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*Top Ten Project
Booklet*

2026

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 7, 2026 11:55 am
Browser: Chrome 138.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 184.75.194.218
Unique ID: 1420771213

School Name Grafton High School

School Address 24 Providence Rd
Grafton, MA 01519

Advisor Name Moleka Calandra

Advisor Email calandram@grafton.k12.ma.us

Principal Name Tracey Calo

Principal Email calot@grafton.k12.ma.us

Name of Project CLOTHING AND OUTERWEAR DRIVE WITH THRIFT STORE EVENT

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Grafton High School is a public high school serving students in the Town of Grafton. The project engaged the local Grafton community while also extending support to a community in need in East Boston, fostering connection, service, and outreach beyond the school's immediate area.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)? The goals of this initiative were to encourage community involvement and generosity, provide affordable clothing options for students and families, and promote sustainability through the reuse and recycling of clothing. In addition, the event aimed to strengthen collaboration between Student Council, Best Buddies, and the Grafton community, while also supporting a community in East Boston where there was a demonstrated need for clothing and outerwear.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

1) Student Council Members
Student Council members organized and led the clothing drive, coordinated collection efforts, promoted the initiative, and worked closely with Best Buddies and faculty to ensure the project's success. Members also sorted clothing, set up the thrift store, helped shoppers the day of the thrift store. Student Council advisor dropped remaining clothing and money collected at the thrift store to the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen after the thrift store event.

2) Other Students
Students participated by donating gently used winter clothing items and helping to spread awareness of the drive through peer-to-peer encouragement.

3) Faculty
Faculty supported the initiative by assisting with supervision, promoting the drive through announcements and posters, and encouraging student participation.

4) Community
Collection bins were placed throughout Grafton High School and at select community locations, including Dance It Up Dance Studio and Bushel and Peck Deli. Students, families, staff, and community members were encouraged to donate gently used coats, sweaters, hats, scarves, and other winter wear. Daily announcements and posters reminded students and staff of the donation period.

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/18998353027>

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 12, 2026 12:31 pm
Browser: Chrome 142.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 172.103.76.181
Unique ID: 1422160187

School Name Greenfield Highschool

School Address 21 Bar Avenue
Greenfield, MA 01301

Advisor Name Angela Mass

Advisor Email angmas1@gpsk12.org

Principal Name Micheal Browning

Principal Email micbro1@gpsk12.org

Name of Project Schoolwide Unified Basketball Game

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Greenfield Highschool is considered a generally small school with roughly 500 students. We are located in the Pioneer valley with rural farmland and mountains surrounding us on all sides. Our grades range from eight through twelve, with our eighth grade having their own dedicated wing to ensure an easier adjustment to the high school. We have many different facilities to cater to any type of student, whether it be in sports, the arts, or in education, there's a place for everybody. We also have a very dedicated staff that encourages and helps students here at GHS. The community in our high school is known as a very dedicated, and spirited place. People support and encourage each other and help our community as a whole.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)? This is the first year our school has started a unified basketball team. Our Student Council has been extremely active in the Special Olympics for a long time with unified bocce and schoolwide fundraising for the annual Polar Plunge, but many students have never had the opportunity to see a unified game. Knowing that it would be a great experience to showcase one of their games during our Thanksgiving pep rally, we made it a priority. Our goal was to have the whole school, staff and students, attend a unified basketball game, so that the players felt supported, seen and encouraged while they play basketball for fun and to get the chance of participating in a competitive team sport.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

To put on an event of this scale it was a large group effort. Our advisor coordinated with Frontier to bring their team and fans-in-the-stands to GHS. Our council made colorful signs for students (from both teams) to hold and cheer for players, our band worked hard to bring the spirit as they marched the teams in and played throughout the game including our fight song that we sang schoolwide. Students at GHS came together with their friends and led cheers such as the wave in the stands of the game. Student council members dressed in inflatable costumes to help hype up the fans, and some played as unified partners, while our president emceed the game. During half-time the Spanish club put on a performance to a popular Bad Bunny Song. Staff sat in the stands with the students and cheered along. Due to this event happening during school hours, it was not open to the community at large. Many staff commented after the event that it was so powerful seeing our full student body cheering for our unified partners. The Greenwave spirit was shining bright.

