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Upcoming SkillsUSA community service/service learning projects *MTI students and staff help the local community while practicing skills they learn*

(Bradenton, FL—September 23, 2011)

Massage Therapy: SkillsUSA students from the MTI Massage Therapy program will be giving chair massages to guests participating in the 2011 Sarasota/Manatee Heart Walk. The walk takes place at Payne Park in Sarasota on September 24 at 8:00 am. Please call instructor Nancie Yonker at 751-8479 ext 2037 for more information.

EMT: Students, staff, and friends are invited to dine at The Red Elephant Pizza and Grill (University Parkway, Kohl's Shopping Plaza) on September 22, 23 and 24. When guests mention MTI, the EMT program receives 15% of the sale to help send students to SkillsUSA competition. Please call counselor Donna Puhlovich at 752-8100 ext 234 for more information.

Boat Building and Marine Service Technology: SkillsUSA students from the Boat Building and Marine Service Technology programs will participate in a Coastal Clean-up on September 29 near Robinson Preserve. Students clean up trash along the causeway and in the water and learn boating safety skills. Please contact instructor Kelly Ewing at 751-7900 ext 2041 for more information.

Carpentry: Carpentry students constructed 76 condiment boxes for Cha Cha Coconuts in St. Petersburg. The SkillsUSA students also made large containers for collecting goods for Project Blue Star. (See "Medical Coder/Biller" below for more information on Project Blue Star.) Please contact instructor Barry King at 751-7900 ext 2040 for more information.

Medical Coder/Biller: Medical Coder/Biller students created Project Blue Star. Throughout the year, the class will work together to support troops overseas. The SkillsUSA students are currently collecting items such as food, toiletries, magazines, and baby wipes. The class collects donations for Blue Star Mothers in Sarasota, an organization that ships the care packages to the troops. Please call instructor Dorri McPherson at 751-7900 ext 2177 for more information.

MTI's Lion's Club: The Lion's Club now has a food pantry at MTI's main campus. The food pantry helps MTI students in need. Student members of the Lion's Club are accepting non-perishable food items donations. Please call coordinator Dianne Perry at 751-7900 ext 2197 for more information.

Web Design: Web Design students are currently designing websites for the Manatee County Coalition for Homelessness, the Lion's Club, The Manatee Technical Institute SkillsUSA Chapter and the MTI Ecology Ed newsletter. The SkillsUSA students are also organizing a National Recycling Day event in November. Please call instructor Vera Bourenina at 751-7900 ext 2210 for more information.

About Manatee Technical Institute

Manatee Technical Institute is a postsecondary career and technical education center under the School District of Manatee County offering over 40 career preparation programs. It is fully accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The mission of Manatee Technical Institute is to meet and exceed our community's training and educational expectations. MTI is a 2007 Tampa Bay Business of the Year, and its students have won more SkillsUSA medals than any other school in the nation for the past eight years.

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