

MLK volunteers clean York's Jackson school

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United Way of York County Coordinator Emily Arndt cleans desks in a music room at Jackson Elementary School on Monday. (Bill Kalina Photo)

The nearly 100-year-old Jackson Elementary School has built up its share of dust over the past century.

That made it a ripe location to clean.

About a dozen volunteers took part in United Way of York County's "Day of Service" for Martin Luther King Jr. Day by cleaning Jackson.

With spray sanitizer aplenty, they scrubbed down the cafeteria, the music and art classrooms and other parts of the York City School District building. Judging by their once-white dirty cloths, it was a thorough effort.

Bob Renjilian, whose family volunteers on this day every year, scrubbed the music room piano to put the ivory shine back in the 88 keys. Erika Allen, a York Catholic senior, wiped down classroom chairs.

"It's great to come out to help, when I would have just been sitting around anyway," said Allen, who was working on her school's community service requirement, which she's already fulfilled. "I always like to do more."

Even some Jackson students came out on their day off.

"I didn't know he liked school this much. He doesn't clean his room this way," said mother Jenn Myers, as she watched her first-grade son, David, diligently wipe down a cafeteria table.

It's important for her son to learn the benefits of volunteering, she added.

"You have to show by example," Myers said.

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