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MCC athletes set a new service record

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Eleven Mesa Community College athletics teams took time out of their busy schedules to participate in a service project at Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit organization based in Mesa that sends volunteer-packed, nutritious meals to 70 countries worldwide. The students packed a total of 275 food boxes in two hours, breaking the previous record of 252 in the same time frame. The 275 boxes represent 59,400 meals, enough to feed 162 children for a full year, according to a press release.

Participating in these types of projects is one of the ways MCC coaches instill pride in their students not only making their school better through academic and athletic achievements, but by making a difference in the world around them, according to a press release.

"It is great for our athletes to see what it is like for those not as fortunate as them," said Drew Guarneri, head MCC women's soccer coach. "It was nice to see the teamwork the Thunderbirds displayed to help kids in need."

Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding children hungry in body and spirit. FMSC has tackled world hunger since 1987. The meals are specifically designed to reverse and prevent malnutrition and are used in schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty.

"We are so excited about the record-breaking number of boxes packed by the MCC athletes. We are grateful for the passion they have to feed starving kids around the world," Janine Skinner, development advisor for FMSC,

MCC students occupied all the filling tables, serving as label and bag people and box runners. After about an hour into the project, the folks at FMSC realized that MCC students might be able to break the record for filling boxes.

Once the FMSC workers notified the student athletes that they were on pace to break the record, their competitive spirit took over. A loud roar of encouragement rang out across the warehouse and food bags were packed in record time.

"It was a great opportunity to spend time with my teammates and players from other Mesa teams," said cross country athlete Samantha Miller. "You always feel great when you help kids in need."

The Mesa Independent is available in Mesa and Maricopa County

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