

# Spotlight on Service-Learning

by: Beth Smith, Consultant, INSPIRE<sup>3</sup>



## Spring Forward and Be the Change!



As we spring forward into Daylight Savings Time, the weather transitions to spring, and spring and summer breaks loom in the near future, educators begin seeking strategies to engage their students in their content. Service-learning educates, engages, and empowers students to Be the Change!

When engaging students in service-learning it is important that it is meaningful and meets high quality standards:

- Experience should be organized, connected to content with service that meet authentic community needs;
- The process should include structured time that allows students to collaborate, plan, and reflect about the service experience;
- Service-learning should include activities that enable students to collaborate with community members and afford opportunities to make decisions and solve problems.

Students can learn that they can **Be the Change** that is essential in their community, and that they have a part to play as a civic participant. When students perceive the value of the knowledge and skill gained from those who are being served, they develop greater respect and caring. Outcomes are also enhanced when students have voice and choice in the service-learning projects so that they will rely on themselves and their peers to solve problems, and they will be addressing needs they see as essential and



Students at **Monroe Central Jr. Sr. High School**, Parker City, participated in a project using the LTG lesson [Be the Change: Life Skills Lesson 3, Money Management](#). Utilizing \$250 from an INSPIRE<sup>3</sup> mini grant, students determined an item (bake sale/bracelets, craft, etc.) to sell at a local event of their choice. All proceeds were donated to the Secret Families of Randolph County to help families in need. According to teacher Renee Haney, "Student Voice is a large component. They collaborated and compromised to carry out all aspects of the SLP. They learned and observed that quiet service to others is just as rewarding as being in the spotlight. This project allowed all students to

**Connect with us:** Filling out this short form [HERE](#) will add you to our INSPIRE<sup>3</sup> (formerly generationOn Indiana) database and this form can also be used to Request Updated Information that is listed on the form. Our INSPIRE<sup>3</sup> program also provides Indiana educators with free professional development to introduce them to free resources, assist with project ideation, connections to existing

curriculum and supports their service-learning projects with our program's \$250 mini-grants. We continue to encourage all Indiana educators and schools to register on [www.generationOn.org](http://www.generationOn.org) to also be added to our program's database and have access to all their free website resources, including projects ideas, plans, and guides for kids and teens, IPARDE (the service-learning process) resources, and online service and service-learning trackers. Create an Account on [Learning to Give](#) to access all their resources including over 1700+ K-12 **FREE** Philanthropy lessons and issue area toolkits. For more information about our grant funded program contact Joan Belschwender, Director **INSPIRE<sup>3</sup>** [joan.inspire3@iasp.org](mailto:joan.inspire3@iasp.org). Contact Beth Smith, Educational Consultant **INSPIRE<sup>3</sup>**, for information about our program's free professional development [beth.inspire3@iasp.org](mailto:beth.inspire3@iasp.org) . See our **INSPIRE<sup>3</sup>** page on the IASP website under Affiliates [www.iasp.org](http://www.iasp.org) and on the IMLEA website [www.imlea.org](http://www.imlea.org)