

# Service Quarterly

THE COUNCIL FOR SPIRITUAL AND ETHICAL EDUCATION

## 2007 Community Service Recognition

### First Place

#### Athenian School

CSEE's 2007 Community Service Award has recognized the exemplary program at Athenian School, in Danville, California. The school's program stands out as one that is both broad and deep in its integration of academics and service.

Three characteristics facilitated Athenian's choice as a school with an exemplary program. The first is that the program is driven by the school's mission for service, and it is clearly and visibly supported by the Athenian administration. A second factor—and the most impressive, since this year's theme looked for schools that integrated service with academics—entails the extent of service at Athenian: there are both school-wide initiatives and a number of individual courses where students engage in course-related community service projects. At any one time, two-thirds of the student body at Athenian are enrolled in an academic course where service and classroom learning are interwoven. A third impressive characteristic entailed the way the development of leadership is built into the program: it encourages and allows juniors and seniors to lead group projects for younger students.

We commend Athenian Head of School Eleanor Dase and Service Director Mark Friedman for their leadership roles in Athenian's superb program.

### Runner-Up

#### La Jolla Country Day School

By far the most exciting application the committee received this year was the compelling story told by La Jolla Country Day School. Judy Bernstein, author of *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan*, visited a parents' meeting to talk about her work and the three boys featured in the book—refugees from violence that killed their families and destroyed their villages.

The La Jolla Country Day community itself caught fire in its own way, as news of the story spread from parents to administrators to teachers and students. A variety of grass roots service projects ensued, all aiming at meeting the needs of the 3500 Sudanese refugees in the San Diego area, and at helping members of the La Jolla Country Day community to understand better the lives and plights of those who had fire poured down on them from the sky.

La Jolla Country Day's response is a model of what is possible when communities take a personal interest in those around them. CSEE salutes Service Director Susan Nordenger for helping to facilitate an exciting, timely program.

See more about both of these programs in the May issue of CSEE's newsletter, *Connections*.

## Summer Service: Advice for Volunteers

### 1. Identify your free time

Do you want to volunteer just on weekends? Early evenings? Afternoons? One week? Four weeks? All summer?

### 2. Choose your group

With whom would you like to volunteer? Children? Adults? The infirmed? Animals? The environment? Those with disabilities?

### 3. Identify agencies

Are there local resources that offer services to the group with whom you would like to volunteer? Are their national or abroad programs that offer programs for student volunteers?

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## 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>

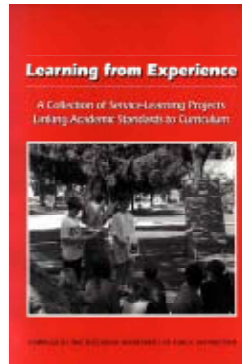
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## Connecting Service Projects to Academic Standards

### Learning from Experience: A Collection of Service-Learning Projects Linking Academic Standards to Curriculum

Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction,  
June, 2000

Under a Learn and Serve Grant from the Corporation for National Service, the Wisconsin Dept. of education created this guidebook for educators who are interested in connecting service projects to academic standards. The book opens with a discussion of the foundations of service learning programs. It continues with examples of successful service-learning activities, each chapter outlining a project linked to academic standards. A side bar lists the standards covered by the lesson, while the chapter outlines in a clear format the procedure along with “pointers” from the teacher and students who designed the project. Projects for high school, middle school, elementary school and cross-grade-level range from action for local sustainability to international cultural immersion activities.



### Summer Advice: from page 1

#### 4. Name your resources

Are you able to travel abroad with a program? Do you have access to transportation?

#### 5. Contact agencies

Is there an age require for student volunteers? Do you need any references? Is there an application? Are there any fees attached?

#### 6. Investigate work

What will be expected of you as a volunteer? Is there an orientation program to attend? What kind of jobs will you be doing? Will there be other student volunteers?

#### 7. Discuss with parents

Do they support your summer volunteer plans?

#### 8. Complete process

Complete volunteer application / conduct interview / acquire recommendations / etc.

