

**FROM LEMONADE STANDS TO
COMMUNITY SERVICE:
WHY SERVICE LEARNING
MATTERS TO ALL OF US**

*You must be the change
you wish to see in the world.*

Mahatma Ghandi

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THE FIVE STAGES OF SERVICE LEARNING

These **Five Stages of Service Learning** describe what students do to transform their ideas into action. Adults provide guidance, and ensure that students' skills and knowledge are developed during the process.

Investigation

Young people identify community needs of interest and begin their research. During this process, often called "social analysis," they assess the needs by designing a survey, conducting interviews, using varied media including books and the Internet, and drawing from personal experience and observation. Students then document the extent and nature of the problem and establish a baseline for monitoring progress. Community partners are often identified. If a community partner provides the need, students still investigate to authenticate and document this need. A personal investigation is also of great value during which students interview each other to identify and consolidate each person's interests, skills, and talents. These are then referenced, employed, and developed while going through each of the sequential four stages of service learning.

Preparation and Planning

Young people, often working with community partners, outline varied ways they will meet the community need or contribute to improving the situation. Planning may include: developing a common vision for success, deciding what will occur and who will do each part of the work, creating a timeline, listing materials and costs, and overseeing any logistics and approvals that must be obtained to move forward. Clarifying roles and responsibilities is key.

Action

All participants implement their plans to meet the community need or contribute to the common good. The action most often looks like direct service, indirect service, advocacy, research, or a combination of these approaches to service.

Reflection

At each stage, students consider how the experience, knowledge, and skills they are acquiring relate to their own lives and their community. Through varied activities they think about the needs, their actions, their impacts, what worked and did not work, and their contribution. This process includes both analytical and affective response. Final reflections may include measures or other ways to gauge results.

Demonstration/Celebration

During demonstration, students provide evidence to others of their influence and accomplishments. They showcase what and how they have learned and their acquired skills and knowledge. In this context of demonstration, along with their partners, students may also plan and carry out a celebration of what they have gained and contributed including both the learning and the service.

Educating students and all partners in the process of service learning assists them in knowing how to best plan and anticipate what considerations must be made and thought of ahead of time.

Setting the Course for FAMILY SERVICE

Because . . .

Community Involvement

Volunteerism

Community Outreach

Community Service

Service Learning

Family Service

Family Participation in Service

- Never considered as an option
- Would like to but . . .
- Knowledgeable but rarely, if ever .
- Occasionally engage – holidays
- Actively engage....
- Supported by SCHOOL!

Relationship with Community

BENEFITS

Youth

Family

School

Community

Focus on the Family

What are the benefits?

What are the challenges?

Who is responsible?

Where is the child's voice?

How We Learn by Alison Gopnick, Ph.D

Happiness Theory!

D _____ & M _____

FAMILY ACTION

What would you like to do?

Find an established organization....

Begin during holidays....

Share what you know....

Transform 1-day into ongoing

Invite other families

Good deeds to commemorate events

Reflect together....

Getting Started . . . Planting Seeds

Share what *you* do....

Discuss community needs and concerns

Listen to child's interests and concerns

Look for articles

Offer a problem to solve

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Even TV can help!

Share family stories....

Attend community events

Begin young, adolescent, older, whenever!

STRATEGIES

Parent/Family Information Meeting

Encourage Family-to-Family Communication

Engage Volunteer and other Service Organizations

Use the Internet to Post Opportunities

Family Service Club

YEAR ROUND ACTIVITY!

Get Involved!

20 great ways your family—even the littlest members—can volunteer together

WRITTEN BY CATHRYN BERGER KAYE, M.A.

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Volunteering as a family shows your kids the value of helping others and lets them see how they can make a contribution. While donating money is important, a hands-on service experience provides your kids with tangible evidence that “I can make a difference!”

KIDS HELPING KIDS

BIRTHDAY IN A BOX Create a birthday party for kids at a homeless shelter by volunteering at a party, stuffing goody bags, or holding a gift drive. For more information, visit birthdaywishes.org.

KNIT ONE, QUILT TWO Knit or quilt blankets to donate to ill or traumatized children via projectlinus.org.

