

**North Adams Public Schools  
Service-Learning Narratives  
July 2014-June 2015**

\* indicates project connection with Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)  
~ indicates connection to the Garden Mosaic Project in collaboration with a community initiative that strives to increase awareness of food security issues, increase access, provide relief and develop sustainable solutions. Harvested food is donated to the Berkshire Food Project (community free meal program). Additional community partners include the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, the Growing Healthy Gardening Program and MCLA.

**JOHNSON PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

**\*Dzierga, Rosey – “A Heart for Pop”**

Students learned about empathy, illness and showing care to others. They raised awareness about illness by partnering with PopCares, a local organization that provides funds to people affected by cancer. Many members of the community helped the preschoolers create hand-decorated posters, heart pins, syringe art magnets, and “boo boo art”. Participating community members included the MCLA men’s basketball team, Drury High School students, families affected by cancer, North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombright, and others. Multiple businesses donated supplies to the project. The children’s art was exhibited in various public locations and donations were accepted for PopCares. Children also collaborated with local musician Terry “A La Berry” Hall to learn and record an original song that promotes the themes of kindness and caring.

**BRAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Cellana, Karen; McCarron, Marie – “Holiday Gift Shop”**

Students in fourth grade collected, sorted, set up and sold items in a holiday gift shop where all students at Brayton could buy gifts for their family. The students raised \$425 that was donated to the Peter Goodrich Foundation to support their school in Afghanistan.

**Daigle, Karen – “Jump Rope for Heart”**

Through their health and physical education curriculum, students in grades K-7 learned about the work of the American Heart Association, the benefits of physical activity and ran a fundraiser on behalf of the Heart Association. A total of \$510 was raised and donated to the American Heart Association.

**Fruscio, Joyce; Dodig, Michelle; Sala, Deborah – “Cuddle Up and Read”**

Third grade students surveyed students in kindergarten and first grade to learn about reading habits at home, access to books at home, access to the library and to ask if they would like older students to read to them. They then organized and provided a read aloud program with third graders reading to kindergarteners and first graders increasing fluency for the older students and increasing exposure to vocabulary and literature for the younger.

**Gallagher, Nancy; Prenguber, Dan – “Home Help”**

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade interviewed the district Homeless Education Case Manager and the director of Berkshire Food Project to learn about the needs of local students and families facing housing issues and homelessness. They raised awareness in their school and conducted a hat day to raise funds. They selected and purchased items for homeless families that will provide comfort and utility.

**\*~Lawson, Robyn; Sprague, Britani; Mutka, Jaana; Tanner, Lisa – “Healthy Harvesters”**

Students in Mrs. Lawson’s grade 3 class work throughout the school year with partners from the Growing Healthy Community Gardening Program and the Berkshire Food Project as the leaders of the Brayton School Garden. They learn about the need for food assistance in the local community. Students learn about soil science, plant cycles, weather patterns, nutrition and apply math and ELA skills as they plan, plant, harvest and maintain the school garden. The harvested food is donated to the Berkshire Food Project. The garden at Brayton has suffered from acts of vandalism when school is not in session. The third grade students invited the other Brayton students and teachers to participate in the garden with the goal of creating a sense of ownership and responsibility. Grade 5 students from Ms. Tanner’s class harvested herbs and dried them for Berkshire Food Project during the fall. Grade 3 students from the classes of Ms. Sprague and Ms. Mutkas contributed to the garden by harvesting during the fall. Ms. Mutkas’ students planted various vegetables during the spring. The women’s Volleyball Team from MCLA aided in the spring clean up of the garden.

**Oliveri, Susan – “The Brayton Buddies”**

Fifteen students from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade are paired with 50 students in kindergarten through grade 5. They develop ELA and leadership skills as they mentor younger students with reading, math and social emotional skills. The older students learned about *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. The ongoing mentoring relationships help to foster a positive sense of community.

**Patenaude, Elizabeth – “Operation Gratitude”**

Sparked by an article in *Scholastic News*, first grade students decided to express thanks to soldiers for their service. Students wrote messages and drew pictures on bordered paper. They sent their messages to veterans along with toiletries and candy via Operation Gratitude. In turn, soldiers wrote back thanking students for their thoughtfulness.

**Patenaude, Elizabeth; Thomas, Jackie; Parrino, Lori – “From Here to There for Soldiers”**

Inspired by their Operation Gratitude project, first graders enlisted the other first grade classrooms in an ongoing project of helping others. They interviewed the husband of a fourth grade teacher before he embarked on a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. They learned about the difficulties of being away from home and family. They decided to ‘adopt’ his unit for the year. They wrote letters to the soldiers on a regular basis and collected and shipped items that would bring comfort and care to the soldiers.

## GREYLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pajama Party and Bedtime Stories”**

Students in grades K-7 collected children’s pajamas to donate to the Louison House Homeless Shelter. The drive concluded with a school-wide pajama party called Family Fun Night where families were asked to donate a new pair of pajamas. Students in grades 6 and 7 organized the drive and created promotional posters, counted items, and made flyers. Seventy-eight pairs of pajamas were collected and donated and approximately 120 families attended the Family Fun Night.

### **Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pennies for Patients”**

GES participated for the 16<sup>th</sup> year in the “Pennies for Patients” program to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of MA. Students collected donations of pennies in their classrooms and graphed progress throughout the drive. Sixth and seventh grade students help organize and run the drive through their Second Step (social emotional learning) classes. They held their fifth annual ‘Penny Palooza’ fundraiser where they created simple games to play throughout the fun evening event. Students raised over \$1399 this year; over the course of fourteen years, over \$20,000 has been collected and donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of MA.

### **~King, Christina; Whitman, Lizzie – “Greylock Community Garden”**

Students in grades K-3 sowed seeds to increase the variety of plants and cultivated the soil for the community gardens in the courtyard at Greylock School. Students learned about healthy eating, companion planting, and organic gardening methods. Harvest from the garden is shared with residents of the neighborhood and senior residents at Holy Family Terrace.

### **King, Christina; Pecor, Annie – “Holy Family Terrace Garden”**

Sixth and seventh grade mentors paired with their K-5 mentees in this project. Students selected plants that would attract migratory birds and created attractive planters for senior residents at Holy Family Terrace, enhancing the appearance of the entranceway. Students are also working with the residents to paint the nearby bridge that connects to the Appalachian Trail with bright, cheerful colors.

### **King, Christina – “Holiday Cards”**

Seventh grade students used visual art skills to create holiday cards for senior residents at Holy Family Terrace. Students initiated this project on their own after working with the residents last school year. Greylock students and the residents of Holy Family have an ongoing partnership and participate in multiple activities together.

### **Pecor, Annie – “Greylock Mentors”**

Students from the sixth and seventh grade are paired with students in kindergarten through grade 5. They develop ELA and leadership skills as they mentor younger students with reading, math and social skills. The ongoing mentoring relationships help to foster a positive sense of community.

## SULLIVAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Fachini, Shelley – “Can Tabs for Shriners”**

The Principal leads all students in grades K -7 in collecting aluminum can tabs, which are recycled, and the proceeds are donated to The Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield, MA.

### **Marceau, Lisa; Farnham, Jane; Gorton, Megan – “Sullivan Community Garden”**

Students from two 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms and one first grade classroom applied science skills in planning, planting and maintaining the garden at Sullivan School. Partnering with the Growing Healthy Community Gardening program, volunteer students and parents will maintain the garden over the summer. The produce will be donated to the Berkshire Food Project, a community free meals program.

### **DeMayo, Joy; Samson, Nate – “Spreading Holiday Cheer”**

Students in grades K -7 applied ELA and Art skills in creating holiday cards for the homebound elderly. Partnering with the Meal on Wheels program and the VNA, students designed holiday cards that were delivered to recipients of the Meals on Wheels program.

## **DRURY HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Boulger, Patrick – “Senior Citizen’s Prom”**

The Senior Citizen’s Prom involves students in a year-end, culminating project for senior students in the Contemporary Issues course. This year, 8<sup>th</sup> graders from a High School Prep course joined the seniors in this project. The prom is designed to help break down stereotypes and barriers between elders and teenagers in a fun atmosphere. Students research relationships between groups and identify gaps. Students conduct outreach to elder residences and organizations, manage publicity, solicit donations, plan and decorate around a theme, organize music and food, interact with prom-goers and select a prom king, queen and court. They collaborate with organizations such as Sweetwood Nursing Home, North Adams Commons and Williamstown Commons. The Senior Citizen’s Prom has become a tradition in the community with this year’s being the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual serving approximately 75 elders. This year’s theme was “Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dynasties”.

### **Choquette, Jamie – “ DTV Supporting School and Service”**

Throughout the school year, students in television production courses, learn and authentically apply technology and writing skills to tell important news stories, to raise awareness about important issues, and to promote involvement with school activities, service, and service-learning initiatives. Students edited and produced a film performance of a story written to tell the history of the flood chutes on behalf of Hoosic River Revival. Multiple service-learning initiatives were promoted such as the Holiday Gift Drive and 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade service-learning projects.

