

“Service-learning  
is education in action.”

— Senator John Glenn

## Florida Service Learning Act of 2007 Introduced

House Resolution 1253, Florida Service Learning Act of 2007, has been filed by Representative Rick Kriseman (D- Pinellas). The Service Learning Program at Orange County Public Schools has set the goal of institutionalizing service learning in all OCPS Schools and this bill could help us fund our district service learning program. The bill budgets \$2 million to support districts with initiation and implementation, provides multiple options for districts to meet the requirement, requires districts to submit a plan to the FDoE, and gives districts up to four years to begin implementation. It states that districts must submit and have an approved plan by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

The bill states, “District plans shall include one or more service learning opportunities in elementary school, one or more service-learning opportunities in middle school, and three or more service learning opportunities in high school, for a total of at least five service learning opportunities in K-12.” While we currently have over 60 quality service learning projects in OCPS schools, the bill is an important step in recognizing service learning as a valuable teaching pedagogy.

The bill clearly outlines the steps of service-learning, and the main activity types of service learning. It also states, “Research indicates that well-designed projects positively impact participating students in four domains: academic, social, civic, and career preparation. Research also shows that students who participate in service learning projects have a stronger sense of personal efficacy and are much more likely to volunteer and be actively engaged in their communities than students who do not serve.”

Please support this bill by calling or writing to your representative and sharing the success of your service learning projects including academic and affective student gains.

# Service Learning News

## OCPS Service Learning Conference- A Service Learning Project!



*Students and teachers at the Art from the Heart table at the Third Annual OCPS District Service Learning Conference.*

What distinguished the Third Annual OCPS District Service Learning Conference from other district and state conferences? This is a conference that is planned and carried out with students! The conference, itself, was a service-learning project that was linked to the Sunshine State Standards and the curriculum of six subject areas of TCHS Service Learning Academy classes.

Students from the Service Learning Academy worked for two months to research, write, and present workshops for OCPS middle school students. The American Sign Language students presented two American Sign Language classes, and academy English classes worked with motivational trainer, Troy Cunningham, to prepare the Leadership presentation.

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*Conference continued from page one*

The academy Science Class presented two Herps and Humans workshops that included an outdoor site tour, and the Students for Peace Club presented a workshop on Conflict Resolution. The academy Spanish classes provided two Spanish interpreters; the business technology class provided technicians; and the Art classes worked with the Service Learning Council students to prepare the Art from the Heart table.

Students also helped in planning and preparation of the conference registration, breakfast, decorations, service-learning posters, and soliciting door prizes from area businesses. Two hundred thirty participants attended the conference making this year's conference the largest ever. Educators, parents, and business partners attended morning and afternoon workshops on a variety of service learning topics. Middle school students from nine OCPS middle schools enjoyed workshops presented by the TCHS Service Learning Academy students.

Community partners set up booths and displays in the main meeting room. Back to Nature Wildlife, the Orange County Public Library Teen Corps, Seniors First, the Global Peace Film Festival, Lighthouse of Central Florida, and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) answered questions and let teachers and students know of volunteer opportunities their agencies offer.

Participants to the conference created over 200 valentines at the Art From the Heart table. The valentines were distributed to Florida Hospital and Arnold Palmer Hospital on Valentine's Day.

If you missed the conference this year, we hope to see you at the 4th Annual OCPS District Service Learning Conference next February!



*Community partners from the SPCA brought a furry helper and lots of information to the Third Annual OCPS District Service Learning Conference.*

## Service Learning Calendar

### **March 31, 2006**

#### **Cesar Chavez Day of Service**

Honor the legacy of Cesar Chavez by joining students, parents and community organizations to participate in beautification projects, programs to harvest fields of excess crops, or other meaningful service learning projects. <http://www.chavezfoundation.org/resource-library.html>

### **April 4, 2007**

#### **Writing a Florida Learn and Serve Grant Workshop**

Learn the basics of service learning and how to write an effective Florida Learn and Serve Grant to get funds for your 2007 - 2008 service learning project! The workshop will be held at the Educational Leadership Center, Conference Room A, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Register on Sign-Me-Up!

### **April 20, 2007**

#### **OCPS Mini-Grant Deadline**

Last day for OCPS mini-grant awardees to encumber service-learning project funds and complete projects.

### **April 20 - 22, 2007**

#### **National Global and Youth Service Day**

*The Power of Youth Serving Youth*

Join millions to change the world! Create a unique project or register your project for this event, as the youth let the world know that they are community leaders.

