

Backpacks Full of Love: The Interact Starfish Pack Project

Post by: Julia G.

Edited by: Michelle W.



February 4th to 7th was a time of loving charity for the dedicated student leaders at our school. During this time, a caring group of Interactors baked and sold sugar cookies, brownies, cake pops, and rice krispies to raise money for impoverished children in the Lower Mainland. They surpassed their fundraising goal of \$525 and donated \$750 to the Starfish Pack Foundation.

Starfish Pack is a non-profit organization that supports young elementary school students living in poverty. These children are often unable to eat over the weekend since they rely on school programs for food. Starfish Pack is a program that sends these children home every weekend with a backpack full of healthy, nutritious meals. This empowers them to explore, grow and develop like their peers. This organization has changed many lives and helped children struck by poverty to emerge as self-sufficient, well-rounded and actively contributing members of society.

Planning and executing the Starfish Pack fundraiser was not an easy task. Led by project chairs Kristen T. and Britney N., the Interactors met on Wednesdays in Ms. Zaine's classroom to discuss objectives and progress in the areas of fundraising, baking, and spreading awareness about the cause and event. They sought sponsorships from companies in the region to fund their baking materials and sources. Students who had a talent for artistic design worked meticulously on posters to display in classrooms and hallways. Team members met over the weekend, over long hours, to bake and prepare the goods for sale. Finally, passionate Interactors took up the responsibility of selling the treats at parent-teacher conferences, 7:00 a.m. general meetings, and lunch hours in the week. The efforts were worth it -- in the end, they raised approximately \$750 to go towards the health, growth and well-being of the youth in our area.



Britney and Kristen gave a heartfelt explanation of their choice of project: “One of the reasons that [we] chose this cause is because we thought it hit close to home, since Starfish Pack is based all over the Lower Mainland and it aids students, namely elementary school children, who are in need. In total, we raised approximately \$750 to support Starfish Pack. On behalf of our project team, we'd like to thank all the McMath students, staff, and Rotary members who supported this cause by purchasing our baked goods!”

Indeed, the McMath Interactors could not have done it without the generous help of our wonderful Wildcats. Thank you for your selflessness in this season of love!

Happy Valentine's Day!