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19017227500>

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 12, 2026 7:31 pm
Browser: Chrome 138.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 98.217.80.161
Unique ID: 1422328722

School Name	Hopedale Jr Sr High School
School Address	25 Adin St Hopedale, MA 01747-1841
Advisor Name	Christopher Chatham
Advisor Email	cchatham@hopedaleschools.org
Principal Name	Derek Atherton
Principal Email	datherton@hopedaleschools.org
Name of Project	LOCK-IN

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Hopedale is a very small and cohesive community, in Worcester County with a population of 6,000. Our school being grades 7-12 and only having around 480 kids. We are a bonded community, everybody knows and cares for each other very well, and we happen to have the unique experience of having one school be grades K-6, and the other be 7-12. With that, there's a huge jump from being in sixth grade and walking the halls with kindergarteners, to then, seventh grade and being in the same school as upperclassmen. Therefore, it is important to ensure we have good leaders and role models, which Hopedale does a great job in producing. The student body as a whole participates and looks forward to involvement through sporting events, clubs, theater and music, and so many others. The size of the town allows familiarity across neighborhoods and areas, a more unified sense of community, and provides Hopedale Junior/Senior High School with unique outreach opportunities and possibilities.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)?

The objective and purpose of our annual 7th Grade LOCK-IN is to not only give incoming seventh grade students a tour and feel for the school as they enter a completely new environment, but to also allow them to feel connected to the older students. There is always a decorative theme at this event, this year being Hollywood, last year being Wizard of Oz, making everything more fun and engaging for the students with colorful pictures, games, decorations, etc. One of Hopedale values is being united, so at our LOCK-IN we have older students give a tour of the school to the younger ones, as well as run them through their schedule and how it works. The seventh graders are then divided into groups and go into different classrooms run by volunteers at the LOCK-IN, where they do icebreaker activities and fun games to feel even more connected with the older kids who they will look up to for the next few years. We typically end the Lock In with lunch and a collaborative game called Owl Island where the kids have to work together to solve problems. By the end, the 7th graders hopefully feel more welcomed to the new school, and as though they have a connection with older students if they ever need help or advice.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

The Student Council is involved in this event because we are the ones who lead it, figuring out the dates and time, requesting the use of classrooms and school during the summer, reaching out to the seventh grade families about all the necessary information, etc. Other students at our school are encouraged to help us out through either setting and cleaning up, running a room, or giving tours. The faculty helps us by offering the use of their rooms during the event, as well as helping in advertising for us to get as many kids interested as possible. The community itself is involved because the whole district receives an email about the event, it is posted on the Hopedale facebook bulletin board, and there is a big sign up at the school. Also because kids of all ages at our school are working to make incoming seventh graders feel welcome to give Hopedale that small community and bonded feel, and students giving six hours of their time to do so is very helpful and appreciated.

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19019628754>

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 16, 2026 11:42 am
Browser: Chrome 143.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 141.193.114.251
Unique ID: 1423794017

School Name Medfield High School

School Address 88R South St
Medfield, MA 02052

Advisor Name Jessica Safer

Advisor Email jsafer@email.medfield.net

Principal Name Robert Parga

Principal Email RParga@email.medfield.net

Name of Project Kindness Chain

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Medfield High School, located in the small town of Medfield Massachusetts is home to about 800 students; many of whom have been able to experience our involvement in the Central District section of MASC. Attending many leadership and government conferences, MHS students are actively interested in furthering leadership and communication skills. stemming from students' immense involvement in community organizations and pride in our town, Medfield High School schools are wired to give back to our community. As the only public high school in Medfield, the entire community supports students inside the classroom as well as showing up for their extracurricular activities. Recent state championships in lacrosse, girls soccer, and girls hockey as well as an extremely successful performance of Mama Mia are examples of unwavering commitment to a strong community within Medfield. Located 45 minutes outside of Boston, our distance gives us a distinct town identity, yet allows us to witness and become involved in the ongoings of an urban setting. Medfield High School strives to shape well-rounded individuals through top-level music and leadership programs, athletics, and most significantly, academics. Medfield is able to form students that are willing to take on challenges of all kinds with pride and spirit in every step they take.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)?