SWEET THOUGHTS Cook up some goodies and host a Great American Bake Sale, greatamericanbakesale.org, held annually from October through January, to benefit needy kids across the country.

WELCOME BASKET Send stuffed animals to childrentochildren.org, which distributes soft toys and duffel bags to foster kids who may arrive at new homes without comfort items of their own.

PLAY BALL Kids and grown-ups can sign up to volunteer at Little League Challenger Division Baseball, littleleague.org/divisions/challenger.asp, where kids with physical or mental disabilities are paired with a “buddy” in their own league or an adult volunteer.

ANIMAL FRIENDS AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

TALK TO THE ANIMALS Ask your local animal shelter for a wish list, and have your child help you gather newspapers, old blankets and towels, and bake dog biscuits (seegourmetsleuth.com/recipe_dogbiscuit.htm for recipes) for delivery.

LITTER BE GONE Keep America Beautiful, kab.org, offers simple suggestions for your family to help clean up your community.

GO GREEN Learn about the environment via interactive games on screen, join an environmental kids' club, and click on any icon or “Game Room” for kid-doable projects at epa.gov/kids.

SPEAK FOR THE TREES Join a tree planting event, or ask about “tree tagging,” where you and your kids help document what trees are where. Contact your local parks department or visit arborday.org for information.

ON THE WILD SIDE At the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Kids Corner, fws.gov/angered/kids, learn about endangered animals and other wildlife and how to help them by building homes for birds and bats, and more.

HEY, NEIGHBOR

AUTHOR A STORY Create an original storybook—with your child's illustrations—to donate to an emergency waiting room, pediatrician's office, homeless shelter, or preschool.

RANDOM GIFTS OF KINDNESS Enlist your child's help in choosing a library book or bouquet of flowers for an elderly or housebound neighbor, and deliver your gift together.

TURN WORDS INTO ART Choose a meaningful saying (visit abcdbooks.org/curriculum/quotes.html for ideas) to write and illustrate as a family on posterboard or fabric, and donate your work of art to a senior center or convalescent home.

PUT ON A SHOW Gather props or puppets and conduct a story hour at your local library with your kids. Bring precut strips of paper and crayons, so participating kids can make bookmarks as a gift to the library.

HOW YOUR GARDEN GROWS Beautify your neighborhood with a garden in containers, a yard, or a community lot. Visit kidsgardening.com, a program of The National Gardening Association, for ideas and resources to get you growing.

PARTY FOR A CAUSE Have a birthday party with a service theme. Ask kids to bring a gently used book or toy to donate. At the party, kids can make flowerpots with real or artificial flowers, one to keep, one to donate to a convalescent home.

GET WELL SOON

IF LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS... When a national or global cause requires donations, such as hurricanes Katrina and Rita, kids want to help, and taking action can make them feel safe. Few neighbors can resist a lemonade or hot cocoa stand, especially with a homemade sign saying where the money is going. Be sure to post a sign the next day saying the amount of money raised and thanking customers.

WALK THIS WAY Contact a national organization regarding an issue your family cares about and ask if there are any walkathons planned. For example, visit sarnet.org to walk for autism research or diabetes.org to take a step toward preventing diabetes.

BOOK IT The national program Reach Out and Read, reachoutandread.org, distributes books to children at pediatric checkups. Host a party where children dress as their favorite characters and ask each child to bring a book to donate.

VISIT ACROSS GENERATIONS Well-planned visits between children and elders provide joyful moments and satisfying relationships. A child's drawing left behind is a sweet parting gift. Check with your local senior center or residence for opportunities.

Cathryn Berger Kaye, MA., is the author of *The Complete Guide to Service Learning* (Free Spirit Publishing, 2004) and a national speaker on service and volunteerism.

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A SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICE BOOKSHELF

by Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A.

ANIMALS in DANGER

Cat Up a Tree by John and Ann Hassett (Houghton Mifflin, 1998) Nana cries, “Help!” when she sees a cat up a tree – but despite numerous requests for help from city offices and businesses, Nana has to solve this one on her own.

Highway Cats by Janet Taylor Lisle (Philomel, 2008). A group of cats living on their own in a wooded area are shocked to observe three kittens who, abandoned on the highway median, magically survive the treacherous highway crossing to the trees. These kittens continue to cast a loving magical spell as the older and not always wiser, felines conspire to save their woods from yet another sprawling strip mall being designed by greedy developers.

