



Creative Service-Learning Projects

Having trouble thinking of a service-learning project for your school?

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Students at San Gabriel Academy, California, spent a spring vacation trimming trees, cutting brush, and hauling away truckloads of trash from homes of Adventist pioneers in Battle Creek, Michigan.

- In the summer of 1988, 17 Pathfinders from Florida pitched tents on William Miller's farm in New York. For a week they rebuilt rock walls, set out trails, and cleared undergrowth off Ascension Rock. In the evenings they worshiped together in the William Miller Chapel, listened to stories of the pioneers, and sang early Advent songs.

- In Salt Lake City, fourth- through sixth-grade students have been responsible for the cleanup of a hazardous waste site, the passage of two new environmental laws, the planting of hundreds of trees, and a number of other neighborhood improvements.

- Students at Bronx Regional High School in the South Bronx are working with a local community organization to restore a building near their school that will then provide housing for homeless people, including some of the students' own families.

- Middle schoolers in Chicopee, Massachusetts, saved their town \$119,500 while helping to solve a sewage problem.

- High school students in Brooks County, Georgia, conducted an assessment of their county and determined that day care was a major need. The students and their teacher established a day care center that is still operating 10 years after its founding.

- In one inner-city public school students studied consumers' rights and responsibilities. The 14- to 18-year-olds read a variety of materials and listened to outside speakers. They also worked on real consumer problems referred to them by adults. Over the course of several years, the students successfully solved more than 75 percent of the 350 cases turned over to them.

- A group of five- to nine-year-olds at the same school designed, obtained permission to build, gathered materials for, and then created a new playground.

- The high school arts program at the Peninsula School District in Washington State joined with an elementary school to create a community mural on which older and younger students worked side by side.

- In the same school system, more than 120 students

are tutoring their peers before school, during lunch, and after school. Students have also established an after-school program for homeless children and have worked to make their cafeteria styrofoam-free.

- Students in Philadelphia's Lincoln High School have provided the community with more than 2,000 water samples, 600 soil samples, 100 air samples, and 600 radon samples. In the course of monitoring a nearby creek they removed tons of trash. Students enrolled in an oral history class have presented their ideas to community groups, recruited an advisory board, and published a 160-page book on the history of Philadelphia's Tacony community.

Other projects at Lincoln High School include the following:

A horticulture/therapy program provides intergenerational services to 13 hospitals and nursing homes.

A youth service corps brings dropouts back to school for two hours of classes and seven hours of work rebuilding houses, cleaning playgrounds, and removing graffiti.

Accounting students provide tax-preparation services for the blind and elderly.

A hearing-impaired teacher's class prepared and printed a directory of services for the hearing impaired.

Business students write résumés, type letters, and prepare business forms for citizens in the community.

- Fifth-graders in Springfield, Massachusetts, cleaned out a ravine and turned it into a conservation area. The youngsters cleared trails, planted shrubs and bushes, and helped develop a sledding area. The project reinforced the classroom instruction about soil erosion, animal habitats, and plant life.

- Students in an elementary school in Massachusetts collected 140 pounds of sneakers for children in Haiti. They weighed the pile regularly, recording their progress on a wall chart. They also studied Haiti in geography class and read about the country in their basal readers.

- In Vermont the Retired Senior Volunteer Program has offered to provide any public school in the state with an adult volunteer to serve as a liaison between students who wish to volunteer their services and local agencies looking for volunteers. As a result, the RSVP is now active in nearly every county in the state.—Reported by the *Adventist Review*, July 25, 1991, and *Phi Delta Kappan*, June 1991.