



Change yourself. Change your world. Volunteer.

### In This Issue

[Engaging Students: Fall Service Event](#)

[Curriculum, Grants, Resources and More!](#)

[Service-Learning Calendar](#)

[Contact VSD](#)

### Quick Links

[San Diego Service-Learning](#)

[Engaging Students in Service Trainings](#)

[Find A Project](#)

[Flex Orientations](#)

[VSD Podcast](#)

-

[VSD Blog](#)

## Educator Resource Newsletter

September 2008

### Share Your Service-Learning Stories!

Do you have a service-learning story to share in our newsletter - a new project, partnership, grant or award? We would love to hear about it. Please contact [Kim Lesnau](#).

#### [Check Out Our Webpage!](#)

If you cannot find what you're looking for, please try our Educator page and our growing Curricula Hub with links to easy-to-use project ideas and lesson plans.

### A Letter from your Service-Learning Regional Lead

Well another summer has seemingly flown by. My son just entered kindergarten this past week and our family is both nervous and excited for what this next year will hold. As a parent of a school-aged child, I now have a greater appreciation for the importance of teaching our young people the value of service through the opportunities for teamwork and group discussion only available outside the home. For many of you, as with my family, the new school year has already begun. I thought it would be an appropriate time for me to share with you some of the exciting developments in the world of Service-Learning, along with some tips to help you start your students' year of service off right.

Even for the seasoned educator, service-learning can remain a daunting undertaking. Something I have noticed in my five plus years as Regional Lead is that the simplest way to begin is to take a look at the community service projects already occurring in your school, and merely plug those into your curriculum. An elementary school's canned food drive can easily be converted into a service-learning project when you ask your students to classify and count the different canned

foods coming in, calculate the percentages of each type (say, vegetables, soups, beans, etc.) and even determine the total value of donations for proud publication in the school paper.

For those of you who cannot imagine incorporating this work into classroom hours, consider the afterschool programs taking place on campus. Many afterschool coordinators are looking for productive and substantive activities to use with their students and service-learning could be the perfect fit. [Click here for support in afterschool service-learning programs from eXcel Youth Zone.](#)

Finally, if you are looking to make a case for service-learning with your administrators, there are two big initiatives in the schools this year that align well with service-learning. The first is Character Education, for which we will be offering a **FREE ['Engaging Students' Fall Service Event on October 9, 2008](#)** and a **training on [Character Education and Student Motivation on March 5, 2009](#)**.

While service-learning is something we advocate for as a method to be used from the start of a child's education, research has shown that it is a highly effective technique for engaging otherwise at-risk youth, thus preventing drop out and increasing attendance rates. In California, approximately one-third of high school students do not graduate. No diploma translates to more time spent unemployed, on government assistance, or cycling in and out of prison. ([Click here for more statistics](#)) As such, the Regional Lead offices throughout California are joining State Superintendent Jack O'Connell this year to focus on dropout prevention.

Together, Regional Leads are creating programming that will support educators in utilizing service-learning as a means for addressing this dire need.

As always, I invite you to consider Volunteer San Diego a resource for helping you plan and implement service-learning with your students. This year we will provide free networking and idea sharing events, professional development trainings, online curriculum and project ideas, and whatever else you need to feel supported in engaging students in service. If you have a need, please contact me directly at [jhamilton@volunteersandiego.org](mailto:jhamilton@volunteersandiego.org) or 858-636-4137. Have a great school year!

Jennifer Hamilton

California Department of Education's Service-Learning  
Regional Lead for San Diego and Imperial Counties

The Service-Learning Council of San Diego  
presents

## Engaging Students: Fall Service Event

Please join us for **Engaging Students: Fall Service Event** hosted by the Service-Learning Council of San Diego.

The purpose of this event is to **generate project ideas that engage students in service and to create collaborations between educators, students and organizations.**

Collaborate with and learn about examples of project from award-winning service-learning practitioners, educators, students and organizations. Discuss service project trials and tribulations, brainstorm effective solutions and create new collaborations in a World Café discussion group hosted by Service-Learning Council's practitioners.

Volunteer San Diego also invites you to the Awards Reception in which educators, students and organizations will be recognized for their dedication and achievement in providing an exceptional service-related project to the students of San Diego.

**You are welcome to join us for this event for FREE by signing up on the Volunteer San Diego website or by contacting to [SAVY@volunteersandiego.org](mailto:SAVY@volunteersandiego.org).**

If you are interested in presenting your project or organization at our networking fair and receiving special recognition, [please fill out an application](#) and return to [SAVY@volunteersandiego.org](mailto:SAVY@volunteersandiego.org).

