

**North Adams Public Schools
Service-Learning Narratives
July 2013-June 2014**

* 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.

DRURY HIGH SCHOOL

Andrews, Anne; Cairns, Melissa; Caproni, Chris; Choquette, Jamie; Girouard, Aldonna; Moitozo, Judith; Myers, Donna; Pepper, Phoebe; Sadlowski, Donna; Shea, Mary – “Drury Live Late Night, NEASC Edition”

Many classrooms contributed work for the opening presentation and for the ongoing display for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visit to Drury High School as part of the school accreditation process. Students in Television Production hosted a “Drury Late Night Live” Panel Presentation as the opening for the visiting team. They contributed to the scripts, made several films for the presentation and served as live hosts. Students in Music Recording, Radio, and Arts Management did sound production, stage and house management and contributed to video. Photography students photographed community sites for background in video. Drury Jazz Band served as the live house band for the late night TV format. English students read original poetry. Students in math and social studies graphed data and created charts about community and school demographics for films and display. Foods students catered a welcoming reception. Student work was showcased to explicitly demonstrate commitment to Drury High School’s Core Values and Beliefs and student fulfillment of its Learning Expectations.

Boulger, Patrick – “Senior Citizen’s Prom”

The Senior Citizen’s Prom involves students in a year-end, culminating project for the sociology course. 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 21st annual serving approximately 75 elders. This year’s theme was “Into The Wild”.

***Cairns, Melissa; Desnoyers, David – “Identity: Sense of Self/Sense of Place”**

Students in grade 9 English participated in a long-term research project about personal identity and identity of their town. Students learned about the history of North Adams, current status and were charged with imagining a more positive future identity. While studying the city’s past, students visited the local history archives in North Adams Public Library, toured the North Adams Museum of Science and History, and had historians Paul Marino and Joe Manning visit the classroom as guest speakers. After learning about the local history and culture, students wrote “I Am From” poems from the perspective of the children who were photographed by Lewis Hine at the local Eclipse Mill. As students looked to the future of North Adams, they

brainstormed what they identified as current problems facing the community. Then, they decided to either work independently or in groups or pairs to develop proposals for a Better North Adams. They created PowerPoint presentations, wrote and delivered persuasive speeches, and collaborated to create rubrics that evaluated what makes a strong proposal and what makes a strong presentation. Using these rubrics, the class evaluated each other's presentations, selecting proposals that would represent them in community-wide presentations. Community partners from MCLA and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition served as advisors with some of the proposals. Based on the content of their proposals, students were selected to present either to City Council, the board members of the North Adams Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of North Adams and MCLA. The community proposal presentations were recorded and broadcast by the local television station. Now in its third year, community members have followed up with the ideas of several of the presentations.

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 service and service-learning initiatives. Students filmed a performance of a story written to tell the history of the flood chutes on behalf of Hoosic River Revival. Multiple service-learning projects were promoted such as the Dodgeball tournament, Bowling tournament, and Bottle Drive for St. Jude's. Students in DTV created several films for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visit to Drury High School as part of the school accreditation process.

~Davis, Keith – “River Street Community Garden”

Students in Construction Technology classes explored needs related to hunger in Northern Berkshire County and collaborated with the Growing Healthy Community Garden Program, Hoosic River Revival and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. In previous years, construction students designed, built and installed garden beds at a new community garden site. This year, construction students designed and built a sign that identifies the garden. They collaborated with city officials and community partners to work through the permitting process. The sign enhances the appearance of the area with its aesthetically pleasing design as well as draws attention to the Hoosic River as a valuable asset to the community.

Davis, Keith – “High Striker Revision”

Students in CAD/CAM and Construction Technology re-designed and improved a device to attract people to the Habitat for Humanity booth at various street fairs. Students learned about the need for housing and created a high striker (aka strength tester) which will be used to raise awareness about Habitat for Humanity. Students integrated real world skills while serving others, including the community and Habitat for Humanity board, members and families.

