

SJD Snack Shack Impact Report

2025-2026 School Year

More Than 5,300 Student Visits during this past School Year

During the 2025-2026 school year, the SJD Snack Shack welcomed **more than 5,300 student visits** from Lamar High School students over 30 Monday afternoons. Supported by more than 60 dedicated volunteers contributing 650 hours of service, the Snack Shack has become one of St. John the Divine's most visible expressions of our call to be "A Light for the City." Through simple acts of hospitality, encouragement and presence, volunteers help students know they are seen, valued and loved.

Bringing Hospitality to Lamar High School Students

The SJD Snack Shack is a Go Outreach Ministry of St. John the Divine that welcomes students from Lamar High School each Monday afternoon during the school year. Located on the southeast corner of our campus, the Snack Shack provides complimentary snacks and beverages while creating a welcoming space where students experience kindness, encouragement and genuine hospitality.

What began as a simple outreach has grown into a consistent and meaningful presence in the lives of Lamar students. More than a place to grab a snack, the Snack Shack is an opportunity for our parish to build relationships, be good neighbors and remind young people that they are seen and loved.

Impact by the Numbers

During the 2025-2026 School Year

- **5,300 student visits**
- **30 Mondays served**
- **325 volunteer shifts**
- **60+ unique volunteers**
- **650 volunteer hours**
- **177 student visits per week on average**
- **11 volunteers serving each week on average**

A Ministry of Presence

Every Monday, parishioners gathered to prepare, welcome, and serve students as they leave school for the day. Through snow cones, popcorn, hot chocolate, snacks and simple conversations, volunteers created opportunities for connection and community.

Many students became familiar faces who returned week after week. Volunteers learned names, shared stories, offered encouragement, and built relationships through the simple act of showing up consistently.

While snacks may have been the initial draw, the true impact of the Snack Shack has been the relationships formed and the message communicated: our church cares about the young people in our neighborhood.

Strengthening Community Connections

The Snack Shack has helped strengthen St. John the Divine's relationship with the Lamar High School community and demonstrated our commitment to serving the city beyond our church walls.

Through this ministry, students regularly encounter adults who are invested in their well-being and willing to offer hospitality with no expectations in return. This visible expression of care has become an important witness to our faith and our commitment to being a welcoming presence in the neighborhood.

Volunteer Impact

The Snack Shack has also become one of St. John the Divine's most accessible and relational outreach opportunities.

More than 60 parishioners participated throughout the year, contributing 650 volunteer hours. Volunteers of all ages served together, creating a joyful atmosphere while building friendships with one another and with the students they welcomed each week.

The ministry continues to provide a meaningful way for parishioners to live out their faith through consistent acts of hospitality and service.

Looking Ahead

The SJD Snack Shack will resume serving students when Lamar High School returns for the 2026-2027 school year. As the ministry continues to grow, our goal remains the same: to share Christ's love through hospitality, relationship-building and faithful presence in our community.