

The Sparrow Club Outreach

I am sure that many of you have heard or seen me talking to individuals or small groups about the Sparrow Club. If you have not, you should be aware of this project, especially since the church has been one of the essential organizations in getting it funded and started at the Woodstock Academy.

The Sparrow Club USA is a 501C3 organization whose purpose is to enable kids to help kids. Its core values are character, conscience, community, and compassion. A Sparrow is an individual seventeen years old or younger with an unmet medical need. The present model of a Sparrow Club requires a school and Woodstock Academy will be that school locally. The student members of that club pledge to perform two hundred and fifty-six hours of community service per year for which they are reimbursed at ten dollars an hour by club sponsors. The twenty-five hundred and sixty dollars is available to the Sparrow and the Sparrow's family to help financially. At the same time, the school "socially adopts" the Sparrow who becomes an integral part of the school.

Funding a Sparrow Club requires four thousand and sixty dollars annually. Thanks to the contributions of Christ Church, the Pomfret Lions Club, the Putnam Rotary Club, and ManTec that requirement has been accomplished. As noted above, twenty-five hundred and sixty dollars goes directly to the Sparrow. The other fifteen hundred dollars supports the national organization. With approximately fifty Sparrow Clubs presently operating, the national organization has a yearly operating budget of seventy-five thousand dollars. That money enables the club to provide all accounting services, training, videos of the Sparrows, and literature. This is a unique model that falls in line with the Connecticut Episcopal Church's efforts to start ministries that will better integrate the church with local schools. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with me or contact me. – Bill Abbott