### **Davis, Keith; Kelly-Whitney, Marie; Ryzcek, Diane – “3-D Solids”**

Students in CAD/CAM class worked with 7th grade math students from Brayton Elementary School to teach them to draw three-dimensional geometric solid shapes. They then worked to cut the solids into new shapes. The shapes were printed out using the 3D printer and were given to the younger students to help them better envision geometry.

### **Davis, Keith – “Identification Badges for School Safety”**

Working with the School Resource Officer and safety personnel, CAD/CAM students learned about the importance of staff wearing identification badges for school safety. They organized digital photo shoots, designed and produced ID’s, and distributed them. Learning connections include integration of technology and product design.

### **Davis, Keith – “Shed for Habitat”**

Students in two courses collaborated to design and build a shed at a family home in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. Students learned about the need for affordable housing. Students in CAD/CAM applied real world engineering skills to design a 8 X 10 foot shed. Students in Engineering the Future courses studied zoning bylaws and made recommendations for site location. Both groups contributed to the construction. The shed serves as a secure storage site for tools and equipment while the home is being built and will serve as a garden shed for the family when the home is completed.

**~Desnoyers, David; Meczywor, Molly – “Year Long Senior Service Learning”**

Fifty-five students throughout AP and CP 12 English Courses identified local or global needs, collaborated with community partners to explore the need and created projects to address the needs. Using research as an entry point, students researched the needs of the organizations and reached out to the school and local communities to make a difference. Seniors performed over 600 hours of service-learning. Projects included:

- Providing food through Meals on Wheels and financial support for The Berkshire Food Project
- Organizing a vocal concert to benefit Make A Wish Foundation
- Promoting Drury High School cohesiveness and bullying prevention by creating the 2015 Lip Dub
- Building materials for Habitat for Humanity
- Creating Art Activities for the aging population at Williamstown Commons
- Vocal performances for a benefit concert to support a victim of a recent car accident
- Donating money, goods and time to local animal shelters
- Working with Boston Children’s Hospital to create art activities for the pediatric unit
- Creating care packages for children in foster care in the event of emergency removal
- Collecting soda tabs for Shriner’s Hospital
- Registering over 20 high school students to vote
- Promoting literacy by collecting gently used books
- Raising awareness about bullying and creating a manual to create an anti-bullying program
- Maintaining school gardens to benefit the Berkshire Food Project
- Organizing a golf tournament to benefit The Friendship Center
- Conducting a clothing drive to benefit The Salvation Army

**Drayman, Cherie – “Financial Literacy”**

Academic Success students developed and administered surveys to fellow high school students to assess their financial literacy. They graphed the results of the survey and discovered that students lacked some basic financial knowledge. They created brochures to raise awareness. They distributed brochures and exhibited their findings during the Drury Showcase event.

**Kopala, Stephanie – “Bullying Prevention/Lip Dub”**

Connected to social emotional skills in the High School Prep course, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students created anti-bullying posters for display during the filming of the LipDub. Both the posters and the process of the LipDub contribute to positive school culture and school connectedness.

**~Luczynski, Sara; Callahan, Tim; Davis, Botto, Brad; Pious, Brian– “STEPS 2014”**

The STEPS summer transition to high school program focused on a theme of problem solving. The theme was connected to everything the students explored and gave an identity to the students as “problem solvers” who could address problems in their own lives, in the school, and in the community. The theme also provided reinforcement of a central skill in science. After hearing from multiple community partners, students selected which problem areas they wanted to address and divided into four groups. Students applied ELA, math, science, social studies, health, and technology skills in service-learning experiences:

- School and Community Gardens – After identifying the need for an additional raised garden bed, students designed, constructed and installed one at the River Street Community Garden. They also completed and installed a wooden sign that formally designates the garden as a project of Hoosic River Revival and recognizes the multiple community partners. Students also received direct instruction in life sciences through an exploration of the Drury High School Gardens that provides produce for the Berkshire Food Project.
- Students responded to needs for improved public perception of North Adams that were voiced by a city planner. Students used art and technology skills as they designed and produced postcards to be used by the city of North Adams for positive promotion.
- Responding to a need for increased storage of winter equipment at Brayton Elementary School, students initiated the design and construction of a storage shed. The group visited City Hall to apply for the appropriate permits and drafted a design for a shed that would meet the needs of the Facilities Department. They poured the foundation and built the frame for to be completed by the maintenance crew over the summer.
- Responding to the need for more engaging science activities for younger students in the school district, STEPS students examined the new science standards for Kindergarten and First Grade. They identified priority standards that could be targeted with hands-on, engaging activities. The group then designed a variety of learning activities to meet those needs, such as an animal/habitat matching game, a moon phase tracker, and life cycle interactives, and then followed the district curriculum templates to include instructions for use by the teachers.

