both Lancaster Village and the Benedictine Nursing Home.

Background (existing program): The GOSPEL club started approximately seven years ago and the Friends of Benedictine club started over twenty years ago. About 20 middle school students are involved and over 50 high school students.

Both clubs promotes peace as we engage in active service to seniors in our community. Students are eager to participate even though they give their lunch times to plan our events, and of course they give time after school for our monthly gatherings; these hours are above and beyond the service hours already required by our school. These students gain valuable experience in building relationships across generations, and across settings (retirement center) which they may not normally encounter. The positive experiences promote a tolerance for diversity in age and background, as they discover they can make true friendships (more like adopted grandparents)! We're proud that these clubs have found ways to stay connected with the senior facilities and their residents regardless of the restrictions of the pandemic.