Davis, Keith – “Picnic Tables for Louison House”

Students in CAD/CAM and Construction Technology learned about homelessness and the services provided by the Louison House Homeless Shelter and the Family Life Support Center. CAD/CAM students designed a picnic table and Construction students built the tables. Through real life application, students learned engineering design process, production of multi-view drawings, design planning, engineering properties of materials, and use of hand tools.

Davis, Keith; Allen, Paul – “Shed for Habitat”

Students in three courses collaborated to design, build and install 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 6 X 8 foot shed. Students in Engineering the Future courses studied zoning bylaws and made recommendations for site location. Construction Technology students built the shed. 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.

Davis, Keith – “Identification Badges for School Safety”

Working with the School Resource Officer and safety personnel, Engineering the Future students learned about the importance of staff wearing identification badges for school safety. Because of staff turnover and changes in the process of procuring badges, staff ID badges were nonexistent or outdated. The students revived the process and partnered with students in the class. They organized digital photo shoots, designed and produced ID’s, and distributed them.

~French, Anne – “SLAC”

Students in the Service-Learning Action Council participate in extra-curricular service-learning. Service-learning experiences included:

- SLAC led a school-wide toy collection drive for the holidays for a local organization
- SLAC led a school-wide drive to collect goods to cheer children undergoing cancer treatment
- SLAC members learned about hunger and food security and volunteered at Berkshire Food Project, a local free meals program.

~Luczynski, Sara; Meczywor, Molly; Botto, Brad; Sadlowski, Donna– “Summer 2013 STEPS”

Integrated into the transition to high school summer program, students applied ELA, math, science, social studies, health, and technology skills in several service-learning experiences:

- Students cultivated and harvested food from the school garden; harvested produce was donated to Berkshire Food Project.
- Students prepared and served lunch at Berkshire Food Project.
- Students researched water collection and built a rain water collection unit which is housed by the Drury Gardens.
- After being upset by local graffiti, students worked with city officials to clean park playgrounds
- Recycling – students created presentations aimed at Drury administration to reduce the amount of plastic waste at DHS and surrounding areas.
- Animal Advocacy – students worked with Animal D.R.E.A.M.S to raise awareness for animal sterilization

~Meczywor, Molly – “Year Long Senior Service Learning”

Sixty-six students throughout AP and CP Grade 12 English courses identified local or global needs and created projects to tackle the needs. Using research as an entry point, students researched the needs of local or global organizations to collaborate with. Projects included:

- Donating goods and time to local animal shelters
- Raising money for cancer research – both at the local and global levels
- Working with Boston Children’s Hospital’s Heart and Cancer centers to provide activities for patients
- Engaging in MCLA’s Day of Service by cleaning the area around the North Adams Vietnam Veteran’s Skating Rink
- Creating and providing stimulating activities for elders in the community
- Holding fundraisers to support local organizations such as The Berkshire Food Project and The Anna Arabia Fund
- Advocating for child safety in Syria by teaching lessons and writing letters to President Obama
- Providing food through Meals on Wheels and The Berkshire Food Project
- Working with Mayor Alcombright to create a survey regarding a teen/recreation center and presenting results to city administrators
- Providing health and basic needs for people of Haiti through the local organization “Haiti Plunge”
- Sewing hats for soldiers in Afghanistan and working with the local VFW to provide hats
- Creating a video highlighting Drury’s activities and academic curriculum to present to incoming 7th and 8th graders at feeder schools
- Planting, weeding and harvesting food from school garden to donate to The Berkshire Food Project

Meczywor, Molly; Sondrini, Zachary – “Serve for Service”

The girls’ soccer players, in grades 8-12, organized a volleyball fundraiser to raise money for two local cancer patients, one being a student at Drury. Players used organizational and literacy skills to promote and plan the project; they got volunteers from the community to help run the event; and encouraged players from all fall teams to get involved in the project. Ultimately, the project raised over \$500.

~Melito, Tracy – “Drury Garden Project/Soil Testing”

Students in AP Environmental Science worked with Jennifer Munoz and the Growing Healthy Gardening Program to plant and grow food to provide fresh organic food to the North Adams community. To meet this end, students also tested the soil to identify soil nutrients present and those needed for efficient garden production. During October, students in this class taught younger gardeners at Brayton Elementary about soil components.

