

Community Partner: Overstreet Elementary School: Overstreet One on One

Team name: A+ Team Dawgs

Team Members: Na'Keesha Jones, Marquita Levy, Emily Pitts, Henry Stafford

The A+ Team Dawgs Action Team completed 115 hours of service to the Oktibbeha County Red Cross, logged 105 visits, and traveled 452 miles during the fall semester of 2008. The purpose of their work was to give back to their new community by tutoring the kids of the future. They wanted to give them the confidence to dream big because they know tomorrow's leaders have not yet been chosen and they wanted to teach these children the skills they will need to succeed in the future. The A+ Team Dawgs addressed their purpose by tutoring elementary students at Overstreet Elementary school twice a week. Each action team member focused on building a relationship with their designated students when tutoring them. The team also created a program that will help tutor students in the future. A life-size game was created so the elementary students could interact more with the subjects that they are learning. Here are some of the A+ Team Dawgs thoughts about the past semester. "At the beginning of the semester we thought we had it easy. We thought we would go to the school, read to some little kids, log our hours and call it a day. However, after getting more involved with our project, we realized that we had a bigger responsibility than we cared to believe. The two children that were picked out for each of us to tutor were very impressionable. We had to be sure to set a very good example for them because we were their tutors and role models. After finding out that we had to leave behind an item to help the children in years to come, we decided that we wanted to make learning fun. What better way for it to be fun than by creating a game? We decided that a game would allow the children to see that learning can be interesting and fun and that it could excite them to continue their education throughout their lives."