March 2018
Giving Back through Community Service

80 youth, 25 staff, and 8 volunteers at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility packed 50,000 easy-to-serve meals for the needy yesterday. This project, in collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives and the Outreach Program, will help families served by foodbanks in Cleveland and Akron. Some meals will help families of youth through the foodbank maintained by the facility. Check out the story featured on WEWS Channel 5 Cleveland here.

DYS provides youth with opportunities to give back through community service, which gives youth a sense of pride and accomplishment as they provide needed services to various organizations throughout the state. Community service aligns with the restorative justice principle of making a positive contribution to society. It’s a chance for youth to become more aware of the consequences of their actions and make restitution to communities. Engaging youth in these meaningful opportunities helps to minimize idle time, alleviating boredom and tension. Activities often help youth learn new technical skills, gain social skills, focus attention, acquire marketable job skills and increase personal growth.

Community Service in 2017
11,324 hours of service by youth in facilities
2,825 hours of service by youth on parole
Organizations served by youth last year included:

- Adopt-a-Highway
- Akron-Canton Foodbank
- Children’s Network of Stark County
- Crayons to Computers
- Haven House of Pickaway County
- Red Cross
- True North Ministries

We appreciate you – our valued partners – and we are here to serve you. If you interested in having your nonprofit organization, school, church, or government agency benefit from community service by our youth, please contact Anna Karousis, Community Engagement Liaison, at (614) 728-5733 or by email at Anna.Karousis@DYS.Ohio.Gov.