Moitozo, Judi – “Empty Bowl Fundraiser/Gingerbread Men”

Students in Foods II class participated in the Empty Bowl Fundraiser by providing needed snacks and desserts for guests at the dinner. In addition, students collaborated with The Berkshire Food Project to make gingerbread men to be used as a fundraiser for the organization. The Berkshire Food Project was pleased with the amount and quality of the food prepared.

Moitozo, Judi – “Importance of Play for Infants”

Students in Child Development learned about physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of infants, worked with Northern Berkshire Pediatrics and prepared a brochure to leave in local pediatrician’s offices. Brochures were informative as well as interesting.

Moitozo, Judi – “Lost and Found”

Students in Child Development class partnered with Jiminy Peak to collect winter clothing left by patrons. Students sorted, laundered, folded and organized the clothing to be passed along via the LINCS Parents Center to local community members who may be in need of winter clothing.

Pepper, Phoebe - “Cascade Mill Paintings”

Students in studio and advanced art classes created oversized reproductions of classic paintings by famous artists. The paintings were installed over the boarded up window openings of the old brick mill that houses Cascade School Supply. 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 decorate several community sites including housing for seniors and people with disabilities, a local social club and the school itself.

~Pious, Emily - “Drury Gardens and Berkshire Food Project”

Eight students in Grade 8 ADL 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.

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

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

- ~Built new and repaired raised bed gardens at multiple school and community sites that benefit Berkshire Food Project
- Built a large storage cubby for students at the district preschool program
- Along with Horticulture students, prepared community garden sites for rental and planting

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
- Along with Plant Maintenance students, prepared community garden sites for rental and planting
- ~Planted and maintained seedlings for school gardens, labeled plants with grower information, and maintain inventory of plants
- Provided seedlings for Harvest and the Mass MoCA seedling Swap
- Cultivated, maintained, and planted flats of annual flowers for donation to the city-run Historic Valley campground
- Decorated and planted pots of flowering plants for graduation and senior activities

E3 ACADEMY (Drury High School Alternative Educational Program)

Reifsnyder, Abby; King, Kathleen; Botto, Brad- Students at E3 participate in 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.

- ***The Hoosic River** - Students worked in partnership with Hoosic River Revival, MCLA, Berkshire Natural Resources, the Mass in Motion Program and local historian Paul Marino to explore themes connected to the industrial revolution, environmental science and social competencies. After visiting areas adjacent to the flood chutes in the Hoosic River, students decided to clean up an area near their school called “Willow Dell”. Students hauled trash, pulled invasive and overgrown vegetation and created a walking trail. Students also developed individual proposals for community projects that would improve quality of life in North Adams; many of their proposals were connected to improving the Hoosic River.
- ***~Words of Gratitude** – Students decorated cookies with positive messages and distributed them at Berkshire Food Project.
- ***Dementia and Memory Boxes** – Students learned about dementia and made memory boxes to stimulate conversation between dementia patients and their families. They collaborated with the Adult Day Health Center.
- ***Building a Business** – Students were motivated to increase pride in the city of North Adams and to contribute to local economy. Students surveyed residents and visitors about their impressions of the city as well as their interest in purchasing clothing that promoted pride. Students designed a positive logo and a clothing line of t-shirts and sweatshirts called NAMApparel. Along with the help of multiple community partners, they learned how to develop and implement a business plan. They created a Facebook page to help market the clothing line. In addition to a group venture, each student developed an individual business plan connected to a personal career interest and presented the plan to a panel of local business and community representatives.
- ***~Garden Mosaics** – The E3 program is housed at a former mill building along with several other tenants. In order to foster a sense of community among the tenants, E3 students created a raised bed garden in the courtyard. They designed, constructed, installed and planted the garden. The produce will be shared with fellow Mill tenants.

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 \$400 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 \$2,000 was raised and donated to the American Heart Association.

