Aktion Club Single Service Project Award 2026

Name of Project: Share the Table Sunday Supper

Service Need:

Food insecurity has been identified by Kiwanis of Topsail Island Area as a critical need area in our local community. In order to address this need, the club provides what they call a Sunday Supper each month. Sunday Supper is a home cooked meal, free of charge to local families either in person at the food pantry or as take out orders. Each month a group of volunteers to plan, cook and service supper. Aktion Club took this as their challenge and were responsible for all aspects of Sunday Supper under the supervision of club advisors, parent volunteers and Kiwanis member volunteers.

The Plan:

Officers presented the project at their monthly meeting and members voted to adopt it as their monthly service project. Committees were established for menu planning, set up, food preparation, serving and clean up. A total of 10 members volunteered. Member added their names to a clip board for each committee which was shared with parents/caregivers at the end of the meeting. At the next monthly meeting, each committee met to plan their tasks and communicate their needs to club advisors.

Engagement of Others:

Members were asked to recruit parent volunteers and explain tasks for which they needed support or assistance. We met with the Kiwanis member in charge of Sunday Supper to submit the menu and shopping list. Two club members, who had previously volunteered at Sunday Supper with their parents, were asked to explain what a Sunday Supper was and

the required tasks. They presented this information at the planning meeting time.

Impact of member learning:

Learning about food insecurity and its impact on the local community was an eye opening experience for members since most of them had no idea that this problem existed in their local community. This enabled our members to engage in an interesting discussion about what Share the Table does for their community and how Aktion Club could make an impact.
Members learned about Share the Table and how it serves their community. Members learned the function of a food pantry and why they are needed in our local communities. They also learned about the various volunteer opportunities they could participate in during the week at Share the Table and how important it is for us to participate in our local community through volunteering and helping address a serious problem in the world, food insecurity.

In the initial planning stages, this project seemed to be a huge undertaking since our club would be responsible for all aspects, except the actual food shopping. Once the tasks were broken down and then delegated members became excited and proud of this proposed project. Officers took the lead, with assistance from the advisors, in forming committees and matching member abilities and interests to the required tasks.

Members, depending on their chosen committee, learned how to choose a meal to serve to a large group, plan a menu for their meal, write out a detailed shopping list for someone else to follow, follow directions preparing the meal which included vegetable cleaning and slicing, making a marinade for the chicken, placing food on large sheet pans and delivering pans to the assigned cook.

Once the food was prepared and cooked, members were responsible for setting up their serving line, greeting guests, listening to their food requests, placing food in serving boxes and working as a team to ensure that empty pans were delivered to the kitchen and additional pans were placed on the serving line. The clean up committee continuously washed and dried pans and other utensils, keeping the kitchen safe and clean.

Great team work was achieved with minimal assistance from parent and Kiwanis volunteers. Members gained confidence in their abilities as they served their guests. They were complimented for their delicious food and great service, which they graciously accepted with huge smiles and high fives! For many members, this experience helped them become more social, communication with strangers and using social cues in responding appropriately.
Being able to be included in the community and serve their community was a priceless lesson learned by all members. The sense of pride that they achieved from this project can't be measured but was observed in the smiles, hugs and teamwork.

Committee members reported back to membership at our next monthly meeting. Members were able to identify the number of families served, the amount of food distributed and how they impacted the important issue of food insecurity in their local community. They are anxious to host another Sunday Supper in the 2026-2027 Aktion Club year.

Impact on the Community:

Approximately 125 meals were served at this Sunday Supper, which included families and single individuals. In addition, approximately 25 to go meals were prepared and delivered to community members. Sunday Supper is a much needed and appreciated event each month in the local community.

Sunday Supper is also an opportunity for community members to sit together and enjoy a delicious meal with their neighbors. Many friendships are made at Sunday Supper. Parents are able to relax as their children interact with each other. Sunday Supper is a community event that meets a critical need in a safe and welcoming environment.

Also, it is an opportunity for our Aktion Club members to be accepted and included with individuals who may have limited exposure to adults with disabilities.