

Community Service Learning Bethel Public Schools

Bethel Public Schools are striving to make volunteering and community service opportunities accessible and available to all students. Community service has been proven to increase personal and social responsibility, social competence, self-esteem, and leadership skills. It also increases awareness of social needs in the community.

This handbook is designed as a resource for students and their parents. It provides examples of service projects in Bethel. Students should keep a record (see last page) of their service hours.

Bethel Public Schools are also taking part in the President's Student Service Challenge. All students who volunteer hours of service to the community will receive a pin designed by the White House, a presidential certificate, and a letter signed by the President.

Presidential requirements are as follows:

Ages 14 and younger:

Bronze Award 50-74 hours, Silver Award 75-99 hours, Gold Award 100 or more hours

Ages 15- 25

Bronze Award 100-174 hours, Silver Award 175-249 hours, Gold Award 250 or more hours

Service opportunities will be updated and additional student tracking forms can be found on our web site at

www.Bethel.k12.ct.us.

Bethel High School

Beginning with the class of 2006 and thereafter, students must receive .5 Carnegie units for Community Service as a graduation requirement. This involves 60 hours of community service with an approved organization. An approved organization is any organization listed in this book, as well as any non-profit organization. If you would like to do community service for an agency or organization that is not approved, you must get prior authorization from the High School administration. All 60 hours do not need to be done with the same organization. Students who have graduated eighth grade may complete their service hours in the summer before entering Bethel High School.

Students must keep track of their hours and obtain an official signature from the organization where the service was completed. This information is then given to the High School administration for credit.

Please see the Bethel High School Program of Studies booklet for further information.

Bethel Middle School and Johnson School

Bethel Middle School and Johnson School strongly encourage community service. The goal of community service is to promote academic, social, and personal development in students through service and volunteerism that meets the educational, human, and environmental needs in the community.

Both schools will be taking part in the Presidential Student Service award. Johnson School will also be recognizing students with 15 and 30 hours of community service. Tracking forms must be filled out and given to the school office at Johnson and Bethel Middle School between May 1st and May 15th. Reminders of these dates will be placed in the school's newsletters.

Volunteering Opportunities

Days and times of many opportunities are flexible. Call the contact person at the appropriate agency for details.

Food and Shelter

Bethel Social Services Department

Bethel Municipal Center

Contact: Kathleen Gillan 794-8536

Opportunities:

Food pantry: located in the Social Service office is always in need of food, paper goods, and personal hygiene items.

Yard work: rake leaves, shovel snow and other outside work for families in need.

Write letters, poems and create artwork to accompany meals-on-wheels to elderly. Younger children – brownies, etc.

Snow shoveling for elderly in winter

Brotherhood in Action

Contact: Sylvester Ricci 203-355-0090

Opportunities:

Collect, sort, and distribute canned goods to needy families in Bethel.

Dorothy Day Hospitality House

11 Spring St. Danbury

Contact: Mary Livesey 743-7988 – Call after 1 PM

High School Students are needed to work at hospitality house-make sandwiches, wait on tables, and provide general kitchen help.

The hospitality house is always in need of canned goods, hats, gloves, mittens, socks, baked goods, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and bag lunches.

Salvation Army

15 Foster St. Danbury, CT.

Contact: Captain David Moore 792-7505

Opportunities:

Food Pantry help

General maintenance and yard work

Special needs at holiday times

Elder Services

Bethel Senior Center

Bethel Municipal Center

Contact: Kathy Oles 792-3048

Opportunities:

Computer Help: Guide Seniors through the internet.

Holiday Fair set-up and clean up.

Rake leaves and miscellaneous yard projects for the elderly.

Adopt-a-Senior or become a pen pal to an elderly shut-in.

Bethel Health Care Center

11 Park Lawn Dr.

Contact: Lisa Plumb 830-4180

Opportunities:

Friendly Visits.

Play piano monthly for patients.