Gilman, Susan; Thomas, Jackie – “Senior Buddies”

A first and a second grade classroom partner with residents at the Williams Commons Nursing Home in a year-long experience. Students and seniors visit each other on a regular basis both at the nursing home and at school. In a reciprocal relationship, they engage in various activities such as reading, games and projects. Seniors and students benefit from sharing their lives with each other.

***~Lawson, Robyn; Sprague, Brittani – “Healthy Harvesters”**

Students in grade 3 work throughout the school year with partners from the Growing Healthy Community Gardening Program and the Berkshire Food Project and 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 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. Students are also working to to install wildlife cameras to view and track butterflies, animals, birds and people that visit the garden.

Neville, Linda – “Extra! Extra! Read all about it!”

Through their English course, 5th, 6th and 7th grade students learned about newspapers, their history, their current use and what it takes to find a story, conduct research, report a story, and publish a newspaper. They read the book “City of Orphans” about a thirteen year old “newsie” in 1893. They also explored the history of freedom of expression as stated in the First Amendment. Dr. Stewart Burns, a professor and author of several books related to the civil rights movement shared primary and secondary sources and a documentary film based on one of his books. Students discussed oppression and bullying. Students conducted interviews and wrote and published their own stories.

GREYLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pajama Party and Bedtime Stories”

Students in grades K-7 collected pajamas and storybooks to donate to the Louison House Homeless Shelter. The drive concluded with a school-wide pajama party where families were asked to donate a new pair of pajamas. Students in grades 6 and 7 organized the drive and used ELA, Math and Technology skills to create promotional posters, count items, create graphs and make flyers. Sixty nine pairs of pajamas were collected and donated.

Gwozdz, Katherine – “Greylock Peer Mediators”

Students in grades 4-7 volunteered to serve as peer mediators. They completed two days of training using the evidence-based “Peers Making Peace” program. Teachers and students refer students in conflict for mediation.

Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pennies for Patients”

GES participated for the 15th 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. They held their fourth annual ‘Penny Palooza’ fundraiser where they created simple games to play throughout the fun evening event. Students raised over \$2000 this year; over the course of fourteen years, over \$19,000 has been collected and donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of MA.

Kelly-Whitney, Marie – “Kindergarten Coloring Books”

Sixth grade students applied technology, art and ELA skills to assist kindergarteners with letter recognition. They designed and created artful coloring books for their kindergarten buddies.

~Kelly-Whitney, Marie; King, Christina – “Greylock Community Garden”

Students in grades 3-5 worked to plant and maintain the gardens in the courtyard at Greylock School. Students learn about healthy eating, companion planting, and organic gardening methods. Harvest from the garden is shared with residents of the neighborhood and seniors at Holy Family Terrace.

Kelly-Whitney, Marie; King, Christina – “Valentine Day Cards”

Sixth grade students used visual art and technology skills to create Valentine Day Cards for senior residents at Holy Family Terrace. Greylock students and the residents of Holy Family have an ongoing partnership and participate in multiple activities together.

King, Christina; Oliveri, Sue; and 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.

Holmes, James – “Earth Day Awareness for North Adams”

After learning about carbon footprints, sixth grade science students shared their “green message” with the community by creating posters with suggestions on how to reduce one’s carbon footprint. Students hung the posters for public display at multiple downtown locations.

LaRocca, Joan – “Computer Buddies”

Students in 6th grade tutored 4th grade students in technology programs such as Google Earth, Google SketchUp, and Lego Digital Designer. The 4th grade students practiced the skills and, in turn, tutored kindergarten students in Lego Digital Designer.

~Marceau, Lisa; Farnham, Jane – “Sullivan Community Garden”

Students from two 5th 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 Berkshire Food Project, a community free meals program.

Saldo-Burke, Anna – “Gifts from the Heart”

Third grade students learned about veterans living at the Soldier’s Home in Holyoke. They created hand crafted ornaments for the veterans and presented them to the superintendent of the home.

Saldo-Burke, Anna – “Spreading Holiday Cheer”

Recognizing the contributions of veterans, students in all grades at Sullivan applied ELA and art skills to create 300 cards for veterans living at the Soldier’s Home in Holyoke. The cards were presented to superintendent of the home when he visited Sullivan School.