At Medfield High School, it is our mission to develop a safe and welcoming environment for all students. To enrich the MHS environment, our Student Council developed a Kindness Week. The Kindness Chain is a staple in Medfield High School, and started out as an addition to our Compliment Wall and other events of Kindness Week. Throughout the span of a week, students are encouraged to promote kindness through planned out activities. Such acts of kindness provide the opportunity for students to better understand the impact kindness has on others and the world around them. From Monday to Wednesday, a table was set up at all of the lunches for students to write something positive. Flyers with possible prompts were at this table, and around the school to encourage involvement. During lunch periods Student Council members handed out papers and encouraged people to write down something kind that they did or experienced recently. Then, Wednesday after school, Student Council stapled all of the pieces of paper together to form a kindness chain. The chain was then hung in the main lobby for all students to see. Announcements of kind acts inspired by the chain were announced throughout the week, to inspire an extension of this idea into the entire school. It is our hope that feelings of confidence, happiness, and optimism will radiate throughout the student body. This activity during the week may also encourage others to repeat the good deed they experienced themselves, contributing to a more positive community. This week does not only include the student body, but administrators, too. Developing a welcoming environment for students starts with the staff. It is just as important that teachers and administrators feel appreciated and empowered throughout the week. By doing so, all individuals are in a position to support each other and further spread the kindness they received.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

Student Council members started off the chain at one of our morning meetings, brainstorming ideas for kind things they have done or have experienced recently. There were great discussions of what qualifies as a kind act, and some ideas for what they could do in the future and add to the chain. Student council members were also key in sharing this chain with the school, as they were present for all lunch periods for 3 days to hand out slips of paper to the students and faculty. They helped the students brainstorm ideas, and organized the slips of paper. Finally, when over 200 slips were filled out, they came up with random acts of kindness to be read on the announcements, and stayed after school on that Wednesday to help set up the chain in the main lobby.

Other students participated in this Kindness chain by contributing their ideas and recent acts of kindness to the chain. This encouraged more acts of kindness and made each student reflect on their recent actions.

The paper slips were also present in the faculty break rooms with the same prompt, in hopes that not only students but also faculty members would contribute their recent acts of kindness, given or received. We received many submissions from faculty, almost as many as students! This was a great way to combine a student activity with teachers and other adults in the school.

Our events throughout the week were shared on "Medfield Fans," an Instagram account representing the school run by our Public Relations officer. The account has more than 1,500 followers, not only from students but also Medfield residents of all ages. We shared the kindness chain online through this platform, and even left a place for followers of the account to share their own moments of kindness online anonymously. Our hope with this extension of the project was to share positive highlights of activities at the high school, and encourage the public to reflect on their actions and inspire more kindness across our community!

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19040016472>

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 13, 2026 1:00 pm
Browser: Chrome 143.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 160.72.225.134
Unique ID: 1422559611

School Name Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School

School Address 12 Martin Street
Millbury, MA 01527

Advisor Name Joanna Morin

Advisor Email jmorin@millburyschools.org

Principal Name Christopher Lowe

Principal Email clowe@millburyschools.org

Name of Project Woolies Give Back

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Woolies Give Back is an annual tradition where Millbury High School Student Council turns fundraising success into community support. Students distribute \$20 Goretto's Supermarket gift cards to random residents as a gesture of appreciation and goodwill. This project highlights the importance of service, generosity, and strengthening the bond between our school and community.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)? The objective of Woolies Give Back is to strengthen the connection between Millbury High School and the greater Millbury community through intentional acts of kindness and service. By using \$2,000 from our annual fundraiser to distribute \$20 Goretto's Supermarket gift cards to community members, the Woolie Student Council aims to provide meaningful support, uplift local families, and promote goodwill.

This project teaches students the value of generosity, community responsibility, and giving without expectation. By encouraging recipients to pay it forward if they are able, Woolies Give Back seeks to create a ripple effect of kindness that extends beyond the initial gift and reinforces the idea that small actions can make a lasting impact.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

Woolies Give Back was made possible through the dedication and teamwork of the Millbury High School Student Council. The project involved 42 Student Council members, guided by two advisors, who worked together to plan, organize, and carry out the distribution of gift cards.

Through their collective efforts, students directly reached approximately 100 Millbury residents, engaging with community members face-to-face to share kindness, gratitude, and support. This hands-on experience allowed students to actively participate in service learning while strengthening the relationship between Millbury High School and the local community.