<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/partner/profile/login.cfm>

### **May 1, 2007**

#### **Mini-Grant Final Reports Due to OCPS Service Learning Coordinator**

### **May 5, 2007**

#### **Join Hands Day**

Youth and adults join to create projects that will benefit their community. Why not partner with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) or Seniors First? <http://www.joinhandsday.org/scripts/home.cfm>

## Tornado Relief - Totes for Toys

by Dwana Dye, Jacqueline Cross, Nicole Deuter, & Richard Buhl  
Photos by Christine Woods



*Totes for Toys unloaded at Lake County Public Schools*

Pam Woulard, OCPS Senior Manager of Community Resources, led an inspiring workshop at the Third Annual OCPS Service Learning Conference. In the breakout session Pam assigned the 23 teachers and UCF Service Learning student participants to come up with a service learning project that could be implemented immediately. Killer tornados ripped a path of devastation from one coast to another just the day before the conference. From the brainstorming session they developed a plan to meet the needs of Lake and Volusia County student tornado victims, and the project Totes for Toys was created.

Most every teacher has a collection of a few canvas tote bags from conferences and meetings. The participants set an ambitious time-line to gather tote bags and fill them with books, school supplies, toiletries, toys, stuffed animals, and gift cards. School-aged tornado victims who lost their homes or were moved from damaged homes would be receive the totes by the end of the week.

Although the group had only four days to get approval, create individual projects linked to curriculum, collect materials, and fill totes, the teachers and students stepped up in a big way.

Glenridge Middle School students collected items to fill totes with toys, personal items, and school supplies. The 6th grade IB Technology class prepared letters or the students who would receive the bags.

They also researched and created a brochure about Tornado Preparedness including information about warning signs, and safety tips for before, during and after a storm. They included the brochures in the totes.

At Freedom High School, seven of Richard Buhl's Trainable Mentally Handicapped and Profoundly Mentally Handicapped students led the project for the school. Over 100 totes were collected.

The entire faculty of Corner Lake Middle School embraced the project and under the leadership of Principal Doug Loftus, clubs, teachers, and students collected flashlights, batteries, soap, hand sanitizer wipes, nail kits, and gift cards. They made 60 emergency storm kits and also packed several boxes of food. Teachers from Arbor Ridge, Azaela Park Elementary, Clay Springs Elementary, Fern Creek Elementary, Sunrise Elementary, Waterford Elementary, Avalon Middle, Discovery Middle, Legacy Middle, Cypress Creek High also participated. The teachers dropped hundreds of totes at the drop-off location, A Gift For Teaching. Totes were even received from teachers from McArthur South Senior High in Miami from a service learning program director who was attended Ms. Woulard's workshop. Altogether 823 Totes for Toys were donated.

Ms. Woulard arranged for two OCPS school buses to transport the Totes for Toys to Volusia and Lake County. OCPS bus drivers, parents, students and teachers worked together and the buses pulled out on Friday with over 300 bags in each bus headed for Volusia and Lake Counties. An additional 200 were sent directly from Clay Springs Elementary to Deland, and cash donations were also sent to Red Cross from Timber Creek High School.



*A sea of totes filled with toys, school supplies, and other items were among those delivered to young tornado victims.*

## Service Learning or Community Service?

Teachers new to service learning often confuse service learning with volunteerism or community service. How can you tell if your project is a high quality service learning project? Here is a breakdown of the essential elements of a high quality service learning project.

### Youth Voice

- Students have a role and voice in all aspects and stages of the service learning project. Age and grade level will determine the appropriate amount of student voice and leadership, but student voice should be present in all age groups, grade levels, and subject areas.
- Students help determine the issues and needs so they feel a connection to their learning.
- Students help evaluate the success of the project, and log their service-learning hours.

### Planning and Preparation

- Teachers plan/facilitate academic lessons and activities to determine needs identification. Needs identification and assessment may be determined through student research, field trips, interviews, surveys, and guest speakers.
- Students are involved in service learning project issue selection through discussion, brain-storming, surveys, and research linked to curriculum.
- Students and teachers study organizations and agencies that address the issue including their missions, goals, client needs, and policies. Students may play a role in selecting partners for the project.
- The service learning activities are planned and are clearly linked to standards and curriculum.

### Service Learning Activities

- Students have voice and leadership roles in service learning activities.
- Partners, agencies, and recipients work with the students to enhance the quality of the learning and service.
- Students experience a variety of learning styles and subject areas. They work individually, as team members, and in whole class learning activities. They read, write, use technology, employ scientific methods, utilize math computations, and apply the social sciences, foreign languages and arts.
- Students take responsibility for determining their learning.
- Activities provide in-depth learning opportunities connected to standards and curriculum. Students are given opportunities to become experts on the issue.

