Scott Morgan Johnson Middle School

2021 IMPACT LETTER

INTEGRITY AMONGST CHAOS

Instead of looking for a way out, Minnie's Food Pantry looked for additional ways in.

Scott Morgan Johnson Middle School

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"Home of Tiger P.R.I.D.E"

February 1, 2021
To: Minnie's Food Pantry Board of Directors & Corporate Leaders:

Minnie's Food Pantry has been an impactful sponsor of Scott Johnson Middle School since 2018 and, for the students on this campus, a real-life example of what can be achieved when we choose to live kindly, have a growth mindset, and persevere in the face of adversity. On this campus, Minnie's reputation precedes them. Our students and families know that if they or someone they know is experiencing food insecurity and in need, Minnie's Food Pantry will help them in a graceful way.

How Has Minnie's Food Pantry Partnered with SJMS?

Educational Programs (Minnie's Learning Lab)

Over time, our partnership with Minnie's Food Pantry has grown; it has expanded in size, depth, and complexity. In November of 2018, as a component of a class project, Minnie's allowed a group of 30 students to come on-site and do community service. While there, our students received a tour of the facility, a welcome message from one of the pantry's executive directors, and the opportunity to give back by serving in their warehouse.

In November 2019, Minnie's expanded the number of SJMS participants from 30 to 300 and created a three-tiered transformative program for them to participate in. By joining forces with two of its corporate and community partners, Texas A&M AgriLife and BB&T, SJMS students got the opportunity to hear from industry experts in the fields of finance, banking, and nutrition. These experts not only explained the complicated process and industry terms to them but willingly shared their words of wisdom and advice on how to make smart choices.

BB&T taught our students what it means to establish good credit, how to avoid certain decision making pitfalls, and spoke to them about what they can do now to help set themselves up for future financial success. Texas A&M's AgriLife representatives spoke with our students about the science behind farm production, how to make healthier eating choices, and explained popular food myths.

Which SJMS Clubs and Organizations Participated in the Program?

Several clubs and organizations from SJMS participated in this educationally engaging program. The following four participated:

Our **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** organization. AVID is a national college and career readiness system. Its mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

Our **ESL (English As A Second Language) club**, which is an afterschool program that is designed to help our English Language Learners excel, both academically and socially.

Our **Classic Young Men's club**, which is an organization that focuses on teaching tomorrow's generation of men how to be a people of character and how to contribute positively to society.andOur 6th Grade Reading Elective Class. This class is designed to help minimize any reading comprehension gaps that may exist amongst our 6th grade group of students.

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"Thanks for this experience. I will cherish this for as long as I can. I hope more people in this world will be inspired by what Minnie's is doing and do the same." - Teslimat A.
Minnie's Learning Lab Participant and Executive Internship Participant

Spring Break Care Package Program

According to our Communities in School liaison, Spring Break is often considered the "forgotten holiday." In an effort to help ensure that SJMS students receive nourishment when school is both in and out of session, Minnie's created the SJMS Spring Break Care Package program. Those who signed up received a week's worth of healthy snacks and food, a package of groceries set to feed a family of four for up to a week. Over 120 SJMS families participated in this event.

Executive Internship Program

On March 12, 2020, Minnie's Food Pantry hosted their first class of internship students from Scott Johnson Middle School. Through this internship, SJMS students were given the opportunity to begin learning what it takes to operate a successful non-profit organization while staying true to a mission of thoughtful serving. They were introduced to the complex intricacies involved in the planning, production, networking, and distribution of a multi-location operation.For the interns of SJMS, this was an esteemed experience; a memory and impression of success that will last for many years to come.

What knowledge and skills did you gain from this internship with Minnie's and how do you plan on applying them in the future?

"Because of my Minnie's internship, I gained more people and business skills. I learned how to be personal and how to make people, who were coming there for service, comfortable. I learned about marketing, problem-solving, financial management, and planning. I also learned how to write a check and reach out to people to get business. Another skill that I learned while there was teamwork. I saw Minnie's Food Pantry work as a team through communication and goals. I plan on applying this new knowledge in my school work, job, and at home. I can set goals and use the people skills learned from here."

- Sienna G.
Minnie's Executive Internship Participant

In-House Snack Pantry (Communities-In-School Program)

In February of 2020, the SJMS Tiger Snack Cart program was launched. Through this program, all students of SJMS are given the opportunity to get a snack and beverage at no cost to them. Minnie's is the sole sponsor of this program and donates, monthly, anywhere between 600 to 700 pounds of items to our in-house pantry. These snacks are distributed through various clubs, organizations, and after-school programs. Minnie's willingness to "fill in the gap," on a school-wide level, is unprecedented, much needed, and sincerely appreciated.

Award for Excellence

On February 12, 2020, in addition to the unveiling of our Tiger Snack Cart, we honored Dr. Jackson, founder of Minnie's Food Pantry, with the Sonja Harrison Through the Front Door Award. This is the highest award that our campus can bestow on a person and is done so for heroic efforts and trailblazing service to the community.

Beyond the Walls of Scott Johnson Middle School

In March of 2020, the day-to-day lives and lifestyle of those in the Collin County area were halted by the impact and existence of COVID-19.

Schools shut down, people began losing their jobs at exponential rates not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930's, and a spirit of uncertainty and confusion began to prevail.

Understandably so, it was the perfect reason for Minnie's Food Pantry to retract the service commitments that they made to us.

Staying true to who they are and their desire to serve the families of SJMS, they did not. Instead of scaling back, they modified how they would help us, and built an overarching service model; onethat not only honored their commitment to help the families of SJMS, but one that extended their services to all families within the McKinney Independent School District.

11
Drive-Thru Events

2,337
Families Served

8,857
Residents Helped

Through the creation of this drive-thru program, within a six-month timeframe, Minnie's staffed and sponsored eleven drive-thru events at Scott Johnson Middle School for the families and residents of MISD. 2, 337 families received assistance because of this initiative; an estimated 8,857 people.

Minnie's dedication, follow-through, and willingness to respond to the needs of families within MISD has been met with astonishment, tears of appreciation and gratitude. Families across the district participate and have begun realizing what SJMS already knew. Minnie's Food Pantry is here for you, will serve you well, and serves with compassion.

"This program is awesome and has helped out a lot of families that can't drive into Plano. It would be really great to have the program continue and/or have a Minnie's in Mckinney."

- Karla Hoffman
SJMS Parent and Drive-Thru Participant

The investment of resources, time, and connections Minnie's is making for the families of SJMS and MISD are:

- Showing our students what it means to be persevere despite adversity;
- Directly inspiring our students to be the best possible version of themselves they can be
- Lessening the negative impact that COVID is having on the lives and families of our students

We appreciate Minnie's Food Pantry's continuous support of Scott Johnson Middle School and their unwavering commitment to our community.

SJMS Minnie's Support Team
Mrs. Trina Moody, Mrs. Beth Davis, Mr. David Walker, and Mrs. Wanda Johnson

Mrs. Holly Rogers
Scott Johnson Middle School Principal