

# Swimming & Diving Team takes Veteran's Day to new level

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*Hudson High School Swimmer*

Beyond the hype of the magical never-before 11/11/11 date, the participants of the Hudson High School Swimming and Diving (HHSSD) team focused on a more important aspect: giving back to homeless veterans for Veteran's Day.

The team had adopted their service project of collecting and donating toiletry kits to homeless veterans in Ohio last season and continued to give this year as well.

On Nov. 12, the HHSSD team gathered at East Woods Elementary to sort and package donated toiletries. The items included soap bars, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, hand sanitizer, deodorant, and more.

In addition to the volunteers, the "Hygiene Kits for Homeless Veterans" project would not have been made possible without the donations and publicity from the Hudson Explorers Aquatic Team (HEAT), Hudson High School staff, American Legion Post 685 members (Streetsboro), Starbucks Coffee, Summa Wellness Institute, LifeCenter Plus, Cutler Real Estate, Candace Sveda Interiors, Drs. Thomas Kelly and Renee Commarato, Connecting Touch Therapy and Wellness Center in Cuyahoga Falls and Play It Again Sports in Cuyahoga Falls. Without the support, donations and help of each member and business involved in the effort, the 515 toiletry kits would be nonexistent.

The service project could not have been successful without the dedication and organization of Sara Crane, senior swimmer and Karen Crane, HHS swim mom and supporter. In between stuffing hygiene bags, Cooper Goeke, a senior captain, noted, "Being homeless must really stink, and I'm glad our conditioner will be able to help their condition."

Also involved in the action, Carrie Shortman, another senior, commented, "It was awesome to see everyone working together to do something for the veterans who have done so much for our country."

Among the chaos, Sharon Martin, a representative from Volunteers of America Greater Ohio, attended in support to represent her organization. The kits made from the "Hygiene Kits for Homeless Veterans" project will be transported by her and the organization to homeless veterans in Northeast Ohio.

The Hudson High School Swimming and Diving Team plans to continue the service project in future

years. Next October, look out for the start of the new donation collecting; contributions are always needed and greatly appreciated. Each and every participant in the "Hygiene Kits for Homeless Veterans" service project is truly thankful for the contributions of each local business in the effort to make Veteran's Day something extraordinary.