

Division III student-athletes engaging in service activities

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A new academic year is barely underway, but student-athletes across Division III – like the women’s soccer team at Northwest (Minnesota) that volunteered to pack meals for hungry children – already are engaged in community-service activities.

All 21 members of the Eagles soccer team hand-packed meals that Feed My Starving Children of Minneapolis will ship to needy youngsters in more than 50 countries worldwide.

During the two hours the team worked, members packed more than 7,000 meals, which they learned will feed more than 20 children for one year.

“Packing the meals was such an easy thing to do, and yet it has such an impact,” said senior captain Nikki Seviola.

“This was an out-of-the-box experience for our team,” added junior co-captain Amy Green. “It was great to participate in a non-soccer activity as a team that benefited kids around the world.”

Student-athletes elsewhere also are devoting themselves to community-service initiatives:

Colonial States Athletics Conference: The league’s student-athletes will conduct fund-raising activities for the second straight year on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The CSAC will work with the Philadelphia and Susquehanna Valley chapter of the organization to send a boy to Walt Disney World next April.

Sewanee (University of the South): The Tiger men’s soccer team arose on the morning after a scrimmage at Division II member Southern Indiana for what they call a community-service “doubleheader,” first spending time playing soccer with youths aged 4 to 14 from the local American Youth Soccer Organization. Then, that afternoon, they helped new freshman class members move into dormitory rooms.

New England Small Conference Athletic Conference: The league’s student-athlete advisory committee tallied up the results of work it actually did last spring on behalf of the Jimmy Fund, in which more than \$4,200 in loose change was collected for cancer research. Connecticut College student-athletes led the way, collecting nearly one-fourth of the league’s donation.

Westminster (Pennsylvania): Six members of Westminster’s swim teams volunteered as lifeguards for the New Wilmington Rotary Club Labor Day Swim Meet. It’s the second year the team has helped with the event.

Gallaudet: Swimmers also were active at Gallaudet, working with the Surfrider Foundation to help clean up Delaware Seashore State Park. The effort benefits coastal wildlife by cleaning up beach litter and also helps promote recycling, according to coach William Snape, who also is a lawyer with the environmental group Center for Biological Diversity. “Our team is excited to spend some time in the surf, protecting the beach and catching some waves,” said senior Scott Cohen from Hawaii, who suggested the beach cleanup as an activity for the student-athletes.



All 21 members of the women’s soccer team at Northwestern (Minnesota) recently packed meals bound for needy youth around the world as part of a service project benefiting the Feed My Starving Children organization.