



Seth Woods/Johnson City Press

The Grandview Baptist Church youth group assist with a project at the Coalition for Kids as part of Milligan College's Global Youth Service Day.

Students pitch in for Global Youth Service Day

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Instead of spending a rainy Saturday morning surfing channels on the couch, some local high school and college students took part in several community service activities.

Milligan College student Lindsey Meding assisted with Earth Day, held at the Hands On! Regional Museum in downtown Johnson City. Meding and other volunteers educated Girl Scouts about the harmful effects of chemicals and explained ways to take better care of the earth.

"It's a good community building activity for the girls," Meding said. "It's good for them to learn more about the earth so that we can be good stewards of what God has given us."

The event was part of the first Global Youth Service Day for Northeast Tennessee. Milligan College, 88.3 WCQR, Summit Leadership Foundation and Servicebank sponsored the service day. Phyllis Fox, director of church relations and Youth in Ministry at Milligan, said several Milligan students and members from local churches volunteered their time.

"Global Youth Service Day allows students to not only make a difference in our community, but also learn invaluable lessons about student leadership," Fox said in a news release.

Ryan Bader, a youth minister at Grandview Christian Church, volunteered with his youth group at the Coalition for Kids on Watauga Road. Students raked and shoveled mulch from a walking trail to make way for gravel. Bader and his group often find ways to give back to the community.

"As citizens of the community, it's worthwhile to get out and contribute at an early age," said Bader. "As Christians we need to serve and practice the disciple of helping others on a regular basis."

Doug Stanley, Washington County's board president for the Boys and Girls Club, brought in 32 youth to participate in a clean-up day. Students transported playground equipment from trailers into the organization's main storage units to eliminate trailers from off-site locations.

Service projects were followed up by dinner and a worship service at Milligan. The evening service featured music by Mosteller and guest speaker Johnny Bragg, a minister at The Oaks Fellowship in Johnson City.