

**Project of Excellence - Best New Project**

Goal … create new projects, build future leaders, encourage membership recruitment - all while improving the communities we live in.

*Criteria*:

The project cannot have won any Project of Excellence Award in the past 5 years by any Council, Club or Chapter in any state/region (see list below).

There must be 20 Pioneer volunteer hours.

There must be a new project leader or new co-leader (Pioneer).

There must be at least 1 new Regular Member involved.

There must be at least 2 social media posts.

*Determination of Winner*:

The winner will be selected by the online voting of the Pioneer membership during the annual Leadership Conference. Do not have to be present to vote.

*Other*:

This is an annual award. The winner receives a $500 grant. In the event of a tie, the monies will be split.

Below is a list of the POE project winners for the past five years:

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| **YEAR** | **Category** | **Project** | **Detail** |
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| **2017** | **Education** | **Show-Me Literacy** | Providing schools with the tools they need to strengthen literacy. Numerous partnerships were formed and over 7,800 books were donated to 46 schools, 3,000 dictionaries to 56 schools, 26 e-readers, and a STEM event where over 300 female students attended AT&T Aspire Girls in Future Technology Day (G.I.F.T.). |
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| **2018** | **Education** | **The Pioneers Give A Glowing New Room to Pace** | PACE Center for Girls provides a non-residential delinquency prevention program who are identified as dependent, truant, runaway, delinquent, or in need of academic help. The multipurpose room, counselors’ office & back patio were in shabby shape. The created a butterfly garden & cleaned up landscaping, updated counselor's office, and stripped off wallpaper & painted multi-purpose room. |
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| **2019** | **Education** | **Backpack Project** | 309 backpacks were delivered with over 3,399 school supply items to 7 schools to needy students. Many of the students were either homeless or in foster care. |
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| **2020** | **Education** | **I Support the Girls** | Providing girls & women experiencing homelessness, dignity, and self-respect by donating bras & feminine hygiene products. |
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| **2021** | **Education** | **Touch Up Town** | Touch Up Town was built by Pioneers to help visually impaired children navigate the world in which they live. It is now over 30 years old and in need of major repair. All the buildings were repaired, new furniture provided, activity boards built, raised garden beds built, etc. |
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| **2017** | **Environment** | **Welcome Back Bluebirds** | With Bluebirds disappearing, goals were to improve reproductive success of bluebirds by placing nest boxes in city greenspaces & suburban neighborhoods, monitor success of the boxes, report efforts to Cornell U's NestWatch program. |
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| **2018** | **Environment** | **Beautification Project** | Two goals - Highway Clean Up & Stream and Riverbank Clean Up. Stream Team is a group of Pioneers who are approved by the state of MO to clean up streams and riverbanks once a month throughout the summer months. |
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| **2019** | **Environment** | **This Bench Used to be a Bottlecap** | Recycling of caps for benches. Lids labeled 2, 4, & 5 were collected, cleaned, sorted, and sent to a manufacturer. Partnered with schools to collect, etc. Benches were donated to schools and over 3100 lbs. of plastic were recycled. |
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| **2020** | **Environment** | **Recycling Prescription Bottles for Medshare** | Collecting medicine bottles, cleaning, and sending monthly to MedShare. |
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| **2021** | **Environment** | **Drive by Art: Freeway Sculpture Restoration** | Restore 3 sculptures along highway, adopt section of highway, remove graffiti and vegetation, and reinstall sculptures. |
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| **2017** | **Health & Human Svcs** | **Lending a Hand to the Homeless** | Finding new ways to help homeless and volunteer opportunities for Pioneers. Partnered with non-profits & did multiple projects such as knitting hats, baking cookies for lunch bags, washing towels at portable showers, etc. |
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| **2018** | **Health & Human Svcs** | **Race to Build** | Providing a safe, clean, & sturdy home for 3 families in need. Building three homes with partnerships in the community. |
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| **2019** | **Health & Human Svcs** | **Foster Care Project** | Three phases to this project - Building 39 unassembled bicycles, filling 136 Easter baskets, and collecting donations for summer camp (136 children). All for foster care families. |
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| **2020** | **Health & Human Svcs** | **All Children Should Have Shoes** | Provide shoes for 839 children. Hosted event at 3 locations with needy children picking out shoes. |
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| **2021** | **Health & Human Svcs** | **Box 55** | Box 55 is a charity which provides rehab services to First Responders. Because it is run 100% by volunteers and operates solely on donations, the Pioneers held a yard sale fundraiser and donated 100% of the funds. |
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| **2017** | **Life Enrichment** | **Build A Bed** | Providing/building 10 beds, mattresses, and bedding for children in need. |
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| **2018** | **Life Enrichment** | **St. Vincent DePaul Pantry Expansion** | Enlarge a food pantry along with food drive. Make space in pantry function better and better storage. Wall moved and much more! |
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| **2019** | **Life Enrichment** | **Chemo Comfort Bags** | Support cancer patients by donating Chemo Comfort Bags--added additional items as well as those that come with the ordered bags. |
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| **2020** | **Life Enrichment** | **Camping During COVID** | A camp is held for children who are burn camp victims each summer. Due to COVID, it was held virtually in 2020. The Chapter purchased 60 computer tablets for the campers so they could have a virtual camp and, sent art supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, etc.) to add to their "Camp in a Box" that was sent to each child. |
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| **2021** | **Life Enrichment** | **A Feast of Giving Thanks & Love & Turkey** | Provide a Thanksgiving Day meal to those who were struggling to put food on the table. Three projects took place and 600 families received Thanksgiving Turkey dinners with all the fixings. |
| **TIE** |  |  |
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| **2021** | **Life Enrichment** | **Midwest Children's Burn Camp** | A birthday party was held for children in the camp (60% on food stamps or below federal poverty level). A birthday wish list was placed on Amazon and all 64 children were adopted by our regular and life members with the gifts sent directly to the camp director from Amazon and given to the children at camp. |
| **TIE** |  |  |
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| **2017** | **Military** | **Operation Baby Seabags** | Provide layette items (Baby Seabags) to moms (wives of soldiers). Bags included blankets, bibs, crib sheets, onesies, bath sets, & a stuffed animal, etc. |
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| **2018** | **Military** | **Coffee Bunker** | Gathered supplies, cleaned, and organize property & offices for a Veterans gathering place (improvement of facilities). Obtained furniture, equipment, etc. |
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| **2019** | **Military** | **SRO Veteran's Day** | To help Veterans living on Skid Row, an event was held with meals, raffles, and an essential kit were provided to each. |
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| **2020** | **Military** | **Yountville Veterans** | Supporting the Yountville Veterans home by holding Casino night and BBQ for the Veteran Home residents as well as visiting during all holidays and providing items the Veterans such as clothing and books and puzzles to keep their minds sharp & pass the time. |
|  | **TIE** |  |
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| **2020** | **Military** | **Backpacks for Homeless Veterans** | Provided backpacks for homeless Veterans--584 backpacks filled with personal care items to 12 organizations (special bags were put together for the women Veterans as well). |
|  | **TIE** |  |
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| **2021** | **Military** | **Military Golf Tournament** | Fundraise through annual charity golf tournament for two Military Organizations. Also invited veterans and groups who support veterans. |
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