

# My Name My Story

## MNMS @ Princeton Day School ~ Making an Impact

*"...I can just imagine the smiles on the little kid's faces!"*

In April 2013 **Devika Kumar**, a freshman at Princeton Day School in Princeton, New Jersey, founded the My Name My Story High School Club at her school. The club began with about eleven members, all students who were inspired to action by My Name My Story's focus on empathy and leadership, as well as the desire to serve and to make a difference in their community. The club received full support from the faculty and staff, especially from **Maria Shepard** who agreed to proctor the club.

MNMS@PDS immediately began their first project. Within their first few weeks as a school club, they looked for ways to make a positive impact in their community. Their



first project was a Book Drive; they chose to support *Anchor House*, an agency for at-risk youth that provides a "safe place to rest" for those who need one. They chose this organization in particular because for the last thirty-four years, Anchor House has not only provided a place of shelter for youth, but has also strived to enable and empower these youth: to utilize their strengths and the support of their families to ensure a stable and successful home.

MNMS@PDS was able to collect over 1,800 books! They set up crates in central locations on their campus and publicized the drive to students using Facebook, club meetings, announcements, etc. Once the books were collected, the MNMS leaders held a "sorting party" to sort, stack, and arrange the books for delivery, while having fun and forging bonds with other teen leaders they met in support of a common cause.

After delivering the books, the MNMS team went out as a team, celebrating the friendships that came out of working together to serve others!

This academic year, MNMS@PDS hit the ground running. They found an organization called Jersey Cares that connects volunteers with specific projects in the New Jersey Area. They discovered that the anniversary of Hurricane Sandy had been turned into "Sandy Service Day: Remember, Rebuild, Recover", a day dedicated to repairing the still-lasting effects of Hurricane Sandy. The high-school leaders chose to participate in an



activity called "painting playful playgrounds" at *Ethel Jacobsen Elementary School* in Surf City, NJ approximately two hours away from their school. Although they were the only group assigned to the project, they got to work quickly. Wearing their customized MNMS@PDS shirts, they spent the day painting the black top with line games like Hopscotch and Four Square, brightening the campus and encouraging kids to play outside. What a perfect way to inspire empathy in the next generation!

It's still early in the year and MNMS @ PDS is a young school club. It's amazing to see the



work they have done for their community. They're also a great example of having fun while doing work for others! Great job Princeton Day School! We can't wait to see what you guys come up with next!

*"Sandy Service Day was a truly great experience because it allowed us to really affect our own community through a very traumatic time. Hurricane Sandy demolished a lot of our own state... so people are still building back... It felt so good to give our help to the community and children!"*



### SPOTLIGHT

This month MNMS would like to recognize the MNMS @ PDS National

#### Leaders:

Ashely Abrams  
Chris Chai  
Helen Healey  
Uditi Karna  
Ritvik Khandelwal  
Anna Kovacevich  
Devika Kumar  
Tarika Kumar  
Ben Multak  
Ava Nusblatt  
Peter Sanderson  
Katie Shih  
Jacky Sun  
Emily Um  
Mia Wong

### SUPPORT

My Name My Story  
with your

### DONATION

This holiday season when you give, we would like you to consider supporting My Name My Story.

Your gift will directly benefit projects and support youth leaders that Inspire Empathy in your community.

**CLICK HERE TO GIVE NOW!**

For more information on how you can create an impact in your school and community visit:

[www.mynamemystory.org](http://www.mynamemystory.org)

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Facebook & Twitter

[info@mynamemystory.org](mailto:info@mynamemystory.org)