

7

Learn the Benefits of Volunteering

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will learn the importance and benefits of volunteering in the community and will begin planning their own volunteer experiences.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

The service project gives students an opportunity to volunteer in their community, providing a valuable service to the community and to those in need. It also gives students an opportunity to build job skills. Contributing in this way will encourage students to develop a commitment to make a difference.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

☐ **STEP 1: Update Journal**

When I help someone do something, I feel . . .

☐ **STEP 2: Convene Roundtable**

"I feel needed by others when I _____."

☐ **STEP 3: Advance Organizer**

"Today we are going to learn about volunteering here at school or in the community and begin to plan a volunteer activity."

☐ **STEP 4: Activity - 20 Minutes**

Ask students if they know what it means to be a volunteer. Describe volunteers who are called school safety patrols. These volunteers help students cross streets near schools. Ask for other examples of other volunteers and have a short discussion. Next, read or have students take turns reading the story, **Why Volunteer?**

After hearing the story **Why Volunteer?** about a character named Cathy, ask the following questions: How did her volunteer work affect the people Cathy was helping? How did the volunteer work affect Cathy? Is volunteer work important? Why? Is it important for you? Why?

☐ **STEP 5: Activity - 25 Minutes**

Explain that the class will complete a service project. The service project students will complete is a 15-hour volunteer assignment. Students will choose an assignment and keep a log of their experiences. Throughout the semester, students will report on their volunteer experiences. At the end of the semester, students will give a class report describing their volunteer experiences.

Go over each part of the **Making a Better World** worksheet as you explain the assignment. Assure the students that they will receive whatever help they need to make this a successful experience. Call potential volunteer sites (non-profit) for information about volunteering.



PREPARATION UNIT LESSON 7

Why Volunteer

Cathy was visiting her grandmother in a nursing home. Her grandmother had been ill for a long time. She usually did not know when Cathy was there. The nursing home was not Cathy's favorite place. It was full of people who were sick. It made Cathy uncomfortable, but she really missed her grandmother. Cathy decided to visit every two weeks.

One day as she was leaving, she passed a large room with a group of patients getting ready for a party. One patient caught Cathy's eye. She was eighty-five years old, with curly, white hair and a wonderful attitude. She talked to everyone. She encouraged them to have fun. Cathy walked to the room to watch this person. The lady noticed Cathy and asked her to join them.

Cathy felt out of place. She found out that the lady's name was Naomi. Naomi included Cathy in the activities. When they were finished, she asked Cathy to come back the following week. She asked if Cathy would help with the craft activity. Cathy wasn't really sure if she wanted to go back the next week.

She decided to go anyway. When she went back the next week, she was so busy that the time passed quickly. There were patients working on different projects. Cathy spotted Naomi right away and said hello. Naomi introduced Cathy to everyone. Then she asked her if she would like to help at a table. Cathy helped five patients that day. As she left, the people told her how glad they were that she had come.

As Cathy went back each week, she talked to the patients and learned about their families. Many of these people did not have many visitors and were lonely. They looked forward to seeing Cathy. They depended on her to be there. Cathy volunteered at the nursing home for the next two years.

Cathy still feels good about her work at the nursing home. She became an important person in the lives of the patients.

Cathy also realized how many important things she learned from this experience. It has helped her to become a more caring and helpful person.

© Used by permission of the James Starfield Company, Santa Barbara, CA 93103 THE TRANSITIONS CURRICULUM



PREPARATION UNIT LESSON 7

Making a Better World

"GIVE JUST FIVE HOURS A WEEK TO ANY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE"

This is a slogan used on TV. As the commercial says, "volunteering is an important activity for everyone." Taxes and private business cannot take care of all the needs we have in our world. Each one of us is responsible for making the world a better place. Volunteering is the best way to give your time, effort, and talent for a good cause. The good that you do will be repeated many times over.

Many people now are getting involved in volunteer programs. Some people volunteer for an hour or two a week. Others volunteer for more than five hours a week. Many cities have a Volunteer Center which will help place people to volunteers in hospitals, schools, nursing home facilities and non-profit agencies, such as the March of Dimes.

As part of the Transition Class, students are required to complete a 15-hour volunteer assignment as outlined below:

- Students may choose their assignments with approval from their transition teacher. If students are not sure, their transition teacher can help them decide.
- Students will keep a log of their experiences while volunteering.
- Students will report their volunteer experiences to the class.

Name three places you might like to volunteer:

Student Signature _____ Date _____

© Used by permission of the James Starfield Company, Santa Barbara, CA 93103 THE TRANSITIONS CURRICULUM

STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

One example of a volunteer project is "_____".

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Appendix A PREPARATION UNIT: LESSON 5

Permission Letter

Date: _____

Dear Parents,

As part of the Transition Class of _____ High School, your son/daughter is required to complete 15 hours as a volunteer in a position of school or in the community. Please read the information sheet titled "Making a Better World" with your son/daughter. This sheet will provide more details about volunteering.

In order for your son/daughter to begin the program, please complete the permission form at the bottom of this letter and return it to school.

We appreciate your support of the volunteer program and would be happy to answer any additional questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Teacher Name/Phone _____

Please detach at the dotted line.

MAKING THE WORLD BETTER - VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Permission Form

I agree that volunteering is important and I give my permission for

Student Name

to participate in a volunteer assignment as part of the Transition Class.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

© Used by permission of the James Starfield Company, Santa Barbara, CA 93103 THE TRANSITIONS CURRICULUM

STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Students will take the **Making a Better World** worksheet and **Permission Letter** home to read with their parents and return it to school, signed. Invite a person from a volunteer center in your city to speak to the class.

KEY WORDS

volunteer

benefit

opportunity

giving

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **Why Volunteer?**, page 8; **Making a Better World**, page 9; **Permission Letter**, Appendix A, page A4.
- Go over the service project with your administrator for permission and support.
- Complete the **Permission Letter** and get administrative support.
- Prepare to discuss the volunteer service project for each student.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Reading, Listening
- Thinking Skills: Decision Making
- Personal Qualities: Responsibility, Sociability