Recreation Assistants

Opportunities to volunteer in every department: nursing, dietary, administration, housekeeping, and recreation.

Gardening and general maintenance.

Summer Volunteer Candy Stripe Program.

Orientation and TB test required – call for details

Children and Youth Services

Bethel Park and Recreation

Bethel Municipal Center

Contact: Eileen Earle 794-8531

Opportunities:

Help with Fourth of July road race: stuff entry bags, hang posters, work on race morning.

Work at after school programs.

CIT- Counselor in Training for summer programs.

Help with annual Easter egg hunt.

Many other opportunities available.

Monitoring Skate Park - many shifts available.

Bethel Supercross BMX-

Old Hawleyville Rd. Bethel

Contact: Don and Kathy Olson 744-7962

Opportunities:

Help with registrations for Wednesday races.

Grooming and general track help and maintenance.

Little Friends

Contact: Nancy Galiano 744-6424

Opportunities:

Work in Pre-school classes. Classes run until 3:00 PM.

Gingerbread Schoolhouse

88 Plumtrees Rd.

Contact: Nicky Stevenson 798-8177

Opportunities:

Work with pre-school and school age children.

Must be fingerprinted. Limited space.

Little Thinkers

14 Chestnut St.

Contact: Jeff or Laura Brodrick 748-6708

Opportunities:

Work with children of all ages.

Childcare and arts and crafts.

General maintenance and yard work.

Precious Moments

8 Edmond Rd.

Contact: Kathy Quink 743-6368

Opportunities:

Help with child care.

Work with children pre-school age and younger.

Regional YMCA of Western CT.

2 Huckelberry Hill Rd. Brookfield

Contact: Chris Abbott - 775-4444

Opportunities:

Arts and crafts instructor/helper.

Child care and tutoring.

Data entry and general office work.

Youth sport classes.

Fun Steps

Contact: Barbara Kennedy 798-6621

Opportunities:

Reading to children in after school program.

Homework help.

Child care and play.

Danbury Regional Commission on Child Care, Rights & Abuse

Contact: 748-4542

Opportunities:

Many opportunities for helping children and families.

Support work

Child care

Health Care

Bethel Visiting Nurse Association

Bethel Municipal Center

Contact: Judy Malin. 792-0864

Opportunities:

General yard work

Walking patient's dog daily or weekly.

Running small errands for patients.

Grocery pick-up for sick, elderly or shut-in's.

Many other opportunities available to help patients and shut ins.

The SCOTTY Fund

Contact: Linda Anderson/ Kathy Griffin 743-1388

Opportunities:

Make a meal for a family with an ill child.

Volunteer at the Annual Town Picnic.

Data entry

Bread and Roses

142 Portland Ave. Redding

AIDS Hospice.

Contact: 203-544-9200

Opportunities:

Always in need of personal hygiene items.

Write letters or send cards to patient.

Other opportunities available.

Danbury Hospital

Contact: Pam Schmitt 797-7384

Opportunities:

Volunteers must be 15 years old.

Danbury Hospital offers three programs per year: September-January, January-June, and over the summer. Students volunteer one afternoon per week after school during these sessions. Volunteers are asked to give a minimum of 35 hours during this time period. Summer volunteers are asked to give 50 hours.

Volunteer opportunities may include but are not limited to working in the gift shop, coffee shop, clerical help, messenger, flower delivery.

Literacy and Education

Bethel Public Schools

Contact:

Kathy Rockwell, Supervisor of Reading/Language Arts
830-7355

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|------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Mr. Brian Kirmil | Rockwell School Principal | 794-8690 |
| Dr. Kristen Brooks | Berry School Principal | 794-8680 |
| Ms. Kathy Gombos | Johnson School Principal | 794-8700 |
| Dr. Kevin Smith | Middle School Principal | 794-8670 |
| Ms. Patricia Cosentino | High School Principal | 794-8620 |

Opportunities:

Work in younger classrooms.

Tutor younger students

Read in younger classrooms.

Assist with homework help after school.

