



Service Learning News

1.28.08

by Judy Brookhart

Upcoming Opportunities for Service

Volunteering at the Blue Heron Day Celebration!

Old Trail School is joining with Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association to host a fabulous event on Saturday, March 1 – a celebration of the annual blue herons returning to our neighborhood. There will be a pancake breakfast and visits to the blue heron habitat accompanied by experts who will share their knowledge. At the same time, our gym will be filled with activities including games, crafts and exhibits. You will receive more details about this fun Saturday morning, but I am writing about it from a service learning perspective – specifically to middle schoolers.

(This paragraph is for middle school parents) The organizers are asking for assistance from sixth, seventh and eighth graders in our dining room, offering an extra pair of hands to help children trying to balance their breakfast, bus tables and generally being helpful. They need 10 students from 8:30-12:30, and would appreciate any amount of time... an hour, two, three or all four hours – as long as there are always 10 students on duty. Something fun to consider would be for the entire family to enjoy the celebration – your middle schooler volunteering and the rest of you participating. *We know that middle schoolers leave for their class trips the following next day or two, so we are especially appreciative of their giving of their time!* If this sounds interesting, please email me at jbrookhart@oldtrail.org – thank you so much!

Change Bandits

One of the most rewarding aspects of this job is working with individual students with hearts for service – especially when we can help them create a plan and follow through. As you can imagine, it is not always possible – but when it works, it is a joy! Two students both very much wanted to help Akron Children's Hospital through their Change Bandits drive. They have galvanized their classmates, and will be collecting whatever spare change everyone has on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Slightly Used T-Shirts

You will be hearing more about a project that Laurie Arnold's advisory group is taking on in February – gathering slightly used t-shirts for our sister school in Nicaragua. You might keep that in mind as you are sorting through boxes in preparation for spring and summer.

Finally... St. Pet's Day!

Everyone knows about St. Pat's Day... but this variation on the theme is to raise (not money!) dry cat and dog food for the Humane Society. It involves a Celtic band, Irish dancers, a poet named Merle... and a ton (literally, we hope) of dog and cat food. If you are intrigued, save Friday, Feb. 22 at 2:30 p.m. More details to follow!

So as you can see, service opportunities for everyone... time, talent, treasure... for humans, canines and felines. Do you see why I love my new job!!!

Serving together,

Judy Brookhart

Judy