



**Governor Charlie Crist declares April as Florida Service-Learning Month**

Governor Charlie Crist has proclaimed April as **Florida Service-Learning Month**, supporting the theme, **“Raising Your Voice For Service-Learning.”**

On April 22, students, teachers, administrators and partners from around the state attended a press conference at the State Capitol Courtyard, where the Proclamation was publically announced by State Representative Rick Kriseman and Joe Follman, Director of Florida Learn & Serve.



Selected students read the of the Proclamation.



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**CHARLIE CRIST—GOVERNOR**

**PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, service-learning allows students and other youth to practice knowledge, skills, and behaviors, through meeting community needs; and  
**WHEREAS**, service-learning brings schools and communities together to work jointly on societal needs and problems; and  
**WHEREAS**, service-learning empowers students and other youth to take leadership roles in improving society; and  
**WHEREAS**, service-learning integrates service activities with academic curricula and Florida’s Sunshine State Standards, providing students with hands-on, real-life learning opportunities; and  
**WHEREAS**, service-learning activities provide students and other youth with opportunities for career exploration and the chance to develop and practice job skills; and  
**WHEREAS**, students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform; and  
**WHEREAS**, it is important to encourage all Florida teachers and schools to participate and engage others in service-learning activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 2009 as**

**FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING MONTH**

In Florida and call upon the people of the State of Florida to engage in service-learning projects, promote the spirit of service-learning, and observe the month with appropriate activities, programs, and ceremonies supporting the theme, “Raising Our Voices for Service-Learning.”

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 15th day of February, in the year two thousand eight.**



## Raising Your Voice for Service-Learning Conference, April 21-22, Tallahassee

On April 21-22, over 250 students, teachers, administrators, and community partners from around the state came to Tallahassee to participate in the “Raising Your Voice for Service-Learning” Conference. The opening session was held at the Museum of Florida History. Nelda Brown, Director of the National Service-Learning Partnership, and Anita Barrett of SEANet provided training on communication and presentation skills for working with the media and public officials to share the benefits of service learning. On April 21, Representative Rick Kriseman of Pinellas County spoke to the students on the virtues of service learning and the bill he was sponsoring (which unfortunately did not pass this session).

The Conference also included a facilitated planning session for high school students who formed the Florida Service-Learning Youth Advisory Group. The students will help the state effort by reviewing proposals, designing a youth track at the statewide service-learning conference, and other activities.

The Conference second day focused on service-learning projects from around the state which were displayed in the Capitol Courtyard. Many students also visited with and presented to their local legislators in the Capitol.

The morning culminated with a press conference, where the Proclamation declaring April as Florida Service-Learning month was read. Students from the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville opened the press conference with a skit. Speakers included Joe Follman, Representative Rick Kriseman, and State Farm representative Marcel Blythe. Speakers talked about the values of service learning for students and communities of Florida.



Representative Rick Kriseman, Pinellas



Marcel Blythe, Director, Education Programs, State Farm of Florida

## Spotlight on Endeavor Elementary School, Brevard County

### Reading and Gardening the Learn & Serve Way

#### Barbara Wilcox, Director

The Learn & Serve project at Endeavor Elementary School involves more than 190 at-risk students in grades K-3. Additionally, 5-6th grade students are trained as peer mentors to help tutor kindergarten students.

The garden project consists of an ABC/butterfly garden, a rainbow garden, a small butterfly habitat, a five senses garden, and a more formal Tea Garden.

Third grade teachers teach their students concepts to teach the kindergarten students. Once a month, third graders mentor kindergarteners in a science concept, such as learning the parts of plants, the life cycle of a plant/insect, related vocabulary words, etc. Every kindergartener rotates through the classroom to learn the concepts and then take a turn planting plants in the garden and planting seeds to grow for a local rehabilitation senior center.

In addition to gardening days, a Tea Garden design contest is held for the third graders and kindergarteners. The students design the garden and vote for their favorite design. The program holds a school-wide garden brochure contest with entries from almost every grade level. The brochure describes and pictures all of the gardens on the campus.

The program culminates each year with a garden celebration in which each kindergarten class performs a song, skit, or story. Special recognition is given to the mentors, community volunteers, and winners of the contests.

The project will be expanded next year to include another high school to mentor the first/second graders and include math.



