



# Westlake Christian Academy

## Community Service Rationale and Guidelines Secondary Grades 7 - 12

### RATIONALE

Community Service activities are consistent with the development of a strong Christian testimony and reflect on the reputation and character of both the individual and school. Community Service is an important aspect of our secondary curriculum. The Westlake Christian Academy vision, "Every Student a Disciple of Jesus Christ" is developed as students serve others. As a body of believers in Jesus Christ we recognize the servant nature which must be grown in each of us in order to function properly in the Christian community and in our society.

Community Service is a conscious and intentional component of the discipleship ministry of Westlake Christian Academy. It is an active effort to help students implement the spiritual and intellectual knowledge they are learning in the classroom. A key aspect of the Christian life is that we are called to serve others as Jesus Christ stated and did (Matthew 20:28 and Mark 10:45). But serving others is usually a learned character trait; it seldom develops by chance. That is why Westlake requires secondary students to engage in community service. The goal is far more than just putting in the hours. First and foremost, we desire that students develop a natural bent for helping others. We want our students to learn to see a need and act to meet that need. Thus WCA incorporates this standard of Community Service into its curriculum.

### GUIDELINES

- To qualify as community service students must be ministering with a formalized organization other than Westlake Christian Academy and the student would not receive a wage or remuneration for their service.
- The organization could be a church, the local park district, a food pantry, a homeless shelter, a nursing home, a school, etc. The Community Service Idea Guide can help with this and the possibilities are nearly endless.
- The emphasis of community service is the local, Chicago-land area, rather than out-of-state or overseas. Thus Lake County or adjacent counties would be the appropriate area in which to perform community service.
- Students are strongly encouraged to lock into a service ministry which provides regular service opportunities and enough hours to meet the standard.
- An official, supervisor, or other leader of the service/ministry organization must sign off on a description of the service activity and the date and the hours of service.
- Community Service does not receive grades or credits nor is it included in the GPA calculation.
- High school students must participate in 25 hours of community service per school year, for every year in attendance at WCA, as a requirement for graduation.
- Junior High students must participate in 10 hours community service per school year.
- This requirement will be prorated for those students who enroll after the start of the school year.
- Community service is to be conducted outside of the school day.

### Reporting of community service

- Community Service reporting forms are available through the school office and at [www.WestlakeChristian.org](http://www.WestlakeChristian.org) in the 'docs and handbooks' section.
- Community Service forms must be turned into the office quarterly and will be reflected on report cards and transcripts.
- Community service earned during the summer months may be applied proactively to the upcoming school year. Or if necessary, it may be applied to the previous school year.