

# Special Organizations

By Grace Wallingford

Mrs. Trentanelli and Mr Soeder get a lot of questions about their Perry Service Learning class at Perry High School. Many of the questions are about the organizations that they are partnered with. PSL is a senior class offered at Perry that focuses on service and leadership. Some of the organizations that PSL partners with are Broadmoore located in Mentor, Madison Senior Center, Footprints, and Salvation Army, which are all outside of campus. They also have places where students can volunteer at or near the high school like the Perry library, Perry Elementary, and the Giving Garden. Students are able to choose places that they want to volunteer and they have to do interviews with the organizations and wait to see if they get an offer.

The way some of the students are able to help these organizations when they are volunteering is serving as a peer model for the children at Footprints, helping in classrooms to help teachers in the Perry Elementary or the library. “A lot of it is going to depend on the organization they are volunteering for.” The most popular organizations that PSL students want to volunteer at is Footprints. They also take the most students, around eight. Students Zoey Hicks and Addi Renau have raised money for Footprints at events like the Perry Swim Invitational.

Confidentiality is really important to PSL and the organizations that they work with. In the first three weeks of the class, they spend time teaching about confidentiality and any other important information that they need to know before they start the class. “In our first three weeks of school we do community service 101. There are lessons on confidently, we go through real life scenarios of things we've learned and things we've gone through.” They use real life

scenarios to teach them and there is a test to make sure everyone knows. The organizations also make sure they tell the volunteers about confidentiality again to make sure they are up to date.

It's important for underclassmen and juniors to know about PSL and what they do, so more teenagers are present and active in their community, while learning important life lessons along the way.