

Spotlight on Service-Learning

The Season of Giving Through Service-Learning

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The holidays are upon us and thoughts turn to giving. The holidays are also a great time to think about giving through service-learning. Schools can give students the gift of 21st century skills through service-learning and philanthropy education: **critical-thinking, problem-solving, leadership, decision-making, collaboration, and communication.** Students are even more receptive to the idea of philanthropy during the holidays. Helping them unwrap their interest is easy through philanthropy lessons and service-learning opportunities. Learning to Give has many basic philanthropy lessons for all students in grades K-12+. In the lesson, "Everyone Can Be a Philanthropist, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 see their classroom as a community and identify ways each individual can support their community through philanthropic deeds. www.learningtogive.org/units/philanthropy-everywhere/everyone-can-be-philanthropist.

Educators and students can search for project ideas on the generationOn website www.generationon.org.

Suggested projects that are timely and give that special gift of service-learning this holiday season include:

Share the Season- Lots of servicemen and women are deployed around the world. Unfortunately, they're often in scorching deserts or freezing mountain ranges, making it hard to get in holiday spirit. Help them feel the joy of the holidays by sending care packages full of holiday goodies!

Holiday Coat Drive - On average, over 578,000 people are homeless in the U.S. on a given night--31% without shelter. The winter months can be difficult for those who don't have the proper winter clothing. Help the people in your community stay cozy this winter with a coat drive!

Cheers for Local Heroes - Let first responders (firefighters, police officers and emergency personnel) know you're thankful for their service by creating handmade thank-you cards for those in your community or somewhere a disaster (natural or manmade) or emergency has occurred.

Many of our Indiana schools have already experienced the season of giving through service-learning.

Maconaquah Elementary School students studied the philanthropy lesson, "What Do I Have to Give" www.learningtogive.org/units/investing-others-k-2/what-do-i-have-give. The students collected socks for the Kokomo Rescue Mission and Women's and Children's Outreach Center. In December the socks were a part of the gifts given to families in need in the community.



Students at **Attica Jr./Sr. High School** studied the "Traditions of the Family- American Celebrations and Philanthropy" from the Learning to Give website www.learningtogive.org/units/philanthropy-sharing-our-time-talent-and-treasure-family-and-friends/traditions-family.

As a group the students learned how holidays are celebrated by sharing their ideas from different cultural backgrounds.

Students discussed how they can be a part of the community and share their time, talents, and treasure during the Christmas season.

One of the identified areas in need in the Attica community was the local nursing home. Students made ornaments and personalized cards for each of the residents and delivered them to the residents in the nursing home.



All Indiana students can unwrap the benefits of service-learning. To develop leaders of tomorrow with a heart for giving, be sure that you are registered at www.generationOn.org. Registering is free and simple. It will connect you with generationOn Indiana and generate information for the mini grant application for teachers and schools. Philanthropy lessons are FREE to schools at www.learningtogive.org. For more information, contact Joan Belschwender, Director generationOn Indiana at generationOn@iasp.org. For free professional development for your region, corporation, or school, contact me at bethsmithgenonin@iasp.org.

See our generationOn Indiana page on the IASP website: www.iasp.org/affiliates/genon/ or the IMLEA website: www.imlea.org. **Give the gift of service-learning this season of giving! Happy Holidays!**