

Service Quarterly

THE COUNCIL FOR SPIRITUAL AND ETHICAL EDUCATION

Food for Thought

I slept and dreamt that life was pleasure;
I woke and saw that life was service;
I served and discovered that service was pleasure.

Rabindranath Tagore

With the “Holiday Season” upon us, many of our schools are reaching out to people in need. A number of schools collect toys and teddy bears and coats and coins for donations to worthy charities; others are visiting the infirm or helping feed the hungry or singing carols and hymns at nursing homes or baking cookies for neighbors. All in the spirit of “giving,” and how admirable!

Why do we emphasize “giving” so much in December when the need exists all year? Shouldn’t we be doing monthly (or daily!) “random acts of kindness?” Remember that the hungry, the ill and the homeless are still there—in the same condition—long after snows melt and bells stop ringing in the New Year.

May all your resolutions include helping those less fortunate all year. Happy Holidays to all.

Welcome to the First Issue of Service Quarterly!

This is the launch of CSEE’s Community Service newsletter—a first step (in a larger process to come)—to provide resources to directors of Community Service programs across the country via articles, reports on school programs, book suggestions, web sites, and other service tidbits to keep us all informed and connected.

We hope you will benefit from the information found in this newsletter. For future issues, we would like to have your input. Tell us what you want to know or see, or what you have that others might like to see; we will make every effort to add your segment, answer your questions, or feature your outstanding project or program. Let us hear from you at service@csee.org.

Service Quarterly is a free service of the Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education. Pass it on!

10 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SERVICE PROJECT

1. Identify your target group

Have your students decide whom they would like to help

2. Assess their need

Before you begin, ask the targeted group “what can we do to help you?”

3. Link with a local agency

Have the students research the community resources; is there an agency you can partner with?

4. Make a plan

Be sure to know the who, what, when, where how & budget of the project. Timelines also help

5. Solicit volunteers

People don’t volunteer because they are NOT asked; ask faculty, staff, coaches, parents, friends

6. Execute plan

Check your plan, be sure everyone knows it—then go do your good work!

7. Include FOOD

Oh yes, don’t ever forget to have some food on hand

8. Acknowledge your volunteers

Thank everyone for their hard work—quantify the collective volunteer hours for the group; this makes for a great piece of information

9. Take pictures

Photo speak a thousand words: let them tell about your success!

10. Evaluate and celebrate

Allow students to evaluate the project and to reflect on the experience – give them a few days...

CSEE’s Annual Community Service Conference

What in the World is Going On?

A fresh look at the contemporary issues surrounding global service and philanthropy
Cathedral College
Washington National Cathedral
Washington, D.C.
April 21-22, 2007

Join us for engaging discussion, contemplation, energy & excitement led by Mary Pashley (Choate Rosemary Hall) and Ann Saylor (Harpeth Hall School)

See information and registration forms at www.csee.org

worthy weblinks

www.servicelarning.org

National Clearinghouse for Service Learning. lots of ideas and resources for K-12 schools.

www.americaspromise.org

America's Promise mobilizes people from every sector of American life to build the character and competence of our Nation's youth by fulfilling Five Promises for young people

www.giraffe.org

The Giraffe Project – Giraffe Heroes are people who stick their necks out for the common good. The Giraffe Heroes Project has been working for over two decades now to both encourage people to stick their necks out, and to give them the tools to do so. (See *Voices of Hope* on page 3.)

www.pointsoflight.org

Among their many initiatives, The Points of Light Foundation works in partnership with the Volunteer Center National Network (VCNN) to help mobilize people and resources to find creative solutions to community problems.

www.service-learningpartnership.org

The National Service-Learning Partnership serves as a national leadership hub for individuals and organizations committed to raising the visibility and enhancing the quality of service-learning in schools and communities across the country.

www.ysa.org

Youth Service America is a resource center committed to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities for young people to

Service Programs & Moral Development in Schools

In their recent book *The Smart and Good High School*, Thomas Lickona, Ph. D. and Matthew Davidson, Ph.D., outline “ideal outcomes” for strong character education programs, and they illustrate their outcomes with observations or reports of real programs in real schools. In chapter 7 (“Fostering the 8 Strengths of Character”), with their goal of helping schools nurture students into contributing community members and democratic citizens, Lickona and Davidson point to the importance of “Engaging Students in Service” with the following anecdote from Richard Curwin’s book *Rediscovering Hope: Our Greatest Teaching Strategies*.



