ANCHOR Aktion Club Single Service Project:

Food Drive and Sandwich Making for the Midnight Run Program

The ANCHOR Aktion Club chose to partner with the Midnight Run Program as our February 2026 service project due to our club's desire to provide basic necessities to our neighbors in need. St. John's University's Campus Ministry coordinates the Midnight Run Program, where local college students travel into NYC distributing fresh sandwiches, beverages, toiletries and clothing items to unhoused individuals.

We began our project by meeting with a Midnight Run volunteer, Ana Yevoli, to get details about the program, and the specific needs regarding donations, etc. We learned that approximately 80 freshly made sandwiches (cold cuts & cheese and peanut butter and jelly) are needed DAILY, in addition to juice boxes, bottled water, and coffee/tea/hot chocolate. Other often requested food items included individual snacks such as granola bars, cereal bars, chips, and instant oatmeal. Toiletry items including disposable razors, toothpaste, lip balm, and soap, and clothing items such as socks are also greatly needed. These items are collected by St. John's students and stored in an on-campus food pantry to be distributed as the items become available.

Our club offered to help in two ways; first, we would collect loaves of bread, peanut butter and jelly, & zip-lock sandwich bags, and make and package the sandwiches, and second, we would hold a “food drive” to collect the items that are often requested but not always available, such as snacks and toiletries.

After reporting back to Canille Jackson, the Campus Ministry advisor, with our ideas, the response was an overwhelming YES!! In addition to making the PB & J sandwiches, we were asked if we could make ham & cheese and turkey & cheese sandwiches as well. The cold cuts would be supplied…. we just needed to assemble and package the sandwiches! Many hands make light work!

We asked club members, advisors and members of the community to donate jars of peanut butter and jelly, zip-lock bags, and whole wheat and white sandwich bread, in addition to the special items for the pantry. The results were over whelming!

Our members worked in small groups, making the sandwiches, bagging them up, sealing the bags, and labeling them. They were so proud of their accomplishments, and happy to be able to give back to those who are less fortunate. At our Feb. 9th meeting, we assembled 89

sandwiches, which were packed in coolers and refrigerators and delivered to people in need the very next night!

In addition to making 89 sandwiches, we collected hundreds of items for the Campus Ministry Pantry, including granola bars, instant coffee, tea bags, hot chocolate packets, cup-a-soup, instant oatmeal, chips, cookies, juice boxes, bottled water, boxes of zip-lock bags, jars of peanut butter and jelly (to be used to make more sandwiches!) socks, and toiletries. After we made the sandwiches, our members sorted and bagged up the donations. Ana, our friend from the Midnight Run, brought all the donations and sandwiches back to the St. John's campus where the students stocked their pantry, and delivered the sandwiches. The Campus Ministry members were so appreciative of our efforts and were amazed by the amount of donations we collected for the pantry.

This was an amazing project to be a part of, and we learned so much about the Midnight Run Program, and the many people it serves. We hope to make this service project an annual event!