

Lisle Teens with Character,
A program sponsored by Lisle
Community Character Alliance

LTWC Chronicles

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DECEMBER 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **Holiday Party, Dec. 12**
from 7:00 -
8:30 pm @
Lisle Police
Station
- **Feed My
Starving Children, Jan. 16,**
contact:
Christine

Where Did All This Character Come From? A History of LTWC

by: Jake Haseltine

The only way to find out who we are as a group and what we stand for is to look at our history, and LTWC's history has quite a story to tell.

We begin with the proverbial tale of the phoenix. When a phoenix dies, it erupts into a burst of flames and another phoenix is born anew from the ashes. On September 11, 2001, our country was attacked. We were all victims. From the mournful ashes of that horrible event rose Lisle Teens with Character.

Carrie and Katie Straub, local teens, held flag rallies to commemorate those who perished in the attacks. With the support of the Mayor Broda, Character Counts!, and Breaking Free, a youth-led service group was formed with Katie Straub being one of the

first teen leaders. The flag rallies evolved into the 9/11 Memorial Car Wash.

LTWC's efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2003, United States Congresswoman, Judy Biggert, presented LTWC with a certificate and flag to honor our achievements; In 2004 LTWC received the Governor's Hometown Award; In 2005 LTWC received a certificate of appreciation from Illinois State Treasurer, Judy Barr-Topinka; in 2006 LTWC was featured in a citizenship DVD for the national Character Counts! Organization as well as receiving a certificate of appreciation from Illinois Secretary of State Jessie White; In 2008 LTWC founder, Matt DeAngelo was the subject of the Kathy and Judy Show's Hometown Hero episode in

Lisle.

As of today, LTWC has donated \$104,000 to charity and has volunteered 16,850 hours to the local community. Our success comes from the autonomy that we give to the teen leaders and members of the group. LTWC is a group that gives best teens in the area a chance to give back. These dedicated members of society don't need to be told how to act, what to do, or what not to do. They are just good-hearted people eager for opportunities that LTWC provides.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

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Edited by
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A Holiday of Cheer

by: Emily Mandel

With Christmas just around the corner, I wanted to talk about just a few things. In LTWC, we celebrate this holiday with our annual **Holiday Party**, held on **December 12**. This is always a joy, and brings that Christmas cheer to get everyone ready for the holidays. There is always a good turnout, as who can resist our mouth-watering cookie

contest. A quick reminder for the contest – if you are entering, please bake your own entry. A winner will be voted on and receive a prize. There will also be games and pizza. Lastly, this Christmas, let us not think about presents or receiving, but instead giving, especially to those who have little. Sometimes the best gifts are just small things, like a hand made

card wishing someone a happy holiday. Reflect on that thought and have a wonderful holiday!



Lifelong Character: LTWC's Partnership with the Lisle Lions Club

by: Christine Farolan



Christmas tree lot setup, November 2011

In November 2009, Lisle Teens with Character helped the Lisle Lions Club for the first time by sending nine volunteers to help at a Christmas tree sale setup with only three days notice. This was the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship between the Lisle Teens and the Lions Club. Since then,

our group has helped at a few of their annual service projects, including Easter Egg Stuffing for a local egg hunt and the Lisle Eyes to the Skies festival. Presently, LTWC has provided 583 hours of volunteer work for the Lions Club. Besides giving us generous and unexpected financial support, the Lions Club serves as an excellent example of loyal citizenship and strong character

that we as individual teens can carry into our adulthood. Both Lions Club president Bob Orsula and member Joe Bracken have come to our large group meetings to thank us for what we do. We would like to thank them as well for giving us opportunities to serve our community alongside its members, and for being constant examples of character.

Scarecrow Scramble

by: Nicole Puccini

On October 15, members of LTWC attended the 7th annual Scarecrow Scramble. Proceeds of Scarecrow Scramble go to Lisle Community Character Alliance and Lisle Partners for Parks, who are both founders of this event. Some of our members worked the tot race where they got to see all of the children's costumes! The rest of our members were placed in

small groups throughout the course. They were responsible for directing the runners to the proper route and encouraging them along the way. It was great to see all of the awesome costumes that many of the runners were wearing. Luminaries were set out along the path as light for the volunteers and runners and added extra ambience to the chilly October night. There

was also hot chocolate and bonfires to stay warm when back at the high school. There were 22 LTWC members at Scarecrow Scramble that contributed over 90 community service hours together, making this event our second biggest contribution of volunteer hours in one day! Great job Lisle Teens!



Campfire bonding at Sleep Out Saturday

Fighting Homelessness

by: Thomas Mandel

Sleep Out Saturday went very well this year, with 36 teens who participated. They slept outside in either tents or boxes to raise money for the homeless through an organization called Bridge Communities. We raised a grand total of

\$2,225. Good work everyone! The weather wasn't too bad this year, and overall, the event was very fun. Thank you to all of those who raised money for this cause. In addition, a special thanks goes out to all the parents that volunteered to

chaperone this year. We wouldn't have been able to do this without you. I hope this event has opened your eyes to the realities of homelessness.