Past Projects

ODW-USA is now in its tenth year as a successful program in the United States. This success is due to the unwavering support and interest of the students, as well as each school's administration, faculty, and community at large.

This year's project is the Kigutu Community Health Center in Burundi, Africa. This project is sponsored by Village Health Works in Hanover, NH. Money raised will support a newly renovated health clinic in Kigutu, one of the poorest villages in Burundi. It will also include HIV/AIDS education and treatment. Burundi is the 6th poorest country in the world.

In 2007, ODW-USA raised $26,000 to build or buy six foster homes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This project supported orphans at the Selamta Children's Home via The Human Capital Foundation in White River Junction, VT.

In 2006, ODW-USA raised $26,000 to help orphaned youth in Rwanda train for and obtain jobs to support both themselves and their families.

In 2005, ODW helped children in Vietnam by raising almost $40,000 to educate girls about animal husbandry.

- 2004 Kenya, Rwanda, Israel, Ethiopia, Vietnam
- 2003 Project in Bangladesh
- 2002 Project in Ethiopia
- 2001 Project in Nepal
- 2000 Project in El Salvador
- 1999 Project in Haiti

Please contact Thetford Academy or an ODW member school for more information:

ODW-USA Director

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(802) 785-4805, ext 208
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Local Member Schools

Hanover High School
(603) 643-3431

Lebanon High School
(603) 448-2055

Newton School, Strafford
(802) 765-4351

The Sharon Academy
(802) 763-2500

Chelsea High School
(802) 685-4551

Thetford Academy's Web site:
www.odwusa.org

ODW

OPERATION: DAY'S WORK

Youth Helping Youth to Help Themselves

Mission Statement

We, the Youth of the United States of America, strongly believe that every child deserves to choose his or her own path to success. We believe that knowledge and understanding are maps that lead to these paths.

Operation Day's Work strives for local, national and universal unity among all youth through friendship, service and worldly financial support. After educating ourselves about our chosen project and culture, we work for a day to raise funds for this cause. We are "youth helping youth to help themselves."

Solidarity

ODW is more than a charity organization. We don't just give away things we don't need anymore or ask for donations. The ODW Mission Statement explains what we strive for: "Unity among all youth through friendship, service and global financial support." That word, unity, is an important idea.

We call it unity, but European youth who participate in ODW call it solidarity. No matter what you call it, the idea is the same. Solidarity involves being aware of, respecting and understanding others. While charity is often an action between people who are perceived to be on different levels with different rights, unity and solidarity involve actions between equals.

These principles of unity and respect are the foundation for much of what we do in ODW. To demonstrate desire for unity and understanding, we work hard to learn about the people we are trying to help. To show our respect, we work for every penny that we give.

ODW History

Operation Day's Work (ODW) originated in the early 1960's at a high school in Sweden and, over time, spread to other Scandinavian countries. Students in Norway convinced their schools to work one day a year and earn money for developing countries around the world. The results of the Norwegian students' efforts, Operasjon Dagsverk, now exist in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Holland and the United States.

ODW first came to America in 1998. In 1999, its first year raising funds in the USA, ODW supported a project in Haiti called "The Goat Project." ODW students raised $30,000 to provide training in animal husbandry for rural Haitian youth. ODW now has completed nine successful years in the USA, helping countries in need all around the world.

Over the years, ODW has supported projects in 35 countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Because of this, ODW has been proven to be a sustainable and useful community and world service program involving youth in the USA.

What is Operation Day's Work?

ODW is a student organization that encourages leadership, responsibility, and volunteerism in middle and high school age students. ODW encourages participants to view the world in a different way. It also teaches them that they can make a difference in someone else's life, as well as their own.

Every year, ODW students across the United States choose a project in a developing country which supports youth and education. Once a project is chosen, students begin the education campaign. This first involves educating themselves about the country and its people, then educating their school and community members. ODW strives to teach students and people everywhere that youth in poorer countries are no different than us. These students need an education to change their situation and the situation of their country.

On one day in the spring, students in the U.S. who choose to participate find odd jobs such as yard work, office work or housework to do in the community. All of the money that students earn from this day of work goes to the selected project.

ODW teaches youth in the United States to take responsibility for what is going on around them, and develop the resources and skills to make a positive change.