

Student Philanthropy Program • 2011 – 2012 Final Report

1) Your Name: Jennifer Franzoi

School: Gilbert A. Dater HS

2) How was the program implemented in your school and how were students selected? I teach 3 service learning classes. All students were required to participate as part of the “Learning” component of the course. Their work on this project represented ½ of their quarter grade.

3) Student Participants (numbers by grade level): 9th: ___ 10th: ___ 11th: 43 12th: 23

4) If you have participated in past year(s), what major changes (if any) did you make this year? This was my second year of participation. Last year I did not involve all of my students in my service learning class. This year I made the project a requirement for the class.

4) What was the timeline for your program? The program began 1st semester. Students had to form groups to research a charity that needed volunteers, specifically high school students. Students presented their research to the class as part of an end of quarter project. This was completed by the end of November. 2nd semester, students formed new groups to research charities for the Student Philanthropy Project. Students could select the same charity they researched for the first project or different ones. They were encouraged to select charities they had a connection to – ones they had volunteered at. Students sent out two letters and RFPs and waited for replies in Feb. After the replies were received, students had to select one of the charities they received a response from and to present to the class their reasons why this charity should receive the grant. Student presentations were given at the beginning of March and each class got to vote for two charities to represent their bell at the final round. The final round (6 charities) was judged at the end of March by a group of teachers.

5) Describe how you went about implementing the various components of this program into your class or afterschool curriculum. *You may answer each part separately or as one longer answer at the end. Be as specific as possible and be sure to share any stories or provide insights that you realized during the process.*

- a. **Basic components of Philanthropy education** Throughout the school year students are required to complete volunteer work and reflect upon their service. Through this volunteer work students learned about themselves and the community which they were serving.
- b. **Identifying community needs** Students used their volunteer work to help identify community needs as well as the first research project to find out about charities in our community.
- c. **Forming community boards (small work groups).** Students were permitted to select their groups. Small groups of 2-3 students were permitted. No larger.
- d. **Interaction with non-profits.** We contacted all charities by letter and some by phone when a letter didn't elicit a response. The following agencies received a letter from my students: Bake me Home, Project Connect, SAAP, society for the improvement of Stray Animals, Starfire, West Park Nursing home, Women Helping women, A Kid Again, Animal Adoption foundation, Center for Autism, Cinti Museum Center, Cinti Children's Hospital, Inreturn, Make a Wish Foundation, Scratching post, Shelter House group, SPCA, Therapy Pets of Greater Cinti, United Church of Christ, All dogs go to heaven, Cancer Free Kids, Espy boys and Girls Club, Imago, Keep Cinti Beautiful, Matthew 25 Ministries, cincy slam, Greater Cinti coalition for the Homeless, Greater Cinti Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research foundation, LAAD, Little sisters of the poor, Our Daily Bread, Over the Rhine Community Housing, Three sisters pet rescue, Upward, Alzheimer Association, American Red Cross, Animal Friends Humane Society, Animal rescue fund, Bethany

House, Center for chemical Addiction, coalition for a Drug Free Cinti, American Cancer society, Bayley Place, Big Brother, boys and Girls Club, children's heart Association, children's home of cinti, Cinti Nature Center, EPIC House, Neediest kids of all, Planning Parenthood, Pregnancy Center West, St. Vincent de paul, Stepping Stones, The Salvation Army. Only a few were visited. No guest speakers.

- e. **Issuing RFPs.** This was the hardest part of the project. Students didn't really understand the information on the RFP. To the students the dollar figures on the RFPs seemed large. It was hard for them to understand how much money things costs. They don't have the business sense to know the costs. The other frustrating aspect of the project is that students didn't receive responses back from their charities. Why? Sometimes the information listed on the internet for contact people was incorrect so the letter did not get to the right person. Sometimes we were ignored even after we made several calls. Students just couldn't understand how they could be ignored.
- f. **Evaluating RFPs.** I didn't give the students a set process to use mainly because so few groups had more that one RFP returned to them.
- g. **Selecting Grant Recipient.** Students earned votes throughout the project by completing assignments on time and doing extra credit. Each student voted on presentation day with their votes. Some students had more votes than others. Each class ended up with the top two charities with the final round of 6 charities. Students had to present at the final round and a group of 6 teachers voted for the final charity
- h. **Awards Ceremony.** Student were very nervous about standing up on the stage and speaking in front of the large audience. Food was well received and the facility was very nice.
- i. **Reflective questions.** No.

6) What were some of the highlights of this year? Students who had participated in the project last year were excited to participate again. There was a general spirit of competitiveness during the presentations and voting process.

7) What were some of the low points or challenges you faced? I wished the students would have volunteered or visited their agency. They made up all kinds of reasons why they couldn't visit. Mainly I think they didn't visit because of transportation and they were nervous about going to a place they were unfamiliar with. I think they wanted me to hold their hands throughout the process such as by making the phone calls to agencies for them and helping them find the contact information for them.

8) Student outcomes: Did this program...

...have positive impact on your students? Students learned a lot about what types of charities are out in our community and what they do in our community.

...allow any students to accept the leadership challenge? Students talked about doing volunteer work at their charity but most did not. Only a few actually volunteered at their charity.

...have any noticeable impact on student behavior? Students are beginning to realize that charities are short staffed and often cannot meet the needs to the community they serve. Students see the need for volunteers in our community.

9) If you were doing this program again, what changes/improvements would you make? A current list of charities that are interested in participating in the programs and the contact information would make getting the RFPs easier. I would like to do more analysis with the RFPs but because so few responded it was difficult to have a conversation about funding for non profits. If every student group had two RFPs to analyze then I could do more with this aspect of the project.

10) At this time are you still interested in participating in next year's program? Yes.

11) In order to help future Philanthropy participants, please share the following materials. You will receive proper acknowledgement for the materials you provide.

a. Educational components: I sent these to Julie already. Would like them again?

b. Correspondence: I saved copies of letters we sent but not everyone sent electronic copies of the RFPs. We used the form letter you provided. Would you like me to send you all the letters we sent?

c. Student work: Reflective essays or other student responses.

12) We are putting together a Teacher Manual over the summer.

A) a list of charities that would like to be included in this project and a name of the contact person.

B) a lesson on funding for charities and how to analyze RFPs.

13) MG Website. Not sure – it seems like there were a lot of good resources already. I liked having the form letter with the Magnified Giving logo. It made it seem more official.

A list of charities that want to participate in the project.

Some type of spreadsheet to keep track of which charities were sent letters and the response. Something teachers could use to track all the communication with the charities. It got a little overwhelming in Feb when I began to receive the responses.

Maybe some pictures from our school. I had sent you some but none made it on the website. It might generate more interest in the project at our school level.

14) Where would you like me to mail your stipend check?

You can mail the check to me at:

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3866 Tracy Jean Lane
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