



## Foreword

The following groups have joined to develop and provide materials in support of A Week of Service Learning: Service Learning Texas; Texas Association Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); and The Curriculum Center for Family and Consumer Sciences at Texas Tech University. Through a collaborative effort, the Web site, CD, and associated materials are provided free of charge to support the implementation of service-learning projects.

### Why A Week of Service Learning?

It is a challenge to find time in students' busy schedules to implement service-learning projects. The sequential days set aside for administering the mandated state-wide assessments can provide the perfect time for non-test takers to devote to meaningful projects. Each year many students devote time and effort to earning high scores; however, not all students are required to take the test every year. Involving students in a service-learning project during these "off" testing years encourages them to apply real-world skills to solve real-world challenges in their community.

### Who Benefits?

A Week of Service Learning can benefit multiple constituents.

- Student participants will be engaged in meaningful service and thoughtful learning.
- Administrators and teachers will know that non-test takers will have experiences across many curricular areas. Involvement off-campus will reduce the need for teacher supervision of non-test takers.
- Administrators can capitalize on positive public relations with media outlets.
- The community will witness students' contributions in making improvements to some aspect of their community.

### Why FCCLA?

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) courses and the student organization FCCLA are a natural fit for service-learning activities. Authentic, service learning requires a problem-solving process similar to that learned in FCS courses and in the FCCLA planning process. Students in FCS courses are familiar with a variety of family and community concerns, and knowledge and skills addressed in these courses frequently require application of learning to solve relevant problems. Service learning is an ideal way to make these skills come alive and showcase what is learned in the classroom. FCCLA chapters can use A Week of Service Learning to increase their visibility in the school and community. Texas FCCLA will provide monetary awards to the schools whose students plan and implement the most outstanding projects.

### Suggested Time Frame

Project selection and planning should happen prior to A Week of Service Learning. Districts may determine the time frame to meet their specific needs. For the 2011-2012 school year, the weeks of March 26-30 or April 23-27 are testing weeks and thus suggested times for implementation of A Week of Service Learning.

### The Goal

The term "rigorous and relevant" is often referred to as goals for education. A Week of Service Learning can fulfill both of these goals. Students can identify a meaningful need, plan ways to appropriately address this need, and then use their unique "voice" to tackle issues that are important to them and the community. Students will be able to learn and serve.

### Materials Provided for A Week of Service Learning

The materials provided for A Week of Service Learning are in two sections: teacher materials and student materials.