**Lyden-Fortier, Beth- “Biology Murals”**

Students in AP Biology designed and painted murals that depict the big ideas in biology to expose fellow students to scientific concepts and add interest to the corridors.

**Lyden-Fortier, Beth- “School Beautification”**

Students in AP Biology designed and planted a garden bed of flowers to beautify the school campus. As part of this process, students researched the choice, planting and the care of plants selected to be planted. Students created a site map for future maintenance.

**~Melito, Tracy – “Drury Community Gardens”**

Students in AP Environmental Science worked with Jennifer Munoz and the Growing Healthy Gardening Program to plant and grow food to provide fresh produce to the Berkshire Food Project. Students learned about organic gardening, planted various vegetables and installed trellises and fencing.

**Moitozo, Judi – “Gingerbread Men”**

Students in Foods II students collaborated with The Berkshire Food Project to make gingerbread men to be used during a fundraiser for the organization. Students prepared large quantities of gingerbread men. The Berkshire Food Project was pleased with the amount and quality of the food prepared.

**Moitozo, Judi – “Holiday Gift Drive”**

Students in child development class partnered with the Family Resource Center of Child Care of the Berkshires. The FRC matches holiday gifts to local children experiencing extreme situations. The students developed a campaign to promote a gift drive where givers were matched with a child with an alias name. Classrooms, students clubs, and individuals were invited to donate a gift or gifts for a child. Students learned about the services provided by the Family Resource Center and Child Care of the Berkshires, protective factors that promote positive child development, and about developmentally appropriate toys. Sets of gifts were collected for 26 local children in need as well as additional cash donations were presented for gifts for additional children.

**Pepper, Phoebe – “Cascade School Supply Building”**

Students in studio and advanced art classes work on long-term art projects creating oversized reproductions of classic paintings by famous artists. The paintings are installed over the boarded up window openings of the old brick mill that houses Cascade School Supply. Each year, students add additional paintings, contributing to a permanent, public display. The paintings help beautify a run down area and add to the identity of the city as an arts-centered community. Partnering with Art About Town and the management of Cascade, Cascade reciprocates by making a financial donation to the arts department at the high school.

**Pepper, Phoebe – “Holiday Cheer”**

Promoting good will and holiday cheer, students in arts classes reproduce 2D images and use reverse painting and shading skills to create holiday decorations at several community sites including housing for seniors and people with disabilities, a local social club, Main Street store fronts and the school itself. Each year, more residents request paintings by the students.

**Pious, Emily – “Career Fair”**

Students learned about careers and career clusters through the Naviance computer program. Students organized and executed a career fair for their fellow students. They developed a task list, and made phone calls and wrote letters soliciting the participation of local businesses and individuals. They created posters for the fair and hosted the event.

**~Pious, Emily; Manley, Barbara - “Drury Community Gardens”**

Students in life science class applied their academic skills in maintaining and planting in the Drury gardens that provide food for the Berkshire Food Project. Students learn about photosynthesis, earth science and nutrition. Collaborating with gardening partner, Jennifer Munoz, the project is part of the district Garden Mosaics program. During the fall, students planted garlic and during the spring, they planted potatoes and onions.

**Pinsonneault, Krista; Kopala, Stephanie; Fairweather, Judy – “High School Prep”**

As part of their High School Prep course, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders explored school and community problems and proposed projects to address those problems. Students developed personal, social and civic skills connected to the School Connect curriculum. Students divided themselves into small groups with some groups collaborating across classrooms. Student-designed service-learning experiences included:

