

Surry Early College in conjunction with the Travis Manion Foundation; a National Veteran Nonprofit, hosted a local “Operation Legacy Service Project” to help families in need this Thanksgiving.

One of the nation’s leading veteran service organizations, Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) partnered with Surry Early College and hosted a food collection drive for the community from October 25th, 2021 until November 16th, 2021. Students in the Surry Early College High School Interact Club and Run-Ruck Club collected non-perishable food items to donate to the Dobson Food Pantry. Homerooms competed to see how many pounds of food they could collect. Each week, Interact student volunteers weighed the food and kept a tally of all donations. On Tuesday, Nov. 16, club members sorted and loaded backpacks with all food donations and students in the Run-Ruck Club carried the food 2 miles in their backpacks to the local food pantry and to restock the shelves in time for the beginning of the holiday season. The students collected 411 lbs. of food to donate.

Operation Legacy Service Projects brings together veterans, families of fallen heroes, and TMF supporters through local service projects. During Operation Legacy, TMF unites communities through a common cause, with volunteers living the “If Not Me, Then Who...” ethos and leading a movement of character, leadership, and selfless service while honoring the sacrifice of our nation’s fallen heroes.

About Travis Manion Foundation:

Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) unites communities to strengthen America's national character by empowering veterans and families of fallen heroes to develop and lead future generations. In 2007, 1stLt Travis Manion (USMC) was killed in Iraq while saving his wounded teammates. Today, Travis' legacy lives on in the words he spoke before leaving for his final deployment, "If Not Me, Then Who..." Guided by this mantra, veterans continue their service, develop strong relationships with their communities, and thrive in their post-military lives by serving as character role models to youth. As a result, communities prosper and the character of our nation’s heroes lives on in the next generation.

The story of 1stLt Travis Manion and his Naval Academy brother LT(SEAL) Brendan Looney have been publicized in the book *Brothers Forever*, and additional information about the Foundation can be found at www.travismanion.org.



Isaac Libbert rucking to the Dobson Food Pantry



Willow Lawson packing her backpack



Christopher Hernandez-Carrillo, Henry Seipel-Parks, Isaac Libbert waiting to stock items at the Dobson Food Pantry



Surry Early College Interact and Run-Ruck Club members walking back to school after dropping off 411 pounds of food at the Dobson Food Pantry.