Mentor/buddy a younger or disabled student.

Become involved in school beautification.

Create a new student packet for your school.

Videotape classrooms, special events, and meetings.

Work in summer school classrooms.

Help with after school programs.

SEPTO

Special Education PTO

Contact: Chris Lopukhin

Co-President 798-9419

Opportunities:

Opportunities to work with disabled children during special programming, after school or during school hours.

Lunch buddy with a disabled student.

Middle schoolers needed to buddy with special education students at a school dance for the first half-hour.

Homework helpers

Environment

Bethel Land Trust

Contact: Dan Devlieg P.O Box332 Bethel,CT.06801

Opportunities:

Trail work and clean-up.

Government

Bethel Town Clerk

Bethel Municipal Center

Contact: Lisa Bergh 794-8505

Opportunities:

Research town records, and other general, interesting office work.

Bethel Health Department

Bethel Municipal Center

Contact: Laura Vasile 794-8539

Opportunities:

General office help, limited hours

Other Local Organizations:

Friends and Neighbors of Putnam Park

Contact: Jeanine Herman 938-3171

Opportunities:

Spring Trail work- dates to be determined.

Living History event days: help needed with reenactment event.

Bethel Animal Shelter

Contact: 794-8930

Walk and take care of animals.

Knights of Columbus

Opportunities:

Americare: Work dates to be determined.

Wrapping donated gifts at holidays.

Helping with special events at the Bishop Curtis House.

Many opportunities throughout the year.

Bethel Jaycees

Contact: 798-0201

Opportunities:

Help with Haunted House.

Help with 5K Apple Blossom road race.

Bethel Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Violet Mattone 743-6500

Opportunities:

Help with special town events.

Help with bulk mailings.

Bethel Public Library

Contact: 794-8756

Opportunities:

Reshelving books.

Reading/scanning shelves.

Other opportunities available according to interests.

Volunteer Center of Danbury

www.volunteerindanburyarea.org

Opportunities:

Many opportunities to volunteer in the greater Danbury area.

Check out their web site for current opportunities available.

Examples of some great group activities to make and give:

Back to School Packs

Many school children cannot afford backpacks, school supplies or lunch boxes. You can help by organizing a drive to collect these items. Once everything has been collected, you can fill the packs and donate to Bethel Social Services Department.

New Student Packs

Being a new student can be a scary experience. Make a new student feel at home with a new student pack. Include a map of the school, school calendar, insider news about the school and activities, lunch menu with school favorites highlighted, school logo key chain...Contact your school principal.

Shelter Snack Sacks

Going to bed with hunger pains is all too common for children living in homeless shelters. Shelter Snack Sacks help kids in shelters get the nutrition they need to get a good night's sleep. The bedtime bags can be filled with healthy snacks, books, toothbrushes, stuffed animals, soaps, a written goodnight wish, etc. Bring to Dorothy Day Hospitality House.

Lunch-to-go Bags

The Dorothy Day House gives out lunch bags for the needy to bring home. The brown lunch bags can include any individually wrapped non-perishable packaged foods such as cup-of-soup, oatmeal packages, granola bars, tuna packs, crackers, cookies... Bring to the Dorothy Day Hospitality House.

Hospital Fun Bag

Hospital stays can be scary and long for children. Creating a bag filled with activities for the patients to do will keep them busy and help to pass the long hours. This is a great project for the creative at heart! Contact the child life department at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital or Danbury Hospital.

Emergency Storm Packs

A storm can be scary and dangerous for many elderly who are alone and do not have the proper resources to get through it. You can put together Emergency Storm Packs for elderly people that live alone in our community. Materials can include flashlight, bottled water, blanket, batteries, non-perishable food.

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Listed in Alphabetical order are activities students can become involved in, followed by the group or agency to contact. Refer back to the booklet for more details.