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19022912649>

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 15, 2026 1:47 pm
Browser: Chrome 143.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 71.11.0.2
Unique ID: 1423476768

School Name Minnechaug Regional High School

School Address 621 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA 01095

Advisor Name Abigail O'Sullivan

Advisor Email aosullivan@hwrds.org

Principal Name Stephen Hale

Principal Email shale@hwrds.org

Name of Project Pickleball Tournament

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: As a student council we strive to build a stronger community. Like many communities, we have many students who have been impacted by the mental health crisis. When the brother of a member on our Student Council took his own life in December 2024, we knew that we wanted to do something. When the brother was a Minnechaug student, he was a 4 year member of Student Council. He had a larger than life personality and a passion for making others smile.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)? The purpose of the event was to raise money toward the scholarship in honor of a former student. A Pickleball Tournament was a great way to bring our student body together with a night of fun, friendly competition, and a lot of laughs.

The event had 2 purposes: 1) to honor his legacy and 2) bring our school community together while raising money for his scholarship. The goal of the pickleball tournament was to provide people with the ability to enjoy the game of pickleball, hang out with friends, eat food, and create a stronger bond with the community.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

The large participation from our students at the event allowed for our whole council to be present and active. Our council had to set up the courts and yard games, build raffle baskets and sell tickets, update the tournament bracket, and judge games. Our local country club donated their space, including their 4 pickleball courts, land, and bathrooms. This allowed us to set up yard games in the grassy area for participants and spectators to use while they waited for their match. The country club also blocked off a large parking lot for food trucks to park and set up tables and chairs in the parking lot as well. We were able to get 1 local food truck to come to our event without charging our council an upfront fee. In addition to this, our local ice cream shop donated their ice cream truck and ice cream, which we sold to increase our donation to his scholarship fund. Participants were charged \$20 per 2 person team. The winners were given Pickleball Champion trophies and t-shirts; our council elected to pay for these items in their entirety so that we could donate all money received to the scholarship fund. In total, our council spent less than \$350; \$70 on trophies, \$60 on court tape and flip scoreboards, and \$200 on Pickleball t-shirts for E-Board, Advisors, the former student's family, and the winning team.

The community impact was much larger than we had ever hoped. Families and friends were appreciative of the event and positive feedback had spread quickly. The former student's family was there supporting the participants. At the event, participants and spectators hung out the whole time and cheered on the two teams in the final match. Win or lose, everyone who played or came to watch enjoyed the friendly competition and the safe space to bond with each other.

New bonds were formed between students, council members, and faculty all tracing back to this single event. Countless smiles and conversations exchanged out in public and back at the school have opened our eyes to seeing the influence we have when taking time to go the extra mile in our planning and prioritizing giving back to our community.

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19035512199>

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 16, 2026 11:48 am
Browser: Chrome 143.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 96.39.26.82
Unique ID: 1423796359

School Name North Brookfield Jr/Sr High School

School Address 10 High School Drive
North Brookfield, MA 01535

Advisor Name Caitlyn Malone

Advisor Email cmalone@nbschools.org

Principal Name Brian Beck

Principal Email bbeck@nbschools.org

Name of Project Junior Conference

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Both our school and our community are small we have an average grade size of 23 students and less than 5,000 people living in town. This has allowed us to become one a closely knit community this has also made it possible for the school to have good community out reach and participation. This has helped the council greatly with the success of our community events.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)? The purpose of this conference is to show the younger kids around the high school and give them a feel on what Student Council does and how it is at the high school, encouraging them to join StuCo. At this conference, the 5th graders come over to the high school to have a day full of workshops and engaging activities. They go through 4 workshops throughout the day and stay with their group leaders. After a few workshops, we have a separate lunch for the kids to eat. Each year has a theme, and the kids will get something that correlates to this theme, such as a different colored heart sunglasses for each group. Each workshop has engaging activities, an icebreaker to get to know everyone and a lesson behind each one. Some of those lessons could be communication, teamwork, leadership, etc. We always get really good feedback from the kids at this event, they have fun while also being able to look around the high school that they will be in the following school year.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

StuCo Members: StuCo Members play the biggest role in this event. We plan the event, we run the workshops, we lead the kids throughout the building, and we make sure that the kids are having a good time. We also eat lunch with the kids and answer any questions that they have about what Middle school and sometimes even High school will look like for them. Whether it be about what classes they'll take or what the schedule is like we will do our best to answer any questions that they have.

