

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal."



As you have seen me write before, we make a strong effort to instill in our preschoolers, even with our 2-year olds, the importance of helping others. We incorporate the message of God's love for us and how we should share that same love for others. We do this not only because we want our children to start on a path to being a kind and caring person, but also so that they begin to understand that it is a critical part of practicing our faith and good stewardship.

Relatable and hands-on community service projects are interspersed throughout our year to help practice doing good for others. We continue to seek opportunities within our parish as well as within the surrounding community. Last year, one of our preschool parents brought to us the chance to partner with the Helene Foundation in Raleigh. This organization is a program that provides immediate

support to mothers fighting cancer to positively impact their families. They try to offer assistance to the family by attempting to do things that the mother in the family might normally do such as reading bedtime stories or taking a child to the park. Again this year, through the collaborative efforts between our preschool, some of the classes at TFS, and the church, we were able to contribute to the foundation's efforts. The Franciscan School collected storybooks while the Advent tree from the church provided gift cards for such places at Barnes & Noble and Target. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the preschoolers were unable to make hot cocoa kits as they did last year. Instead, our families generously donated packets of hot cocoa while some of our preschoolers put together snowflake ornaments for the families. Extra supplies to make the ornament as a fun activity

for the children in the family were also included in the donation. What a wonderful way to come together as a parish and minister to others!

Thank you for your support of the Advent Giving Tree as your generosity helped make our donation to the Helene Foundation possible! Much appreciation also goes out to everyone who had a hand in the project! As this Advent season comes to a close, let us give thanks for our own families and be mindful of those who are in need.

Many blessings to you for good health and a joyful Christmas!

Registration for the 21-22 school year will open early in January. To learn how to join our amazing preschool, please visit our website at: preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org