

# Planning for Service Learning: *Example*

## *Middle School, Hunger and Homelessness*

Grade level: **7 Life Skills**

### **CONTENT—LEARNING ABOUT:**

- Community issues: How hunger affects children
- Careers
- Role of local government and nonprofit agencies

**SERVICE NEED:** The health and learning ability of children are severely compromised when they do not receive adequate nutrition.

### **SERVICE IDEA: The Great American Bake Sale**

Learn about childhood hunger and hold a bake sale to educate the community and raise needed funds to help children in the region; become part of the Share Our Strength National Campaign to End Childhood Hunger.

**PREPARATION:** Study childhood hunger, learn about the roles of government and community organizations, develop teams for project management: finance, media, schedule speakers, information, community outreach, sign onto The Great American Bake Sale, get support from other classes, bakers, and solicitors (looking for baked good donations).

**ACTION:** Hold two bake sale events—one during school and one on back-to-school night.

**REFLECTION:** Keep a journal to include entries following committee work, speakers (noting professions and career opportunities), and bake sales.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Announce revenue gathered through each bake sale on school PA system; recognition event inviting all partners from the school and community to give out thank you certificates (made by students) with student presentations on what they studied, learned, and accomplished.

**YOUTH VOICE and CHOICE:** Students suggested the idea of participation in The Great American Bake Sale after reading about it in Parade magazine and visiting the Share Our Strength Web site.

**NOTES:** The teacher asked students on the first day of class to be on the lookout for a class service project. Their initiative determined the direction, while she kept students connected with the curriculum. Teacher and students met with many schools groups including the PTSA and the entire faculty to generate school-wide support.

### **CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS:**

- 📖 English/Language Arts: Adapt the downloadable resources from Share Our Strength, select from the reading listing provided and expanded by students and librarians and hold discussions in book club format
- 📖 Social Studies/History: Create posters to show myths versus accurate information about people who are homeless, invite representatives from local agencies assisting families in poverty, hold a seventh grade assembly to interview a local city council member about issues of hunger in the community and region
- 📖 Mathematics: Gather statistics from region and state of families who live on or below the poverty line, make a budget anticipating expenses and income from the bake sale, keep financial accounts
- 📖 Science: Identify dietary restrictions that need to be noted on baked goods, i.e., sugar-free, low sodium, kosher, etc.; discuss physiological and psychological impact of hunger on children
- ☐ Languages:
- 📖 Art and Music: Photo class used the theme of “hunger in our community” to create photo displays at school, library, and city hall
- 📖 Other: Digital design computer class helped make posters and banners for promotion before and during the bake sale

### **SKILL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Organization
- Teamwork
- Research
- Community literacy
- Problem solving
- Public relations and marketing

### **BOOKS:**

*Video: Shelter Boy*  
*Homeless Children*  
*Changing Places: A Kid's View of Shelter Living*  
*Soup Moon Soup*  
*Money Hungry*  
*Where I'd Like to Be*

### **COMMUNITY CONTACTS:**

Share Our Strength ([www.strength.org](http://www.strength.org))  
City Council Representative  
Family Resources, Inc.  
School and community librarian