

Students gather, sort shoes for needy Haitians

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"We try our best to reach into the community (to help people in need, by delivering food baskets to them each year, for example), so why not reach out beyond that?" Natalie said.

"It's our duty as Catholics and as citizens of the world to help each other out," Briana said.

Taeyoon Eom, a senior and member of the Social Justice Club, said a group of people with the same purpose "can go far" to aid people in need of help.

Briana said people could ignore the needs of others, and it would be easy to ignore the suffering of the Haitians by simply turning off television news about it. "But (helping) is

something we have to do."

"We feel strongly about it," Chloe added.

MSJ students are no stranger to community service. Last year, the 76 members of the student body put in more than 5,000 hours of community service, more than double their community-service requirement.

Erica Zimmer, a language teacher at Mount St. Joseph and an advisor of the Social Justice Club, said students are always willing to help someone locally or globally, and the club will be a vehicle to help educate the school community about various issues like poverty and hunger, the plight of migrant work-

ers, and domestic violence.

The club plans to look at an issue a month, added Lorin Gides, a guidance counselor and Social Justice Club coadvisor.

As members of the club sorted and counted the pile of 127 pairs of shoes donated during the first week of the project, Chloe was clearly pleased. "It's exciting. We've done really well. And we still have the rest of the month" to collect shoes. "We're going to get a lot," Zimmer said.

"This is only the beginning," Briana concluded, referring not only to the collection of shoes but to the work of the Social Justice Club

Article written by Cori Fugere Urban.