## Raise Your Voice for Service-Learning through School/District Web Sites

A great way to inform the community about the things you are doing in your program is to have a service-learning link on your school or school district web site. Preparing information for a web site is also a great service-learning project for students. Please send us your web addresses, which will be posted on our statewide web site ([www.fsu.edu/~flserve](http://www.fsu.edu/~flserve)).



(Photo from Miami Douglas MacArthur High School South)

### Here are some sample project web sites!

#### Monroe County School District Infrastructure Program

Sunny Booker, Director

The Monroe County Youth Challenge Program, the largest youth organization in Monroe County, has embraced service-learning and provides support to teachers and administrators at the schools making it easier to implement large-scale projects by providing guidance, resources, funding and media support ([www.keysschools.com/mycp/servicelearning.htm](http://www.keysschools.com/mycp/servicelearning.htm)).



(Students from Coral Shores High School's Marine Studies Program/Academy of Environmental Sciences Learn & Serve Project creating artificial reefs)

#### Seven Springs Middle School, Lead the Pack Learn and Serve Model School Project

Cindy Tehan, Director

Students award service-learning mini-grants to teachers and create videos for service-learning projects that are aired on the school news and also on the Pasco Educational TV cable channel (PETV)

([http://jaguarsfc.pasco.k12.fl.us/~Cynthia\\_Tehan/?OpenItemURL=S00018977](http://jaguarsfc.pasco.k12.fl.us/~Cynthia_Tehan/?OpenItemURL=S00018977)).



(L) Students perform plays in Character Education service-learning class, (R) Students pose with Senator Mike Fasano

The **Timber Creek High School Service Learning Academy in Orlando**, directed by Wendy Doromal, has 13 teachers and 430 students integrating service learning into their academic curriculum by creating and implementing subject-related service learning projects in the school and community. (<http://www.tchs.ocps.net/content.php?sec=TCHS&id=Homepage>), (find Departments/Service Learning.)



**Miami Douglas MacArthur South High School's Young Men's Academy for Academic and Civic and Development** applies service learning across the curriculum. Janis Klein-Young is the Director of the Arts Program. The front page of this web site is devoted to service-learning programs in art, science, social studies, and Spanish. Visit this web site at:



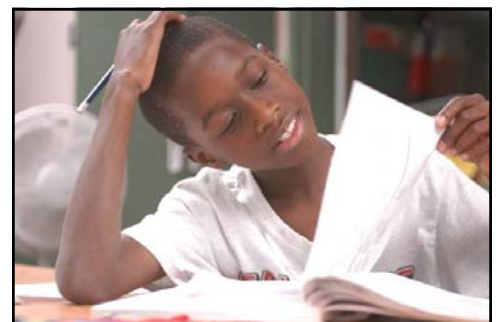
(<http://macarthursouth.dadeschools.net/homepage.htm>)

and/or, (<http://macarthursouth.dadeschools.net/ARTS.htm>).



**The Lake County Schools District Infrastructure Program**, directed by Evelyn Robinson, engages approximately 250 youth corps members and 40 teachers who participate in district-wide service-learning efforts.

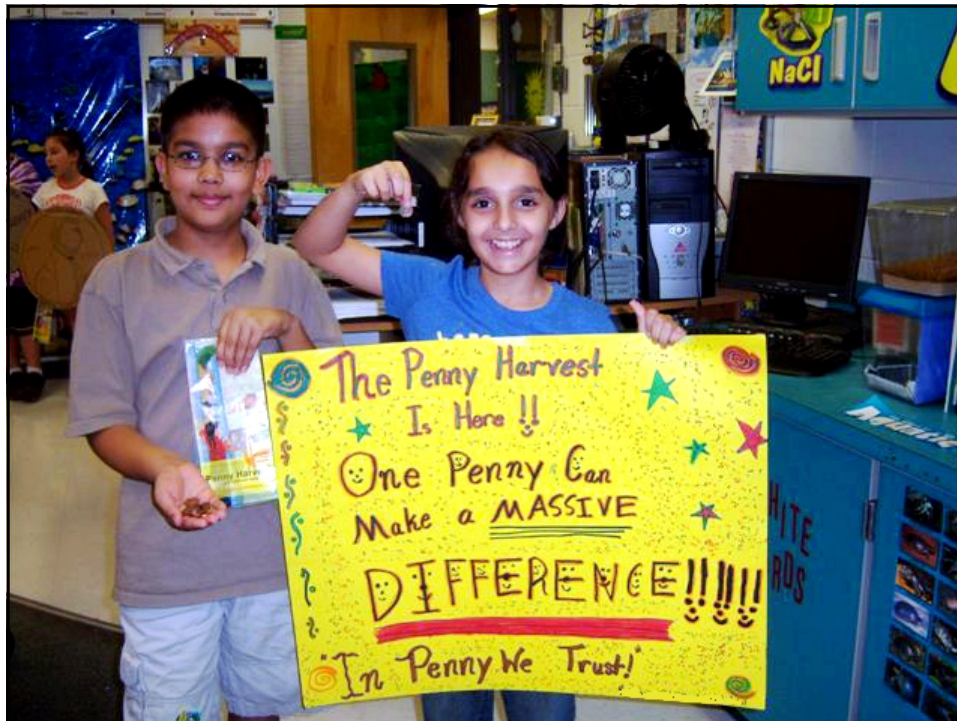
(<http://lakeschools.schoolwires.net/16511031010632497/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=54621&16511031010632497Nav=|406|&NodeID=406>)



