

FIA - Faith in Action



Melanie Schuler, cofounder of FIA, discussed her new organization with the Optimist Club on September 24. She and Paige Volkens started FIA in July after attending the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) at Pella, Iowa in June. She was so inspired by the program that she wanted to do something to continue to make a difference in the community. She is a Junior at Treynor High School.

In July, Melanie and Paige got together to make a calendar of community service they wanted to perform. In July they collected old summer clothing and cases of water to help with the flood victims. They collected

1200-1400 pounds of items, which they gave to Mom's Place and Micah House. They also collected \$220 in cash which they used to buy baby items and other things needed by those organizations.

In August they collected 24 backpacks filled with school supplies for Mom's Place and Micah House. They also collected \$320 in cash for additional items.

In September they are collecting food and baking items and paper products. They found that there is a special need for cooking items like ketchup, mustard, and spices. They put collection boxes at TS Bank, Zion Congregational church, and St. Paul Lutheran church.

Melanie wants to keep working her community service projects for two years, until she finishes High School. She hopes to continue similar projects in college. HOBY challenged those attending to complete 100 hours of community service. Melanie says she only has 18 hours left to complete that goal.

Information about HOBY is available at hoby.org.