More information on this event, the application, and other volunteer information is listed on [www.volunteersandiego.org](http://www.volunteersandiego.org).

## Curriculum, Grants and Resources

**Remember to check out the [Volunteer San Diego](#) website for all of our resources that are updated regularly:**

## September Grant Deadlines

[Foundation for Rural Education and Development -  
Technology Grants for Rural Schools](#)  
[Hooked on Hydroponics Grant Packages](#)  
[Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Grants](#)  
[The Jenzabar Foundation Student Leadership Awards](#)

### **Join in the 10th Anniversary of Kids Care Clubs Party Pals! Kids Care Week - October 19 - 25, 2008!**

For ten years, Kids Care Clubs Party Pals members have been planning "parties with a purpose." Club members have been creating and celebrating parties for those who may be overlooked on their birthdays or during other holidays.

With Kids Care Clubs Party Pals, your club can be Party Pals to kids, seniors or veterans, make Party Pals Boxes or Party Pal Packages on-site, and celebrate with a cause!

[Click here for more information about Kids Care Week](#)

### **Walk for Peace and Friendship Festival - A great Service-Learning opportunity to start off the school year!**

The Walk for Peace and Friendship Festival on September 21, 2008 is a 3K Walk through Balboa Park followed by a youth-inspired, multicultural, musical extravaganza. All proceeds will benefit either Kids For Peace or Americans For the Department of Peace (AFDOP).

This event is a great opportunity to implement Service-Learning in the beginning of the school year. Rent the film "Peace One Day" to learn about how the United Nations International Day of Peace was started or have your students study what the United Nations is and what it does.

For more information, please visit  
<http://www.kidsforpeaceusa.org> or  
<http://walkforpeace2008.kintera.org>.

## Service-Learning Calendar

Mark your calendars, here are some events you don't want to miss!

Remember to check out the [Project Calendar](#) and the [Trainings & Courses](#) page.

### [Service-Learning Council Meeting](#)

**Thursday, September 18, 2008 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM, San Diego, CA**

Join with the members of the Volunteer San Diego Service-Learning Council in completing the final preparations for the Engaging Students: Fall Service Event occurring on October 9, 2008. [Click here for more information about the Fall Service Event.](#)

### [Hands on San Diego 2008](#)

**September 20 - 27, 2008**

Hands On San Diego is Volunteer San Diego's annual week-long service event that mobilizes thousands of volunteers from corporate teams, military, school, family, clubs and other community groups to strengthen their communities. Last year, these volunteer groups completed 100 projects benefiting 40 diverse community organizations throughout San Diego County. [Click here to get involved today!](#)

### [National Learn & Serve Challenge](#)

**October 6 - 12, 2008**

The National Learn & Serve Challenge is a perfect opportunity to celebrate service-learning. October 6-12 marks the kickoff week to raise awareness about service-learning successes across the country with the spirit of continuing the effort throughout the year. Go to the [National Learn & Serve Challenge](#) website to learn more about what you can do during the National Learn & Serve Challenge!

## Volunteer San Diego's Engaging Students in Service: Fall Training Series!

### [FALL SERVICE EVENT \(FREE\)](#)

**Thursday, October 9, 2008 4:00 - 5:30pm**

Collaborate with award-winning service-learning practitioners, educators, students and organizations, special guest speakers from an environmental community organization, and discuss projects ideas with experts who can help you bring your ideas to life.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO SERVICE-LEARNING**

*Wednesday, October 22, 2008 4:00 - 7:00pm*

Integrate community service with academic learning in the classroom or after school all in three simple steps

**ON-SITE PROJECTS AND REFLECTION**

*Wednesday, November 12, 2008 4:00 - 6:30pm*

Create successful on-site service projects focusing on the themes of environmental education and disaster preparedness

**Support our SAVY Leaders, a group of dynamic youth that come together to form a youth leadership council!**

We are looking for volunteers with two to ten hours to give **between October and April** to advise these youth in a task that you would like to mentor them on. We are looking for volunteers with experience in project planning, outreach, marketing, connecting with elected officials, fundraising, grant writing, etc.

If you would like to share your talents and mentor the SAVY Leaders when they need you the most, please contact [SAVY@volunteersandiego.org](mailto:SAVY@volunteersandiego.org), 858-636-4123, for more information.

For additional assistance and service-learning resources contact:

**Jen Hamilton, Program Director**

Email: [Jhamilton@volunteersandiego.org](mailto:Jhamilton@volunteersandiego.org)

Phone: (858) 636-4137

Fax: (858) 492-2016

Web page: <http://www.volunteersandiego.org> or [www.sdservicelearning.org](http://www.sdservicelearning.org)