

## Good Neighbors Cushing Academy is a School with a Heart



Cushing Students with a Friend

At Cushing Academy, learning does not stop at the edges of its beautiful, rolling campus in Ashburnham. Community service is part of the students' education.

"Cushing sees community service not as an added-on, extraneous activity to our core mission, but as an integral facet of our commitment to educate our students to become humane and humanizing global citizens," according to Headmaster James Tracy.

Students involved with the Cushing Community Service Group have a full schedule of activities. Student volunteers regularly visit an adult day care facility and joined a team from the facility to take part in a local Memory Walk to raise money for Alzheimer's research. At a Walk for Autism, they volunteered at booths, did face painting and handed out water to the walkers, among other things.

Cushing students also help perform maintenance on a nearby campground. In addition, each year, the entire Cushing community celebrates Tony Fisher Day of Service to Others in memory of a Cushing alumnus, trustee and well-known philanthropist.

In the past, they've spent the day working at local parks and playgrounds, volunteering at the Boston Marathon and helping in the offices and on the decks of the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space museum in New York.

Students rake faculty members' yards in return for donations to the Sterling Animal Shelter and sold bowls at a "make your own sundae station" on Parents Weekend to raise funds for the shelter.

They also take part in campus cleanups and help out with mailings in various offices at the school.

The students aren't the only members of the Cushing family that reach out to the community. The Cushing dining service staff contributes Thanksgiving turkeys to a local church and, at the end of each term, donates extra food to local food pantries.

The dining service also caters the town fire department's holiday party and collects toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

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