

Empty Bowls Soup Supper

Community Objective

To increase community awareness of world hunger, and to encourage donations for the local food pantry.

Background

"Believe that we here on Earth can learn to feed one another as well."
Empty Bowls is a nationally known program that was started in Detroit, Michigan, to raise money to feed the hungry. At Keyser Primary Middle School, Keyser, West Virginia, the whole-school Project involves creating a functional product--a ceramic bowl--and making soup to raise funds for addressing a local need.

Challenged Student Conditions

Physically, mentally, socially, educationally, and economically challenged students can be service-providers, if we:

- ~Include them in the planning
- ~Provide help and guidance when needed
- ~Teach them what is expected and needed to do the job
- ~Assign appropriate work
- ~Make sure the facilities are accessible for all.

Resources

- ~Food pantry director, speaker
- ~School cafeteria with kitchen
- ~Student, teacher, and parent volunteers
- ~Ceramic kiln, non-toxic paints and ceramic white clay
- ~Donated ingredients for vegetable-beef soup
- ~Vegetable soup recipe for a large quantity
- ~Coordinator to schedule, advertise, and enlist volunteers, head cook

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Timeline of Service Activities

September

- ~Order ceramic clay and non-toxic paints through the art teacher.
- ~Introduce project idea to fifth graders through developmental guidance class, including lesson on local, state, national, world-wide hunger needs.
Why are people hungry?
- ~Make soup bowls in art class.

October

- ~Put advertising in place with newspaper, PTO newsletter.
- ~Send parent letters home about the soup supper, encouraging donations of desserts, soup ingredients, and the upcoming sale of bowls, assigning specific items to each grade level.

November

- ~Schedule two 2-hour sessions of vegetable chopping by middle school students, parent volunteers, and coordinator.
- ~Schedule donations of canned and fresh vegetable donations for the soup, one week prior to the supper.
- ~Day of Supper: Organize student volunteers from the Builders' Club to set up Empty Bowls display, drinks and desserts table, set the tables with baskets of crackers and bread, train student cashiers, waitresses, greeters and servers. Soup ingredients put together after last lunch shift. Supper from 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- ~One week later: Prepare a check for the local food pantry for 50% of the project funds, leaving 50% for next year's materials for making bowls.

Reflection

- ~Student volunteers will do a graffiti wall about their thoughts and feelings regarding the Empty Bowls Soup Supper for the bulletin board in the cafeteria for all to enjoy.
- ~Encourage fifth graders to help each other and talk together as they work with the clay.

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Celebration

- ~Photos and videotapes will be taken of the bowl production and the preparation of the soup, as well as the soup supper.
- ~Invite the director of the local food pantry to come to school to meet with the fifth graders to talk about how the pantry works with volunteers and to receive the check of donated funds.
- ~Present service-learning certificates for middle school soup supper volunteers for their school-to-work portfolios.

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

Civics

- ~Students will increase in their awareness of local needs, as in hunger, and the function of a local agency, the Food Pantry.
- ~Students will work together, cooperatively as a member of a team, in a whole-school effort to raise funds to help meet a local need, experiencing the benefits of volunteerism.

Art Education

- ~Fifth grade students will use the clay medium to create a three dimensional and functional form. (5.3, 5.4, 5.13, 5.22)
- ~Fifth graders will identify historical uses of clay and some of the artists who work with it. (5.19, 5.24, 5.25)

Health Education Workplace Process Goals

- ~Students will apply core content skills and knowledge to a "real world" problem-hunger.
- ~Students will increase their awareness of careers in food service, social service, and janitorial service.

Contact Information

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