How To Heal a Broken Wing by Bob Graham (Candlewick Press, 2008) In this urban fable a boy sees an injured bird amid the city traffic and, with his parents, cares for the bird until he is released once more: “. . . and with a beat of its wings, the bird was gone.” Few words and a big heart make this story very touching.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Bully Blockers Club by Teresa Bateman (Albert Whitman, 2004) Lotty tries a range of strategies to get the class “bully” to leave her alone. After talking to her teacher, brother, and parents, Lotty comes up with a solution that empowers all the kids and brings the bullying to a halt.

Hey, Little Ant! by Phillip and Hannah Hoose (Tricycle Press, 1998) In this song-turned-book, a boy is about to stomp on an ant when the ant speaks up: “Please, oh please, do not squish me.” In the dialogue between boy and ant that follows, the boy wrestles with his conscience, peer pressure and the logic of this teeny creature. The verdict? Read the book! Song music included.

How Humans Make Friends, by Loreen Leedy (Holiday House, 1996) When Dr. Zork Tripork returns to his planet after an expedition to planet Earth, he explains to his fellow aliens just how humans make friends and work out their problems so they can stay friends.

No! by David McPhail (Roaring Brook Press, 2009) In this book with only one word, “No!” a boy expresses his notion of peace from stopping a boy from bullying to transforming acts of war into kindness.

Pinky and Rex and the Bully by James Howe (Aladdin, 1996) Pinky has a dilemma: his favorite color is pink, his best friend is a girl, and Kevin calls him a sissy. Will he have to give up what he really likes or stand up for what he thinks is right?

Toestomper and the Caterpillars by Sharleen Collicott (Houghton Mifflin, 1999) Toestomper and his Rowdy Ruffian pals are mean and they like it that way. However, once Toestomper begins to care for fuzzy caterpillars, he becomes caring and kind. A humorous story with a message about bullying and friendship.

ELDERLY

Remember Me? Alzheimer’s Through the Eyes of a Child/Te acuerdas de mi? Pensamientos de la enfermedad, Alzheimers a travez de los ojos de un niño by Sue Blass (Raven Tree Press, 2003) A young girl cannot understand why her grandfather no longer remembers her. In English and Spanish.

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli (Aladdin, 1996) An anonymous valentine turns unsociable Mr. Hatch into a friend of everyone in the neighborhood. When he learns the valentine was meant for someone else, Mr. Hatch reverts to his old ways until his true friends come to the rescue.

Sunshine Home by Eve Bunting (Clarion, 1994) Timothy visits his grandmother who broke her hip. Timothy and his parents have a hard time leaving Gram at the nursing home. They know that even an aging person with physical difficulties still needs love.

ENVIRONMENT

Recycle Every Day! By Nancy Elizabeth Wallace (Cavendish, 2003) A young bunny seeks her family's help in learning about recycling for a school project. Includes a board game!

The Wartville Wizard by Don Madden (Aladdin, 1993) A man turns "wizard" to fight a town of litterbugs by making litter stick to the person who dropped it! A memorable and colorful tale of how people learn about the consequences of their actions. Easily adapted to an amusing play with an important message.

GARDENING

The Summer My Father Was Ten by Pat Brisson (Boyd's Mills Press, 1998) Every year, while planting their garden, a young girl hears the story "about Mr. Bellavista and the summer my father was ten" when a thoughtless joke becomes vandalizing a neighbor's garden. The elder immigrant neighbor simply asks, "Why?" The next year, to make amends, her father asks to help replant the garden. An act of forgiveness begins a lifelong friendship and a family tradition.

Wanda's Roses by Pat Brisson (Boyd Mills Press, 1994) When Wanda finds a thorn bush in an empty lot, she is sure it is a rose bush ready to bloom. She clears away trash and waters her "bush." When no roses appear, her neighbors and friends have a surprising solution.