Other Students: Each year we typically have more students coming into the building than just StuCo members can handle. To make the day slightly easier on us we enlist the help of some other trusted students from throughout the school to either run workshops or lead groups.

Faculty: One of the para-professionals in our school (Mrs. Hanson) makes milkshakes for each of the students every year. In the beginning of the day we ask each of the students which flavor they would like (Strawberry, Chocolate, Vanilla or a dairy free slushy option). Mrs. Hanson will then use her own milkshake and slushy machines to make the treats for the kids. Some of the other staff in the building will also pop in to introduce themselves to the students throughout the day.

Community: Since this is an in school event the local community is not involved.

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19040053750>

School Name: Oakmont Regional High School

School Address: 9 Oakmont Dr
Ashburnham, MA 01430

Advisor Name: Dan Dufour

Advisor Email: ddufour@awrsd.org

Principal Name : Jeff Lizotte

Principal Email : jlizotte@awrsd.org

Name of Project: Oakmont Holiday Craft Fair

Please provide a brief description of the school and community::

Oakmont Regional High School is a small district with around 650 students, in the rural towns of Ashburnham and Westminster. The community is very involved, supportive, and inclusive. The school makes great efforts to create school-wide unity and inclusion for students of all races, genders, sexuality, and abilities.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)?:

This event is a new one to Oakmont. The Oakmont Holiday Craft Fair came to us as an idea from both our advisor and a graduate named Katelyn, whose sisters are still in Oakmont. The purpose of the fair was to provide the local communities with a craft fair around the holiday season where they could purchase gifts from a large number of local vendors in a dry, warm, and easily walked space. It also provided local vendors with a way to sell their goods during the winter, which is usually very slow due to weather. The event created a way for the local store run by Kately, The HAM, to raise some money for her storefront as well as raise money for the council to provide more activities at Oakmont.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community:

The HAM was responsible for coordinating the vendors and collecting their "rent" for their spaces. The Student Council was responsible for the event itself. The caf, halls, and various lobbies needed to be mapped out to provide over 53 10ft by 10ft spaces for vendors while still keeping the necessary walking area for guests. On the day of the event, StuCo members worked in shifts to keep everyone as active as possible. The morning shift greeted vendors and helped them unload their vehicles, bring their supplies to their spots, and event set up. The council also set up music in all halls, created a Kid's Corner with crafts for sale to kids as well as games and activities to keep them busy while parents shopped. During the event, the council provided vendors with lunch, water, and watched their areas if they needed to use the restroom. StuCo ran Kids Corner and provided a "sitting service" for parents who wanted to shop for gifts alone. Our advisor used a school van to provide a shuttle service to the various parking lots for guests. At the end of the event, StuCo helped vendors pack up and load their vehicles and then cleaned the school for the custodian. StuCo also reset the caf, which had all tables cleared out for the event. This job would have taken the one custodian hours to do!

The council also invited the ACE students to join us. ACE is a program for students with disabilities, who have graduated, to still learn life skills needed for their future. ACE students ran a holiday snack area, sold holiday baskets, and helped the council deliver lunch to the vendors. The council donated \$375 of the day's profits to the group as a gift.

Many faculty members came with their families. It was a different way for them to experience the school. The council members were excited to see them and walked around with them. While faculty members were able to purchase gifts for the holidays, they were also able to bond with StuCo members in a way different from school.

The community was active in two ways. The fair provided a valuable holiday sales opportunity for over 53 local vendors to sell their goods. This was a valuable experience for them, especially right before the holidays. It also provided a gift buying experience for community members. The community was warm, dry, cozy, and very happy to come walk around and shop. Many of them were also Oakmont graduates, so they got the bonus of walking through the school and reminiscing.

This new event not only gave the council a fundraising opportunity, it brought the community of our towns together around the holiday season that provided opportunities for vendors to make money and for people to shop for the holidays. In the end, it was one of our best new events in years.

