



Thunder NHS members brighten spirits at Valley Hi

Service projects for National Honor Society chapters have been challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic, but one successful endeavor was to brighten spirits for nursing home residents during a difficult year.

Woodstock North High School NHS members decided to create holiday-themed posters for Valley Hi Nursing Home residents to bring a little cheer to their rooms since isolation has been their norm over the past 10 months.

“Given that long-term care facilities have been hit hard and visitors are not welcome, the thought was to try to brighten their spirits,” said Patti Baltes, a WNHS science teacher and advisor for the school’s NHS.

Valley Hi, like most residential facilities, has had to tighten restrictions to protect their elderly residents who are at risk of serious consequences from COVID-19 exposure and at times have not allowed any visitors.

Kyla Grismer, senior and president of the Thunder NHS, said students put a lot of thought and work into the posters with the residents in mind.

“We hoped that we could bring the holidays to them since they are limited with what they can do due to COVID-19. The posters said anything from ‘Happy Holidays’ to ‘Merry Christmas’ and included drawings of holiday or Christmas decor,” she said.

Demonstration of service and leadership are among the requirements for the National Honor Society chapter along with maintaining a 3.75 GPA.

Grismer said NHS members received wonderful feedback from Valley Hi after the posters were delivered.

“The residents loved the posters and the staff asked if we could make more for other times of the year too. It was a very positive experience to be able to make the residents at Valley Hi happy this holiday season,” she said.