### Reflection

- Student reflection is present in all stages of the project from planning to celebration.
- Reflection is included in learning activities through keeping journals; writing reports, poetry, or essays; class discussion; analysis; creating artwork; composing songs; or games and activities.
- Reflection is used to predict service-learning results, summarize what was learned, clarify service impacts, allow for revision or expansion of the plan, verify that goals were met, express feelings and affective achievement, celebrate successes, and assess the value of the service learning project.
- Reflection is linked to academic and affective objectives.

### Demonstration

- Students demonstrate what they learned through a variety of learning styles linked to curriculum and standards
- Students may demonstrate through skits, plays, newsletters or reports, public presentations, forums, teaching the issue through workshops, or creating products such as public service announcements, videos, booklets, pamphlets, artwork, plays, poetry, songs, quilts, etc.

### Reciprocity

- Students and teachers work with partners to identify needs and to ensure that needs are real rather than assumed or preconceived.
- Partners aren't just there as recipients of the service. They serve as guest speakers, provide sites for service learning activities, help with the planning and implement worthwhile activities, attend celebrations, participate in project evaluation, and contribute to raising the level of quality learning through their expertise and experience.
- Students are valued as contributing community members by partners.

### Celebration and Recognition

- Partners, teachers, schools, and communities recognize students' service throughout all stages of the project.
- A year-end or project-end celebration is planned to recognize students.

## Cypress Creek High School Memory Portraits

Nicole Moitoza, an art teacher at Cypress Creek High School, was one of 28 teachers to receive an OCPS Service Learning Mini-Grant this year. Her Drawing II class will participate in the The Memory Project. [www.thememoryproject.org](http://www.thememoryproject.org) This not for profit organization takes photographs of orphaned children around the world and connects them with art classrooms or artists to create a wonderful portrait. Often these abandoned, abused or neglected children have never had anyone show interest in their lives. Most have never had their photo taken. This opportunity allows the art student an experience that will make a difference in another child's life. This experience makes the student focus on another part of the world, another person instead of their self.



The CCHS drawing students are required to research the country where their photo is from and create a brochure of the vital information about that country. The students will compare the US/Orlando statistics with that of their assigned country. The brochures will be placed on an information table the night of the art reception. After creating the brochures the students will then learn about basic portraiture and application of paint. Most students have previous knowledge from Drawing I. The students will create an 11 inch by 14 inch portrait of the child they selected. When all portraits are completed the art student will sign the back and write an artist statement explaining their process and a little bit about themselves.

Before the portraits are returned to the Memory Project Organization (to be mailed back to the orphanage); they will be on display one evening at Cypress Creek High School where parents, staff and other classmates can share the experience. Normally, when the orphan receives the work of art they send a thank you letter and begin a dialogue with the student.



*Students, parents and teachers gather for Literacy Day at Arbor Ridge School.*

## Arbor Ridge School Literacy Day

Students and parents from Ms. BeMent's gifted classes, Ms. Frey's 1st grade, Ms. Lampman's 2nd grade, and Mrs. Zapata's 3rd grade joined in the Arbor Ridge School Media Center on Saturday, February 10th, to interact with the Literacy Mascots and books in the teacher's rooms; Ms. BeMent's Curious George, Ms. Frey's Flat Kids, taken from the Flat Stanley series, Ms. Lampman's Flat Joey, from various Kangaroo stories, and Mrs. Zapata's Arthur. In addition to reading stories, browsing through scrapbooks and memorabilia such as a letter from the White House where a Flat Joey visited, and sharing their experiences in the classrooms with their parents, students made four different bookmarks to take home.



*Making bookmarks is fun!*

Need funding for your service learning project?  
**Apply for a Florida Learn and Serve Grant!**

The application will be available  
on-line in mid-March:

<http://www.fsu.edu/~flserve/index.html>

*"Service-learning addresses three major issues in education: relevance of the curriculum, level of rigor, and relationships. It is about hope, inspiration, and learning for kids."*

-Rudy Crew

Former Chancellor, New York City Schools

**Workshop on Writing a  
Florida Learn and Serve Grant**

**April 4, 2007**

**ELC, Conference Room A**

**3:30pm -5:00pm**

**Go to Sign-Me-Up to register!**

*"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

-Anne Frank

**For more information on the  
OCPS Service Learning Program**

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