

Unit 12 Overview

Giving Back to the Community: “Getting Involved!”

CASAS Competency: 8. Independent Living

Time Frame: 3 weeks

Goals for this unit

1. Students will become informed about not-for-profit organizations and volunteer opportunities for members of the community.
2. Students will understand that civic responsibility opens doors to career possibilities and provides services for communities that otherwise might not have them.
3. Students will learn how their own unique skills can contribute to the betterment of humanity within their community by planning and implementing a service-learning activity.
4. Students will create a finished product based on their community service project.
5. Students will experience the satisfaction that comes with helping others.

Suggested Activities

Activity 1—Pre-test

Teacher-led discussion follows the completion of the test.

Materials needed:

- ◆ Pre-test “Giving Back to the Community: ‘Getting Involved!’”

Activity 2—Brainstorm a variety of ways that people serve their community using the worksheet as a guide. Discuss and choose one of the ideas for your class to use as a way to serve your local community. If the class is large enough, more than one project may be chosen. Discuss how to go about contacting organizations to ask about the volunteer opportunities.

Materials needed:

- ◆ Worksheet “Community Service Suggestions”

Activity 3—Plan and collaborate on the details of the specific service the class will offer to the community, using the Service Project Outline. Students work together creatively to plan and implement an original community service project using their knowledge, skills, ideas, and resources to carry out individual tasks over the three-week period (time frame may vary depending on the class). Students use their English language skills, address individual learning abilities and interests, and contribute their unique talents as they give back to the community.

Materials needed:

- ◆ Worksheet “Service Project Outline”

Activity 4—As a class (or in small groups if class is large), students collaborate on the design of a “finished product” documenting their community service project using the suggestions from the Finished Product worksheet. Discuss ways to share the “finished product” with members of the community, including the organization they served, the school, etc.

Materials needed:

- ◆ Worksheet “Finished Product”

Activity 5—Post-test

Materials needed:

- ◆ Post-test “Share What You’ve Learned”

Connected Activities

GUEST SPEAKER

Representative from United Way or
another community service organization

FIELD TRIP

Service project location

Supplemental Resources

Stand Out 4, Unit 4, pp. 73-74

Summary

CASAS COMPETENCIES

- 8. Independent Living
- 8.3 Use support services to assist in maintaining independence and achieving community integration

VOCABULARY

Names of community services	Places, titles, activities, tasks, services, etc. that connect to the topic of volunteer services in the community
Specific activities	Descriptions of services rendered in the community

SKILLS

Listening	Group collaboration and discussion in project process
Speaking	Community service, discussions, research, and contacts for project
Reading	Research for project
Writing	Service project outline
Life Skills	Collaborate with colleagues, peers, and community members to create, learn, serve, and document a project

GRAMMAR

Verb Tenses	Past, present, future tenses to present ideas and be understood
Proper nouns	Names of places, community service institutions

ENTERTAINMENT

Using local resources and information, students develop an awareness of social and cultural activities. Teacher and students work together to incorporate this in the course of study.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

- Pre-test (needs assessment)
- Participation in service project discussion and planning
- Finished product
- Post-test

Activity 1: Pre-test

Giving Back to the Community: "Getting Involved!"

Have you ever given money to a charitable or not-for-profit organization? YES NO

If so, which one? _____

Have you ever worked as a volunteer? YES NO

If so, for what organization(s)? _____

What prompted you to donate your money or your time? _____

Why was it important for you? _____

How did it make you feel to help someone else? _____

My goals for this unit are: _____

Activity 2: Worksheet

Community Service Suggestions

ORGANIZATIONS

Homeless shelter

Food bank

Special Olympics

Animal shelter

Park

Library

Salvation Army

Red Cross

Retirement home

Women's shelter

Others _____

ACTIVITIES

Bake sale

Give blood

Plant garden

Pick up garbage

Mow lawns

Others _____

Activity 3: Worksheet

Service Project Outline

Planning the Project

Names of group members (Group members may wish to share phone numbers or e-mail addresses if they plan to meet outside of school.) _____

Project description _____

Project timeline:

Week 1: Goal _____

My tasks _____

Materials _____

Resources and contacts _____

Week 2: Goal _____

My tasks _____

Materials _____

Resources and contacts _____

Activity 4: Worksheet

Finished Product

As a group, you will decide on the format of a “finished product” that will document your community service activity and that you can share with the others (e.g., the organization where you volunteered, the school, etc.).

Discuss with your fellow students the following possibilities:

Posters

Newsletter

Display

Scrapbook

Presentation

Other _____

Week 3: Goal _____

My tasks _____

Materials _____

Resources and contacts _____

Special arrangements (example: interviews of people involved in project) _____

Activity 5: Post-test

Share What You've Learned

Reflect on our final service project, and respond to the following questions.

What were your original expectations of this project? _____

What do you think now? _____

What obstacles did you overcome? _____

What did you learn from the project? _____

Write down any quotes or reactions from community members regarding the project that you may have heard. _____

What one thing would you do differently next time? _____

What feelings did this experience evoke? _____

Would you consider volunteer work again in the future? YES NO

If so, what kind of work interests you and why? _____
