

# Students satisfied with service to others

*C.S. Lewis Academy students lauded by association for its service projects in the past year*

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Few teens get excited over the project of doing yard work and maintenance.

But 17-year-old Andy Keyser and dozens of his classmates were. In fact, Keyser, a senior at C.S. Lewis Academy, a Christian-based school in Newberg and student outreach coordinator, planned the project that sent scores of the school's students into the community Friday to do yard work and any other tasks needing done.

Called the High School Community Outreach Program, Susan Schwartz, the school's outreach coordinator, said this was the first of four service projects for the students. Planned throughout the year, projects have included assisting the elderly, providing the muscle for cleanup projects by Chehalem Park and Recreation District and gathering food for Newberg F.I.S.H. (Friends In Service to Humanity), as well as serving at the United Gospel Mission in Salem.

This past year the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) awarded C.S. Lewis students and the school the distinguished recognition of "Exemplary School Program," which will be recognized at an upcoming annual ACSI Educators Conference.

The first project of the year focused on eight organizations. "We have 91 kids we send from the high school to organizations to do whatever (the organizations) want them to do — such as clean up bushes for park and rec and work for women and children shelters," Schwartz said. "It teaches (the students) to serve. They are blessed by serving and learn the importance of helping their community."

Keyser added that he's participated in service projects with the school since his freshman year, although this was his first year as an organizer instead of a participant. A Newberg resident, Keyser admits that he participates for the, "satisfaction of serving God and the community."

He said sometimes he sees the people he has served in the community, and when the groups return to those places, "They love it. They love to see the work done and see our faces again."

Camaraderie among students is also increased. "We all work together and get along well," Keyser said. "We are always having a good time."

The community is invited to call Schwartz with suggestions for future service projects. They will be accepted according to need at 503-538-0114.