



# Heroes in the Community

## Service Project Ideas

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, **Service-Learning** is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Student benefits:

- Utilize decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Increase connectedness to school and community
- Build positive relationships with peers
- Potential for a lifelong commitment to public service
- Academic improvement
- Better sense of self
- Career exposure
- Team-building skills

To plan your service project, begin with an investigation into community or school problems, and consider ways to help address these issues and meet the needs of the school or community.

### Here are some ideas to begin brainstorming!

- ❖ Create emergency preparedness kits for families in danger of potential natural disasters
- ❖ Create a healthy cookbook sold to community members, donating proceeds to a local cause
- ❖ Design a mentoring or tutoring program
- ❖ Start a campaign to educate the school and community about a social issue
- ❖ Provide entertainment or care packages for hospitalized children or nursing home residents
- ❖ Collect food or clothing donations for entry to school functions and donate to local shelter
- ❖ Start a business providing yard work or small repairs and donate proceeds to a local housing authority or similar organization
- ❖ Start a garden that will provide fresh produce for a local food pantry or soup kitchen
- ❖ Collect books for a mobile library that can be brought to lock-ins

### Tips for Success

Be sure to include the 5 core components of successful service-learning: Investigation, Planning, Action, Reflection and Demonstration/Celebration.

Contact the local paper or news station to let them know about the challenge you're addressing and the community partners who are involved.

Include parents! Parents bring valuable resources, information and ideas to service-learning.

Consult additional resources for assistance with your service-learning project:

- Lions Quest K-12 curricula
- *The Complete Guide to Service Learning*, Cathryn Berger Kaye, available from Lions Quest
- Project ideas and lesson plans at [www.servicelearning.org/slice](http://www.servicelearning.org/slice)
- Consult [www.learnandserve.gov](http://www.learnandserve.gov) for funding resources, effective practices and tool kits.
- Download service-learning curriculum maps from the Resource Library at [www.lions-quest.org](http://www.lions-quest.org) for descriptions of quality standards addressed within Lions Quest curricula.

*Take photos and video to document your planning, implementation and reflection.*