

Title of Project: Hunger and Homelessness in our Community

Grade Level: 6th grade

Number of Students Participating: 70

Contributed by:

Teacher: Dani Bonawitz

School: Wendell Middle School

District or County: Wendell School District #232

Overview/Description of Project: Students read about MaKenzie Snyder and how she helped others. In each advisory class, students brainstormed reasons for homelessness and hunger, discussed needs in our area, organizations that could be resources, and chose a way they could help our 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, identify people's basic needs, and demonstrate compassion by understanding we have a responsibility to help others.

Core Content Areas:

Writing Standard 4: Writing Applications-Students will write a five paragraph essay about ways they can show responsibility for others and help fight hunger and homelessness in their community.

Writing Standard 5: Writing Components-Students will use correct spelling, sentence structures, and conventions in their essay

Writing Standard 6: Communication-Students will listen to acquire information from the Salvation Army representatives and ask questions that seek information

Math Standard 2: Concepts and Principles of Measurement- Students will select appropriate units and tools for measurement. Students will apply estimation of measurement to real world problems using standard measuring devices.

PARC MODEL STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

STEP 1: PREPARATION

Sixth grade students read about MaKenzie Snyder and Dave Valle, people who felt it was their responsibility to help others during their advisory classes. Students brainstormed reasons for hunger and homelessness, the basic needs of people, and ways they could help in our community. In English class, students put their thoughts into a five-paragraph essay.

STEP 2: ACTION

Using ideas from their writing, each advisory class chose a project that would help the hungry and homeless in our community. Students and their advisors met once a week for six weeks to complete their chosen project to be donated to the Salvation Army.

Some students collected personal hygiene items. They contacted local businesses and asked for donations. Our local dentist donated toothbrushes and toothpaste. In addition, students collected shampoo and conditioner, bath soap, and deodorant. They brought in coffee cans, decorated them, and then divided the donated items into the cans.

Some students made tied quilts. Students had to determine how much material would be needed and what supplies would be needed to make two blankets per advisory class. They also had to determine how much money would be needed to purchase the supplies. Students collected the needed funds and purchased the materials needed. Each class made two blankets. They had to measure the material to square it, measure each section to tie, and then place the two pieces of fabric together and tie them.

The students also decided to donate their good used clothing and blankets and each classroom gathered items to be donated.

The Salvation Army received all of our donations and sent representatives to each classroom to collect the items, thank the students, and share how their items would be donated to those less fortunate.

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

Through journaling students realized how fortunate they were and how much they take for granted. After the Salvation Army representatives talked with our students, they were amazed at how many homeless and hungry people there were in our community, especially children. They were thrilled to know they had made a positive impact on many people's lives. An unexpected outcome is the continued desire of our students to reach out and help others in our community. They actively seek out ways to help, and they beg the teachers to do service learning projects. Students have become the driving force of our school's service learning efforts and it is AWESOME!

STEP 4: CELEBRATION

The Salvation Army brought a truck to our school and students loaded the tied blankets, cans of personal hygiene items, and bags of clothing and blankets onto the truck. The students were very excited to see the truck being filled with their generosity and hard work.