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 14, 2026 8:51 am
Browser: Chrome 142.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 50.226.172.10
Unique ID: 1422854690

School Name	Plymouth North High School
School Address	41 Obery Street Plymouth, MA 02360
Advisor Name	Evan Ward
Advisor Email	eward@plymouth.k12.ma.us
Principal Name	Peter Parcellin
Principal Email	pparcellin@plymouth.k12.ma.us
Name of Project	Granting Wishes

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Plymouth North High School is located in Plymouth Massachusetts and has a population of around 1,100 students. Plymouth North, where literacy leads the way, is a place where education but also school spirit is extremely valued. Our events at North that have always been the most successful are the ones that aim to build a sense of community. This year, where so many of our families are struggling with the loss of SNAP benefits and other amenities many depended on. Our school community took over to try and take away some of the burden fallen on families within our school community. School groups started a food pantry and as a student council, we looked into what could be done next.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)?

As a council we understand the importance of the holiday season. A time to spread love and joy to those we cherish most. No matter one's financial situation, everyone deserves to feel the joy brought with the holiday season. As a council and school we took on our "granting wishes" initiative.

"Granting wishes" was an initiative designed to give students the ability to request gifts for themselves or another student. These wishes had no restrictions and it could be a need or simply a want to brighten their day. Students found the green wish slips in the office, taped to the walls of the hallways or with various teachers and could fill them out and submit. As a Student Council we made those wishes happen. The Eboard, together with our student council representatives purchased gifts and wrapped them and delivered them a few days before the Holiday Break. The end goal was to bring some cheer by granting one "wish" at a time. As a council we hope these acts whether they are big or small were able to bring light into some of the darker days of the year.

All 38 wishes this year were granted and the reactions to the wishes being granted were exactly what we had wanted with this project. It was a great send off into the Holiday break.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

1. Student Council Members throughout all grades helped spread the word about our initiative, purchase the gifts with money from fundraising, and wrap and deliver the gifts to the students.
2. Other students were encouraged to make a wish for themselves or other students in the building.
3. Faculty received the message and helped spread the word and encouraged students to submit wishes. Our EL teachers helped to put the wish sheet into different languages so that all of our school community could know about the project and participate.
4. The school community worked together to grant the wishes requested.

Please upload an evaluation of the project by a teacher, administrator, or other school staff member, other than the student council advisor.

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19027112794>

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 13, 2026 1:35 pm
Browser: Chrome 143.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 71.174.79.178
Unique ID: 1422576105

School Name North Reading High School

School Address 189 Park Street
North Reading, MA 01864

Advisor Name Kelly Gilbert

Advisor Email kgilbert@nrpsk12.org

Principal Name Miriam Meyer

Principal Email mmeyer@nrpsk12.org

Name of Project Community Cares Closet

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: North Reading High School is a tight knit community devoted to creating a welcoming and accepting environment for all its residents. Throughout all five of the schools in the district, (the high school, middle school, and three elementary schools) there is an abundance of students, teachers, faculty, and parents devoted to making the school community even more cohesive and connected than it already is. Our school is filled with students who are apart of unique clubs and organizations that bring our community to life. Students love watching Friday night football, organizing events through our student council, and supporting our performing arts department. Furthermore, our school contains students from different economic backgrounds. The variety of clubs, sports teams, and performing arts opportunities allows for people of all ages to connect with people who share their interests.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)?

The Community Cares Closet, a nonprofit organization run by North Reading Student Council which launched last Spring, is to support students and teachers in the North Reading Public Schools who are in need of essential items such as clothing, school supplies, and hygiene products. By creating a welcoming and discrete space within the school, our project aims to ensure that everyone has access to these necessities free of charge. This initiative promotes equity, dignity, and academic success by removing barriers that can affect confidence and participation in school life. Through surveys and teacher feedback, we discovered that several students struggle to afford basic items needed for school. 12% of district students are low-income and 700+ residents are relying on SNAP benefits, and 28.9% are labeled as "high needs". The Community Cares Closet was established to bridge this gap, provide relief to those in need, and foster a stronger sense of community. By addressing these unseen challenges, we hope to create a lasting culture of care, compassion, and inclusion within our schools. All students have access to not only basic hygiene and clothing products, but ones that fit their interests. Our goals are to: make students feel more comfortable, gives students an opportunity to select in-style clothes that will help them feel included with other students at school, and educate students on the realities of North Reading & how individuals are often in very different socioeconomic situations, even if they attend the same school. Our closet has created a judgment-free resource that welcomes all students, not just those identified as "in need", reducing stigma and normalizing asking for help when necessities are needed.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

1) STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Community Cares Closet is a student-council led initiative that was created, managed, and now is sustained by our North Reading High School Student Council members. Overseen by three student council officers and supported by a team of approximately 15 dedicated members, our council has been working tirelessly to make sure this project is as impactful as possible. As staff members began to notice the need for products and clothing, they contacted our council, and we knew we had to help. Our student council members conducted the initial research by speaking to faculty members about who needed these items most, and which resources would make the greatest difference. This work led to the creation of a space where students could discreetly access clean and essential supplies. This group of students secured our NASSP (National Student Council) Service Grant, where we received \$800 to get our project off the ground. They collected, organized, and helped wash donations in school and at home, so we could ensure that all students were receiving clean clothing. We were also able to gather a few volunteers to come with us to Walmart to buy any basics and undergarments that we did not receive in donations for the closet. Today, council members continue to actively manage the closet by monitoring usage and responding to student needs. Without the help from council members, this initiative would not be what it is today. They spent countless hours conducting the research, organizing, and setting up our closet while informing others about the hidden need in affluent school communities like ours.

2) OTHER STUDENTS

Outside of the founders of the closet, other students have taken part in this initiative as well. These students have donated gently used clothing from their family and friends to this organization. This clothing ranges from clothing and underwear to backpacks and sneakers. During the construction of our closet, these students helped us with labeling cabinets and folding clothes. These students were tasked with putting clothes away in an organized and accessible manner. Additionally, the students, a part of our student council, volunteered during powerblock time to make advertisements. These advertisements involved paper posters that were posted around the school, as well as creative digital marketing posts on our student councils social media. These advertisements were posted on our Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and Facebook Community Connections page. These posts fostered engagement and resulted in large amounts of donations from the generous members of our community. Furthermore, this interaction with our community has led to local businesses

supporting our initiative. These businesses and sponsors provided us with merchandise for the closet. Overall, this project has educated other students on the importance of providing others in our community with resources and support.

3) FACULTY

Faculty members have played a critical role in ensuring the Community Cares Closet is accessible for every single student who is in need. In collaboration with the schools Guidance Department, our counselors and administrators helped route students in need straight to the closet. Our faculty has also served as the key advocates by identifying students who may benefit from the closet while coordinating times for them to visit during after-school or before school hours. Students feel more comfortable going through a faculty member than a student to access the closet, so we are also grateful for the help of staff members who helped guide students through this process. It is also important to note that our faculty has gone above and beyond to inform their students about the stigma around judging people for their clothing. Through their attentiveness and commitment to our student body, we have helped remove barriers and created a school environment that helps students feel seen and included.

4) COMMUNITY

The Community Cares Closet wouldn't exist without the overwhelming generosity of our North Reading community. When we identified the need for hygiene products, winter clothing, and school supplies for our students, our community answered the call in extraordinary ways. We received over 650 high-quality donations from community members who understood our vision of dignity and inclusion. Rather than simply clearing our closets, donors thoughtfully contributed stylish, current items from popular retailers, the kinds of clothing students actually want to wear. This attention to what matters to young people transformed our closet from basic resource items that help them feel confident and included rather than singled out. Our community embraced the concept of repurposing rather than disposing, understanding that their gently-used items could have profound meaning for a student in need. Donations ranged from XXS to 3XL clothing, shoes in sizes 6-12, and undergarments for all genders and ages. The variety and quality of contributions ensures that every student, regardless of size, age, or gender identity, could find something that fit their needs and personal style. This community support has created more than just a closet, it has built a

stigma-free space where students can access necessities with their dignity, knowing their neighbors care about their well-being and success.

Form Name: 2025-26 MASC Top Ten Project Award Nomination Form
Submission Time: January 13, 2026 8:45 pm
Browser: Chrome 143.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 71.174.238.10
Unique ID: 1422745000

School Name	Westborough High School
School Address	90 West Main Street Westborough, MA 01581-1783
Advisor Name	Diane LaMattina
Advisor Email	lamattinad@westboroughk12.org
Principal Name	Brian Callaghan
Principal Email	callaghanb@westboroughk12.org
Name of Project	Light the Way

Please provide a brief description of the school and community: Westborough High School is a public school in Westborough, Massachusetts, right outside of Worcester. The school has about 1,200 students and almost 250 faculty members. The town of Westborough is made up of around 22,000 residents. Our school offers college-preparatory courses, AP classes, and a wide range of extracurriculars. Westborough High School serves to promote inclusivity and encourages students to become leaders. Westborough High School Student Council is made up of 85 members, including 12 Executive Board Officers, all of whom are driven to keep the school and community an enjoyable and welcoming environment for all.