A

Animals- Bethel Animal Shelter, Bethel Visiting Nurses
Arts & Crafts Instructor- YMCA, Little Thinkers, See other Daycare/
Pre-Schools
Assist in classrooms- Bethel Public Schools

B

Bag Lunches- Dorothy Day
Bake- For the Homeless- Dorothy Day, Bethel Social Services Dept.
For The Elderly- Bethel Senior Center, Reynolds Ridge
For the ill- The SCOTTY Fund

BMX- Track help- Bethel BMX

Books- Bethel Public Library

Buddy with disabled friend for lunch-SEAC

C

Child care- Kindercare, Gingerbread School, Village Preschool,
Little Thinkers, Precious Moments, Little Friends, Fun Steps

Clothing Collection- Dorothy Day, Salvation Army

Cook- meal for a family with ill child or ill Mom- The SCOTTY Fund

Computers- Bethel Senior Center

Counselor in Training- Park and Rec.

D

Disaster Relief- Knights of Columbus

Disabled Children, help with- SEAC

Distribute Food- Brotherhood in action

E

Errand running- Bethel Visiting Nurse, Reynolds Ridge Housing

F

Food Collection- Brotherhood in Action, Bethel Social Services Dept.

Food Pantry Help- Bethel Social Service Department,

Friendly Visits- Bethel Health Care, Reynolds Ridge Housing

G

Gardening- Bethel Health Care Center

General Yard Work- Bethel Senior Center, Bethel Visiting Nurse,
Bethel Social Services Dept.

H

Haunted House- Bethel Jaycees

Health Care- Bethel Health Care, Danbury Hospital, Bethel Visiting Nurses

History Events- Friends of Putnam Park

Holiday Help- Salvation Army, Brotherhood In Action, Knights of Columbus

Homework Help- Bethel Public Schools, SEAC, YMCA, Fun Steps,
Precious Moments

Hospital Volunteer positions- Danbury Hospital

M

Mentor/Buddy- Bethel Public Schools, SEAC, YMCA

O

Office Work- Bethel Health Dept, Bethel Town Clerk Office,
Bethel Chamber of Commerce

P

Personal Hygiene items- collect for: Bethel Social Services Dept.,
Bread and Roses

Pen Pal- Reynolds Ridge Housing, Bethel Social Services Dept.

Piano Player- Bethel Senior Center, Bethel Health Care Center

R

Raking leaves- Bethel Social Services Dept., Bethel Visiting Nurse Assoc.,
Bethel Senior Center

Read- to younger students- Bethel Public Schools, all childcare facilities

Recreation Assistants- Bethel Health Care

Road Race- Bethel Park and Recreation, Bethel Jaycees

S

SHARE food Coop, help box and distribute food- Bethel Senior Center

Shovel Snow- Bethel Social Services Dept., Bethel Senior Center

Skate Park Mentor- Bethel Skate Park

Summer School Classroom help- Bethel Public Schools

T

Town Picnic Volunteers- The SCOTTY Fund

Trail Work- Bethel Land Trust

Tutor- YMCA, Bethel Public Schools

V

Video tape- meetings or special events- Bethel Public Schools

W

Wrapping holiday gifts- Knights of Columbus

Writing letters: to Elderly- Meals on Wheels- Bethel Social Services Dept.
to ill- Bread and Roses

Y

Yard Work and general maintenance- Bethel Senior Center, Bethel Social
Services, Bethel Visiting Nurse, Salvation Army

Notes

| Date | Activity | Place of Service | Hours | Signature Of supervisor |
|------|----------|------------------|-------|-------------------------|
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Student Signature _____

For the Presidential award please check the following:

- Gold Award** (100 hours of service in a 12 month period)
- Silver Award** (50 hours of service in a 12 month period for students ages 5-14 only)

Student Service Tracking Form

This form should be handed in to your school administration.
Larger forms can be downloaded from our web site.

Name _____
School _____ Grade _____

Activity Type: (please circle)

Food and Shelter Elder Service Children and Youth Service

Health Care Literacy and Education Environmental

Government Disaster Relief Other