## Register for the 2008-2009 Florida Penny Harvest!

Join the Florida Alliance for Student Service (FASS) and almost 1,000 schools nationwide leading their students to create strong communities!

**What Is It?** Penny Harvest is a service-learning program that engages students in community building, character education, and leadership. The Penny Harvest starts in September, when students, supported by their families and community, collect idle/hoarded pennies. In January, Penny Harvest student leaders at each school sit on a Philanthropy Roundtable and allocate the money they raised—typically around \$1,000—to make grants and fund student-led service-learning projects to help their communities. During the 2007-2008 school year, more than 9,000 Florida students from 16 schools raised more than \$19,000 and made more than 40 grants to support service-learning projects and non-profit agencies. Every penny collected by students was allocated by students to meet real community needs: kids collected, kids decided. Our goal is to register 50 Penny Harvest schools for the 2008-2009 school year!



Penny Harvest Coaches report that their students learn leadership, listening, and teamwork skills. Students learn analytical skills as well as the value of contributing to their community.

To register your school, please visit ([www.PennyHarvest/Florida](http://www.PennyHarvest/Florida)). To help support the program cost, there is a small co-payment of \$200 for schools to join, which pays for coin bags, resource materials, curricula, and penny pick-up. The co-payment can be paid directly by the school or through a donation by the PTA, a local business or parent. Florida Learn & Serve funds can cover program costs. For more information, contact Laryn Flikkema at ([lflikkema@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:lflikkema@admin.fsu.edu)).



## FASL—Florida Alliance for Service Learning Increases State-wide Visibility of Service Learning.

The mission of FASL (formed in Nov. 2007) is to raise knowledge, understanding, and support of service learning as a strategy to help students, schools, and communities.

The lists of committees, and ideas for the work of the committees listed are below.

**Organizational Structure**—A Leadership Team that represents membership, liaises with Learn & Serve staff, and take a lead role in organizing other committee work.

**Legislative**—The proposed service-learning bill by Rep. Rick Kriseman is the primary focus of FASL this first year. Strategies include having students invite legislators to see projects in action and provide information to them.

**Stakeholder Outreach**—The focus of this committee is to identify, reach out to, and utilize key stakeholders whose awareness and support of service learning are crucial for the advancement and institutionalization of the field.

**Youth Roles**—This committee works to involve youth voice in the planning, developing, and facilitating of service-learning projects

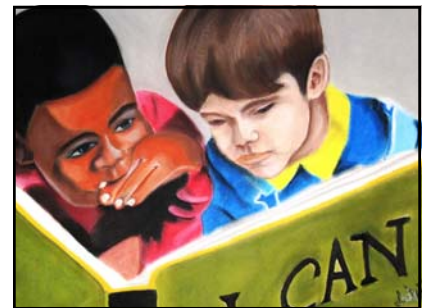
**Media**—This committee focuses on ideas and strategies for working with all types of media to raise awareness and understanding of service learning.

**Funding**—This committee explores ways to increase financial support for service learning at the local, district, state, and federal levels.

**Research**—This committee focuses on identifying, gathering/assembling, and disseminating information about the positive impacts of service learning on students, teachers, schools, and communities.