- Student Handbook- Students created a handbook for incoming students written in student friendly language. They utilized previous handbook materials to accomplish this task. This handbook includes information on sports and extra curricular activities.
- Handbook Translation- Students worked to translate the traditional handbook into braille and Spanish versions to make it more accessible.
- Developing Diversity and Language Acquisition- Students created signs for various locations in the building in English, French, and Spanish to help ELL students and their families more comfortable when they are in the building and to encourage appreciation of diversity.
- Feed the Need- Students organized and conducted an awareness campaign and a food drive to benefit Berkshire Food Project.
- Court Yard Clean Up- Students surveyed teachers and students about the potential use of the underutilized school courtyards. Students worked to improve clean up the courtyards and create proposals for increased use.
- Cancer Awareness Campaign- Students developed a poster campaign to raise awareness about cancer.
- AYJ Fund Packages for Patients: Students collaborated with the AYJ to create care packages for children dealing with severe illnesses.
- Local History Website- Students are working on updating the Windows to History website that was developed by students several years ago and serves as an important resource about the industrial and immigration history of North Adams.
- Animal Awareness Campaign- Students developed a poster awareness campaign to educate their peers about animal homelessness and neglect issues.
- Autism Awareness- Students created an informational campaign about autism
- Environmental Conservation- Students teamed up with the elementary school to teach about environmental conservation.
- Dress Up Drury- Students worked to update bulletin boards and beautify the school by painting walls and creating positive slogan art.
- Open Artist Space: A student advocated with school administration to secure the use of a newly painted wall in the cafeteria as an open space for artists and poets to display their work.

## **E3 ACADEMY (Drury High School Alternative Educational Program)**

**Reifsnnyder, Abby; King, Cathleen; Botto, Brad-** Students at E3 learn through interdisciplinary units in a competency-based program. Service-Learning is a teaching method that is used throughout the academic year. An intern and a volunteer from MCLA worked with the E3 program and collaborated with the service-learning experiences. Community partners include Bona Marketing; Berkshire Emporium; Hoosic River Revival; local historian Joe Manning; Press Publishing; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Greylock Federal Credit Union; and the North Adams Chamber of Commerce.

- **“\*The Hoosic River”** - Hoosic River Revival is working to redesign the flood chutes to foster river health, recreation, and economic development. Working in partnership, students explored themes connected to the industrialization of North Adams and environmental science. Last year, after examining areas adjacent to the flood chutes, students cleaned up a neglected area near their school called Willow Dell. Students hauled trash, pulled invasive and overgrown vegetation and built a walking trail. This year, students continued to maintain and improve the area. In partnership with students from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, E3 students host annual community clean ups of the Willow Dell Trail.
- **“Promoting a Positive Vibe in North Adams”** - Identifying needs connected to city pride and local economy, students surveyed residents and visitors about their impressions of the city as well as their interest in purchasing clothing that promoted pride. Last year, students developed the tag line of “Find It, Love It: North Adams” and designed a logo for the city. They created a line of t-shirts and sweatshirts called NAMApparel in order to promote pride and tourism. This year, students continued the venture. Along with the help of multiple business and city partners, they learned how to develop and implement a business plan. They learned to use social media to market the clothing line. This year, students added a second tagline “It’s gonna be a great day!” and expanded the business to include travel mugs. Proceeds from the sales support the continuation of their enterprise.
- **“~Garden Mosaics”** - E3 is housed at a former mill building along with business tenants. In order to foster a sense of community, E3 students designed, constructed, and installed a raised bed garden in the courtyard. During the spring and fall, E3 students plant and maintain the garden and share the produce with other tenants. During the summer, the other tenants maintain and harvest the produce.
- **“\*Voices of Youth”** - E3 students developed an exhibit called “Voices of Youth” with the goal of increasing understanding between people of different ages and backgrounds. In collaboration with local artists, E3 students photographed local places with special meaning and wrote and published short books telling their personal perspectives and stories. Students presented their work during an opening reception at the book press’ gallery, scheduled to coincide with multiple gallery openings on Main Street.
- **“Celestial Garden”** – E3 students used math and knowledge about local history to design a garden that honors the ‘Celestials’, immigrants from China who came to North Adams in the 1880’s.

## **OFF-CAMPUS 'GREENHOUSE' PROGRAM (Grades 8-12)**

**Davignon, Jason** - Plant Maintenance Course – Students applied construction, math, engineering and technology skills during multiple projects. They:

- Performed a variety of services on behalf of the off-campus building and grounds including building display racks, repairing tables, mowing, weeding, and ice removal
- Painted areas of the exterior of Johnson School
- Built boxes for the greenhouse
- Built dividers, bookshelves and wall shelves for elementary schools

**Lewis, Molly**- Horticulture and Recreational Art Courses- Horticulture students applied math, science, horticulture skills during multiple projects. Recreational Art students applied art, math and technology skills. They:

- Grew, transplanted and cultivated flowers to beautify downtown North Adams for tourists and locals
- Provided flowers the annual Fall Foliage Parade
- Created and provided center pieces for the Senior Citizen's Prom
- ~Grew seedlings for community gardens in North Adams
- Cultivated, maintained, and planted flats of annual flowers for donation to the city-run Historic Valley campground