What are the purpose and objectives of the project (What were you trying to accomplish)?

The objective of this project was to help bring together the community and shine a light on those struggling with their mental health. With so many hardships and stress, which can lead to even worse problems, Westborough Student Council decided to host this event to help break the stigma around mental health. We chose to donate our earnings to Kyle Cares Foundation since their values align directly with ours. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting open communication about the mental health challenges that are experienced by teens in today's society. Westborough Student Council agrees that creating an environment where students can have the confidence and support to seek out the help they need is extremely vital. With rising mental health problems, 1 in 5 teens have anxiety or depression, and an increase of suicides by 51.2% from 2000 to 2021. It is crucial to address this and break the stigma around it. After collectively collaborating on how we can spread awareness, we came up with an idea that both helps the students' mental health and publicizes how prominent it is in our lives. To do this, we researched, discovering the extensive benefits for mental health by walking outdoors and how important it is to communicate about it. Using this research, we integrated it into the event by creating a path of lanterns to guide our walkers. Additionally, we had speeches at the end with hot chocolate, helping publicize the information about mental health, explain the importance of the event, and warm the bodies of those who walked. This event involved not just those who walked but people all throughout town. They donated to this event due to its sheer importance letting us achieve and exceed our expectations, earning \$2,245. All of the earnings were donated to KyleCares.

Please provide a brief explanation of involvement of the following (if applicable): 1) Student Council Members 2) Other Students 3) Faculty 4) Community

1. The Westborough High School Student Council members were involved in the Light the Way event throughout planning, set-up, and participation. The event started off in our Executive Board, where we brainstormed following a meaningful conversation about mental health. As the year progressed, chairs for this were chosen. These chairs held committee meetings where fellow members assisted in creating the lanterns and advertised not just within the school or Westborough, but surrounding towns as well, through Facebook groups and physical flyers. Each member was dedicated to the cause and sold a minimum of five bags, with some selling up to fifteen. The Student Council Members then created the path and placed lanterns every two feet to make it well-lit and stress-free for all. They then participated in the walk to spread awareness of this event and break the stigma around mental health. The hard work put in collecting donations and selling lanterns led to the large profits that went to KyleCares.

2. The students at Westborough High School were key in Light the Way. Since helping fellow teens is our main focus for this event, they were greatly involved in this. They purchased the bags, participated in the walk, and donated to the cause. Additionally, it had a lot of meaning to kids throughout the school and led to many people thanking us for the exposure Light the Way created. Without the other students in our school, the meaning behind the event would be lost, which is why it was so crucial that they were there.

3. Faculty was prominent in Light the Way, with involvement from teachers to custodians to administrative staff. The counselors helped spread awareness about the importance of communication with mental health. The office staff advertised the event on the morning announcements and sent emails school-wide wide spreading awareness. Additionally, teachers donated money and bought lanterns, helping our council raise money for this important cause. Similarly, the custodians were significantly important to the event, since they were able to turn off all the lights within school, allowing Light the Way to have the impact it did. Lastly, the front office was vital to this event because without their permission, we would not have been able to organize Light the Way.

4. Light the Way was extremely successful due to the support from many parts of the community. Firstly, the event was advertised in the local newspaper, Lobby Observer, spreading awareness throughout town. Similarly, Westborough Connects advertised our event in their monthly newsletter with over 1,200 monthly subscribers. Another group that helped in this event's success was the families all around town who bought these lanterns to illuminate their houses at night in solidarity to spread awareness to break the stigma around mental health. Additionally, these families participated in the event, showing their support and how important the cause of teen mental health

is to them. Similarly, companies around town, like Roche Bros, allowed us to sell our lanterns, which helped raise the largest amount of funds that went to the KyleCares foundation supporting the cause. Lastly, the police officers permitted the use of a street nearby to the school that enhanced the walk, making it more enjoyable for people who participated, as well as keeping everyone safe from any problems that could occur. The support from the community enabled our council to accomplish this major event.