“Curwin describes an experiment with teens that was first tried in California and then spread to other areas of the country. Tough adolescents from alternative schools... were paired with seniors in nursing homes and with children in hospitals for physically disabled kids. These teens helped the elderly with their exercises, read stories to and played games with the children, and in general did what they could to be helpful.

“The results, Curwin reports, were remarkable:

“For a majority of the youths in the program, significant changes in attitudes and behaviors have occurred. Having formed close attachments with the people they help, they go out of their way to listen to their problems and offer advice. Not only do these formerly difficult youths become enthusiastic about school, but many now say they want to go into a “helping profession.”

“If we want young people to develop responsibilities, we should give them responsibility. Especially with students who are not succeeding in school, having an authentic responsibility for another human being has real power to transform character.”

(From *Smart and Good High Schools: Integrating excellence and ethics for success in school, work, and beyond*, by Thomas Lickona and Matthew Davidson, Cortland, NY, Center for the 4th and 5th Rs (Respect & Responsibility)/Washington, D.C., Character Education Partnership, 2005. Lickona and Davidson are members of CSEE’s Advisory Board on Moral Development. Note: although the title refers to High Schools, the information in this book is both applicable and relevant down through at least the late grades of elementary school.)

National Months of Caring

January: Poverty in America Month
Blood Donor Month

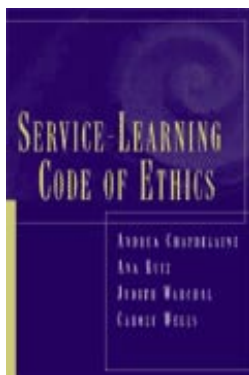
February: American Heart Month
Canned Food Month

March: Red Cross Month
Woman’s History Month

What's On Your Bookshelf?

Service Learning Code of Ethics

by Andrea Chapdelaine, Ana Ruiz, Judith Warchal, and Carol Wells, 2005. This book provides a basic road map for addressing the critical ethical issues in service-learning in order to prepare students, faculty, and administrators for the sometimes difficult ethical dilemmas that arise during the service-learning process.



Voices of Hope Heroes' Stories For Challenging Times

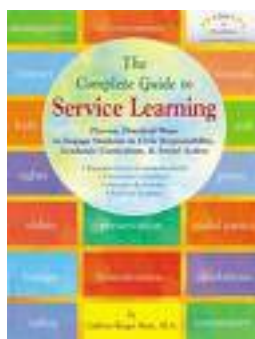


Voices of Hope: Heroes' Stories for Challenging Times

"This book contains a number of inspiring stories from the Giraffe Heroes Project, and is recommended for a number of reasons in addition to the model lives it introduces us to. Available through www.giraffe.org. If you have not visited the Giraffe Heroes Project web site, that, too, deserves a look.

The Complete Guide to Service Learning: Proven, Practical Ways to Engage Students in Civic Responsibility, Academic Curriculum, and Social Action

Written by Kaye, Cathryn Berger, 2004. Available to CSEE schools at a discount, the Complete Guide to Service Learning has a number of practical suggestions, especially for schools beginning to develop service programs.



2007 Community Service Recognition Deadline February 25, 2007

Does your school do an excellent job linking service to the academic program? If so, you deserve to be recognized! Apply for CSEE's 2007 Community Service Award, this year focusing on schools where service programs include "Integration with Academics," so that others may benefit from knowing about your program!

In the spirit of "service to others," we offer a second reason why you should apply for this award: we learn from others. Your school's program could be helpful for others to know about; others may have grappled with issues you have found a way to solve. Others may be inspired by aspects of your approach, or implement, your program. Your application for this award, with CSEE's publication of the results, could be helpful to schools throughout North America, in addition to recognizing a school that deserves to be recognized.

For application and further information, download the PDF application at www.csee.org/events/servawdapp.pdf. Awards will be made to Elementary, Middle, and High School. Applications are due February 25, 2007

For next time

CSEE would love to hear about interesting service programs involving elementary students. Please tell us about what is happening in your school: service@csee.org

About Service Quarterly

CSEE's *Service Quarterly* is a free publication for educators working with young people in schools. Please pass it on.

If you are not on our email list (not shared, used only by CSEE) to receive future issues of SQ, email "subscribe" to service@csee.org

This issue of *Service Quarterly* was edited by CSEE Community Service Consultant Mary Pashley and the CSEE staff. Submissions regarding innovative programs, resources, and other ideas are both welcome and invited. Send to service@csee.org

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... because service is an essential component of a good moral education!