HUNGER and HOMELESSNESS

The Long March: The Choctaw's Gift to Irish Famine Relief by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick (Tricycle Press, 1998). The year is 1847, and Choona, a young Choctaw, has learned of a famine in Ireland. From what precious little they have, the Choctaw collect \$170 to help the starving Irish. As Choona learns the terrible truth about his own tribe's long march, he must decide whether to answer another people's faraway cry for help. Based on actual events.

A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan (HarperCollins, 2001) A family joins Habitat for Humanity volunteers to restore a home. In time, they learn another home will be restored for their family. As the father says, "Big dreams are built little by little," with many generous hands.

IMMIGRATION

The Gold Threaded Dress by Carolyn Marsden (Candelwick Press, 2002) Having just arrived from Thailand, Oy encounters name-calling and being "left out." To Oy, it seems the only way to be liked is to bring in her special ceremonial dress and let the girls try it on. Will Oy betray her family to fit in?

A Movie in My Pillow—Una película en mi almohada by Jorge Argueta (Children's Book Press, 2001) Young Jorge moves to San Francisco from his El Salvador, bringing sights, sounds, and smells that convey his native rural home. He also carries the sorrow of war and sadness of leaving loved ones. He adds the confusion and joy of reuniting with family in a new urban home. All told in poetry, in English and Spanish.

SOCIAL CHANGE: Issues and Action

A Life Like Mine: How Children Live Around the World by DK Publishing and Unicef, 2002. Vivid photographs introduce 18 children and 180 countries with exquisite detail to how they live, pursuing a good life for themselves and their communities, and the challenges they face.

We Were There, Too! Young People in U.S. History by Phillip Hoose (Farrar Straus Giroux, 2001) Find out role of young people throughout American history through this comprehensive collection of stories and photographs.

The Genie Scheme by Kimberly K. Jones (Margaret K. McElderry, 2009) Janna's good deed to a woman in need at the secondhand store results in a surprising arrival at her home: the good deed was done to a genie! And now Janna has to decide how to spend her "genie watts" (think three wishes) – for her own personal gain or for the common good? What to do when a girl meets a genie with a social conscience!

Novels to Know About

Any Small Goodness by Tony Johnston — Set in Los Angeles, we meet Arturo and his close-knit Mexican-American family. As Arturo navigates through the challenges of growing up in the barrio, he finds how strong family bonds, generosity, and goodwill improve the lives of the community. As his father says, “In life there is *bueno* and there is *malo*. If you do not find enough of the good, you must create it yourself.”

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl by Joyce Carole Oates — A teenager struggles to regain his place after being wrongly accused of planning an act of violence. An exposé of media frenzy, loyalty, and “truth.”

Buddha Boy by Kathe Koja — At Rucher High, the new kid, Jinsen, is called “Buddha Boy” and considered a freak. He dresses in tie-dye shirts, shaves his head, and begs for lunch money in the cafeteria. So when Justin, the book’s narrator, has to work with Jinsen on a class project. He hopes to get this over fast. But the discovery of Jinsen’s artistic talents leads to a friendship that changes both boys forever.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon — The narrator is a 15-year-old autistic boy intent on solving a mystery.

Define “Normal” by Julie Anne Peters — A girl everyone thinks is doing well is asked to be a peer counselor for another girl who appears troubled. But is everything as it seems? Who really is in need in this relationship?

The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian — A teen creates a blog about teen materialism. Very funny. And the sequel – *Vote for Larry*.

The Misfits by James Howe — Four students who do not “fit in” at their middle school create a third party for student council elections: the No-Name Party. These good friends laugh together, openly discuss their upsets, and talk about important issues. This “Gang of Five” (they say “five” to keep others off guard), enter the challenging world of politics, love, and loss, and on the way, change their school forever. And the sequel *Totally Joe*.

Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman — Meet thirteen residents of urban Cleveland whose lives unexpectedly become connected because one young girl plans bean seeds. One by one, a city lot is transformed into a productive, beautiful garden.

Soul Moon Soup by Lindsay Lee Johnson — In this prose-poem novel, we meet Phoebe Rose who lives on the “cold hard” streets with her mother. She yearns to draw but has no paper or pencils. She doesn’t remember “ever seeing mama cook.” Sent to live with her grandmother, Phoebe Rose begins to discover who she is and what giving and receiving is all about.