Service-Learning Partnerships

Partnerships are an essential part of service learning. Partners provide input, guidance, and resources that support students in important ways. Before students conduct a service-learning project, partners can help ensure that students understand and appreciate the key issues of a service need, verify meaningful needs, and have an effective, realistic plan. It is important for students to take the lead, when appropriate, in contacting partners. This contact will reinforce a student’s communication, teamwork, and negotiation skills. Partners benefit as well by tapping the energy and expertise of young people.

Ideas for community partners:

- Athletic teams
- Beautification committees
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Booster clubs
- Cemetery associations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Child-care facilities and preschools
- City government
- Corporations- (i.e. Lowe’s Toolbox for Education)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Early learning centers
- Faith-based communities
- Federal agencies and programs (i.e., Veterans’ Affairs, AmeriCorps)
- Food banks
- Habitat for Humanity
- Homeless shelters
- Literacy coalitions
- Local businesses
- Local, state, and national non-profit organizations
- Masonic Lodge/Eastern Star
- Meals on Wheels
- Nursing homes
- PTAs and PTOs
- Public libraries
- Ronald McDonald Houses
- Salvation Army
- Service clubs (Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, etc.)
- Special Olympics
- State agencies (i.e., Texas Parks and Wildlife)
- State initiatives and programs (i.e., AgriLife Offices)
- VFW and Auxiliary
- Wildlife rehabilitation centers
- Women and children shelters
- YMCA and YWCA