**Help steer the course of service-learning for our students' future** by participating in a conference call for at least one committee and lend your ideas and voice to its work. Conference call schedules are e-mailed to all sub-grantees and partners.

**We look forward to working with you in this new alliance!**



## Event Calendar

**National Conference on Volunteering and Service, June 1-3**, Atlanta, Georgia  
([www.volunteeringandservice.org/index.htm](http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/index.htm))

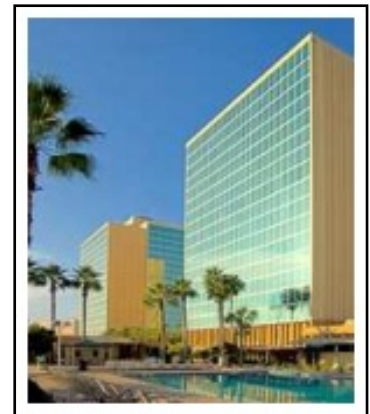
The National Conference on Volunteering and Service is the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders. Featuring exciting speakers, special events, immersion learning sessions, service projects, and 175 workshops, this is an event you do not want to miss! This year's theme, "The Urgency of Now!" was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King and is a call to action for a new generation of civic leaders. Join 4,000 of your colleagues from across the nation and world as we renew, recharge, and reinvent the future of service.

**LEARN & SERVE CHALLENGE, October 6-12**

Join your peers from around the country in this weeklong series of publicity events and community outreach activities designed to raise awareness of service-learning and our 2010 goals  
([www.learnandservicechallenge.org/index.php](http://www.learnandservicechallenge.org/index.php)).

**The 2008-09 Florida Institute on Service-Learning & Engaged Scholarship—Education that Connects Communities & Serves Society, November 17-19**, The DoubleTree Hotel at Universal.

The 2008 state-wide institute will showcase the best practices of exemplary service-learning and engaged scholarship from the kindergarten classroom all the way to graduate school (K-20). The mandatory Learn & Serve grantee meeting will take place at this Institute. (*More information to come.*)



## Florida Learn & Serve Sub-Grantee Dates to Remember

**June 30th** - On-line LASSIE Report due to the Corporation for National & Community Service. Our office sent LASSIE instructions to sub-grantees.

**July 11th** - End-of-Year Match update including supporting documentation due.

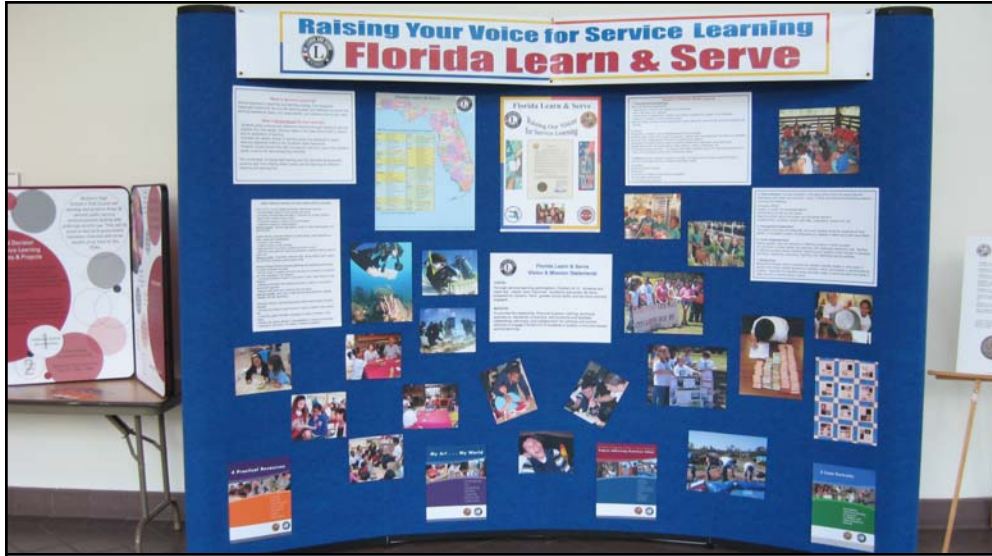


**Vision Statement: Florida K-12 students will be educated, caring, and contributing citizens.**

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(Additional photos from the Raising your Voice for Service-Learning Conference, Tallahassee, 4/21-22)



LEARN & SERVE DISPLAY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION—APRIL 2008

