

Title of Project: Care to Bare the Cold

Grade Level: 9-12th

Number of Students Participating:

Contributed by: Trent Derrick

Teacher: Trent Derrick

School: Lakeland High School

District or County: Kootenai County,
Coeur d'Alene District #271



Overview/Description of Project:

Students will research hunger and homelessness in their community and state. Brainstorm ideas of how they can help the community with this issue.

Goals:

To gain knowledge about the issues of hunger and homelessness, examine conditions that cause poverty and lead to hunger and homelessness. Provide needs at a homeless shelter.

Core Content Areas:

(teacher completes this section)

English/Language Arts: Write letters to homeless shelters to invite speakers.

Social Studies/History: Research issues on hunger and basic human needs. Learn what social service agencies are available to deal with these issues.

Math: Study statistics of homeless populations.

PARC MODEL STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

STEP 1: PREPARATION

Students studied why people become homeless and the surrounding issues with hunger and poverty. Researched which group was the highest homeless population. Students invited a speaker from a local shelter to come to the school to share experiences of the homeless.

Students decided they wanted to experience what it was like to be homeless and spread awareness throughout their school. They came up with the idea to spend the night on their school tennis court as if they were homeless.

The students brainstormed what they could do to help the homeless shelter.

STEP 2: ACTION

On a cold, rainy night in October, they brought boxes and blankets to sleep in. There was a fire barrel to keep warm, but no food was allowed or cell phones, etc. The boys and girls were separated by a chain link fence, but gathered together to hear speakers from the local homeless shelter tell that there were approximately 300 homeless people that night out on the streets. These included families with children. One student said she just tried to “survive” the cold night, and it wasn’t until the following day that the reality hit of what it would be like not to be able to come home to a warm house. They called this event “Care to Bare the Cold”.

After this the students decided to collect blankets and canned food for the homeless shelter. They also raised money to buy Walmart gift cards.

STEP 3: REFLECTION (Reflection is not sequential; rather it is encouraged throughout the lesson)

Students wrote articles on how it felt to be “homeless” that night.

STEP 4: CELEBRATION

This event was publicized in the State Department of Education’s *Kids In Action* newsletter. Several students put together a CD with music sharing their experience.