

HELPING HAND

Volunteers give assistance to less fortunate in Downtown Cincinnati



Photo by Arnav Damodhar

Sophomore Josh Suguitan volunteers at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Over the Rhine, distributing meals to families who otherwise couldn't afford it.

Arnav Damodhar | Staff Writer

Give and you shall receive.

Mason High School students are helping the less unfortunate by volunteering in homeless shelters and soup kitchens in Over the Rhine.

church and we give them donuts, food, counseling. They become members and they come back every week."

Apart from feeding the homeless, Suguitan also counsels children on making the right choices.

which is an extremely humbling experience, where you can serve breakfast, lunch, or dinner," Reid said. "The mission that they're trying to complete is that they bring kids off the street, they have seminars, they have everything from food to church... They also have seminars that prepare people for jobs and give them clothes and interviews to get them involved."

According to Reid, helping them also has had an impact on him.

"They just thank you so much for everything that you could do for them, because their situation hasn't been so great," Reid said. "But seeing that for me and them in that situation, being so thankful and so happy for everything, just gives me a totally different perspective on life."

Volunteering and helping the homeless also changes perspective on life, Suguitan said. It really exposes him to the real world.

"(It) exposes me to a lot of things I don't see in Mason," Suguitan said. "It makes you humble and I complain less about my life, which is really easy, compared to those who can't get off drugs, they're going through challenges, and they're just harsher lives out there and I think it's good to see it up close and in person."

"The mission that they're trying to complete is (to) bring kids off the street."

— SEAN REID
JUNIOR

Sophomore Josh Suguitan has regularly been going with his father, a pastor at the Prince of Peace, to feed the homeless in downtown Cincinnati and better their lives by interacting and talking with them. According to Suguitan, helping those people has become part of his life.

"I grew up there doing volunteer work," Suguitan said. "...We have

"I always try to influence them on their future lives," Suguitan said. "There's this one kid, and we always hang out. He runs up to me and has me carry him around and we go do activities."

Junior Sean Reid said he volunteers with an organization that he created, called Service Workers Achieving Greatness or S.W.A.G., Reid said.

"We have done City Gospel Mission,

[story continued from page 19]

THE TRANSGENDER TOPIC

Similar circumstances are taking place in Minnesota, where a policy was passed by the Minnesota State High School League to give transgender-student athletes the opportunity to play on girls sports teams. Private religious schools are exempted from this policy, which goes into effect during the 2015-16 school year.

The approach of how to handle the situation is different school-to-school. Due to the sensitivity of transgender issues, McCarty-Stewart said she understands that the public will have strong opinions on each stance, but she will follow whichever choice legislation makes.

"I believe that once Ohio legislation is faced with making a decision, it will cause people to have varying opinions on the topic because it is so sensitive," McCarty-Stewart said. "I think it will be a situation similar to ones we've dealt with before, but law is law, and we will follow the law however that should be with Ohio."

Regarding the potential threat to the safety of transgender students, as well as other students, McCarty-Stewart said she recognizes that each potential situation must be handled differently based on circumstances.

"As a building principal, I would handle it like any other situation," McCarty-Stewart said. "For students, safety issues could come up from using the restroom spaces and any of those other areas, so I think we would handle it in the same manner. You have to take that particular situation and analyze what makes it uncomfortable, or why one particular student feels uneasy. These situations aren't one size fits all."