#### 9. Confirm start / end dates

Communicate with volunteer director

## Worthy Weblinks



[www.theinvisiblechildren.com](http://www.theinvisiblechildren.com)

For high school and older. Documentary featuring school children in Uganda abandoned and effected by the civil war in that country.

[www.schoolsforschools.com](http://www.schoolsforschools.com)

National effort to link schools in the United States with brother/sister schools in Uganda and parts of Africa – real-time fundraising efforts available online – in association with The Invisible Children Project

[www.global-issues.net](http://www.global-issues.net)

Facing the future: people and the planet. Global issues, education and action opportunities to shape our future



[www.redwhiteandgreen.org](http://www.redwhiteandgreen.org)

Grant opportunity up to \$500.00. Develop and implement a service-learning project about climate change that engages their community, policy-makers and candidates running for election in 2007 and 2008



[www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org)

Current congressional blogs / national petitions to congress / email to President Bush / ways to donate / Global Darfur Days / etc.

#### 10. Documentation

Most schools require this piece – ask for a certificate or a letter stating your total hours and a description of your volunteer duties

## National Volunteer Recognition Month (it need not stop with May)

This past month has been National Volunteer Recognition Month as well as the month we celebrated Earth Day. Being *green* is the new USA and the new *world*. We must make a conscious effort on a daily basis to include our environment when we think of “serving those in need.”

We have a responsibility to ourselves, our families, our students, our schools and to future generations to allow them to inherit a clean and resourceful planet.

We are not doing our parts if we become complacent. We can not pass onto the next generation a place without adequate energy, water, crops, and resources in order to live without worry or danger and there is no hope without the ability to help those needing it most – our global neighbors who are currently living in regions of the world affected by natural destruction and disaster.

Please do your part to keep the spirit of April alive throughout May—and the remainder of the year. Then encourage others to do their part, too. Be a hero. Be *green*.

Some energy saving tips:

- Turn off all electronics when not in use
- Use minimal lighting
- Exchange current lightbulbs for energy saving ones
- Conserve water use – limit shower times
- Walk, skip or scooter – leave the car at home
- Need a new car? – Think hybrids
- Don't litter
- Use paper, not plastic
- Do your homework – support energy conscious & green companies and their products

## Can we make a difference in another person's life?

As Jewish scripture tells us, “the TALMUD teaches us that to save one life is to save the entire world.”

And the famous Jewish figure Hillel says, “Do not separate yourself from the community.” (Mishneh: Pirke Avot 2:5 2nd Century)

“Ani v'atah n'shaneh et ha olam” – You and I can change the world!

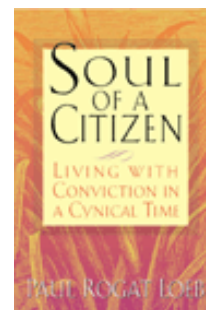
*... because service is an essential component of a good moral education program!*

## What's on Your Bookshelf?

### Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time

by Paul Rogat Loeb  
St. Martin's Press, 1999

How do we challenge our culture's pervasive cynicism? Paul Loeb presents an alternative vision of hope and courage in his book, *Soul of a Citizen*. Based on thirty years studying the psychology of social involvement, Loeb describes how ordinary citizens can make their voices heard and their actions count in a time when we're often told neither matter.



### Service Learning

#### A Guide to Planning, Implementing, and Assessing Student Projects (Second Edition, 2006)

by Sally Berman

*Service Learning* features nine service-learning projects broken down into basic, intermediate, and advanced levels.



Each project features:

- Strategies for aligning service and curricular goals
- Tips for involving students in decision-making
- Guidelines for managing different phases of the project
- Activities that foster reflection and self-evaluation
- Tips for differentiating by tapping into multiple intelligences

“There is no better way to improve student attitudes and outcomes than to blend both meaningful community and global service with improved academic achievement. Sally Berman invites her readers to do just that.”

(Bob Koehs, Service Learning Coordinator  
Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency)

## 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>