

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN 2016

What a year!

It didn't seem likely that any team would break the record of 1,184 hours of community service set in 2015. But the 2016 squad didn't want to hear about what they couldn't accomplish. They set their sights high and set the bar even higher. When it was all said and done, 78 Rams participated in a record 54 Community Connections events for a record 1,236 hours! These staggering numbers included several visits to elementary schools to read to the students as well as helping at "May Fairs" for West Hanover, Mountain View and Paxtonia Elementary Schools. They also brightened many days for some elderly folks by making multiple visits to retirement homes in the area. The Rams also pitched in to help several worthy causes such as Children's Miracle Network, Special Olympics, and the Big 33.

The young men of 2016 also hit a huge milestone in the history of the Community Connections program. On Saturday, December 17, several players helped lay wreaths at Fort Indiantown Gap gravesites as part of the annual Wreaths Across America tradition. This marked the 400th Community Connections event since the program's inception in 2006. (The young men of 2017 have the opportunity to hit an even bigger milestone. If the 2017 Rams can reach 842 hours, it will bring the total number of hours to 10,000!)

The seniors on the 2016 team will go down as arguably the best senior class ever in terms of volunteer hours. In fact, six of the seniors finished their careers in the all-time top 25: Jordan Sellers (7th), Sam Tillman (9th), Dylan O'Neil (16th), Terrell Gabriel (17th), Cole Veliky (20th), and Josh Fitz (22nd). It's worth mentioning that three underclassmen on the 2016 team are also on the top 25 already: Ethan Van Buskirk (5th), Adam Burkhart (10th), and Bo Heshler (17th).

Congratulations to the 2016 team for a record breaking year, and more importantly, for making a huge difference in the world around you!