

2010-2011 PARTICIPANTS

Liz Coughlin North Junior High, 9th Grade History

PROJECT DETAILS

Students will connect their service in the community with the philanthropic behavior of past great Americans, and explore the importance of civic engagement throughout history.

What impact did this project have on your community?

"Students contributed 1,690 hours of volunteer hours to the betterment of society in the fall of the 2010-2011 school year, and an additional 870 hours [...] in the spring. Surveys were completed because of the project, dogs were walked, juries deliberated, the arts were celebrated and appreciated, and the quality of life was improved through these students activities."

What impact did this project have on you?

"Engaging the students in volunteer service projects and then participating in the projects alongside my students has deepened my respect for my students as individuals. I have great faith in their ability to be effective agents of change and to be productive members of society. I appreciate my students' kindness, humor, and sense of fairness. My students have become, at times, my instructors and I have a fresher and brighter understanding of their world view."

Do you have any advice to offer other teachers who are incorporating service-learning? Were there any lessons learned that you would like to share?

"Students love to share their experiences and thrive on engaging in activities in small groups. It takes very little effort to have students reflect on the bigger meaning of their endeavors, and the reflection allows them the opportunity to extend their knowledge to future experiences with greater confidence and self-knowledge."