In this lesson we will discuss service learning and the many benefits it provides.
Presentation Notes
Can You Lend a Helping Hand?
How wonderful is it that no one need wait a single moment before starting to change the world.

Anne Frank

Ask the following: What do you think Anne Frank meant by this quote? Who knows who Anne Frank is? Discuss the quote with the students.

The quote comes from *Diary of a Young Girl*, 1952.
Ask the following: What does it mean to serve?
To serve others means to see an opportunity and to fill it.
We can serve others around us in four easy steps. First, by identifying those needs around us. Second, by making a plan to meet those needs. Third by connecting resources to those who need help and last by doing something yourself to help others.
Service learning is at the basis of all CTE courses. It is a requirement of all upper-level CTE courses because of the valuable skills and knowledge students gain from it. Service learning activities give students a real-world application of what they are learning in the classroom.
This is a simple plan used in FCCLA that will help you put a service learning project into action. Future, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a student organization that focuses on families, careers and communities.
Step one in the planning process is to identify a concern of your school or community. The concern should be something that reflects your personal values so that it is a meaningful service learning experience to you.
A service learning project can involve direct action in which students respond to a community need by interacting with and impacting the community, for example, sewing fleece blankets for the homeless. Indirect service is in response to the community need, for example, conducting a canned food drive. Research and Advocacy service is when students find, gather and report on information to raise awareness of a problem and/or advocate for change about a specific community concern, for example breast cancer awareness.

Teenagers are a large part of the community. What type of needs do they have? What are some issues teens may face?
Aging adults have different needs and concerns than teenagers. What issues do elderly community members have? How can you address those issues?
When you look at our school as a community, you may see several pressing issues. What concerns do you have for our school? What opportunities for service learning would make a difference in our school? Brainstorm in small groups to determine what issues or concerns our small community has. Remember, it is your school, and your community. You can make a difference!
Your community is anything in your surrounding area. This could mean the street where you live, your neighborhood, the neighborhood surrounding your school or even the entire town you live or go to school in. What issues or concerns can you see in your community? Brainstorm in small groups what concerns you may see.
Family service learning opportunities are those that directly impact families. What issues do families face today? What do you think is the number one issue families encounter?
When looking at the concerns of a group of people such as families, you need to consider who services those families on a regular basis. For example, families are regularly served by local churches through outreach programs such as festivals and back-to-school drives. It is important to consider these organizations because they can be of help to you when organizing your service learning opportunity.
The environment is another possible concern you can choose to do service learning about. Ask the following: Who shares concerns about our environment? Who knows where our local recycling center is located? Who recycles at home?
It is important to examine the issues thoroughly to completely understand how the issue impacts the community. Researching the issue will also help you identify organizations that may be able to assist you in your project.
It is important to focus on the issue and narrow the scope of the problem to specific needs.
The second step in the FCCLA process is to set a goal and overall outcome for the project. It should be specific to your project and needs to be measurable.
Next, form a plan of action. How will you carry out the service project? Be as specific as possible in your planning and assign group members specific roles.
The next part of the process is to actually carry out the service project. Always keep documentation of your groups’ actions so you can later showcase examples of your work.
Now is the time to review the outcomes of your project - How did it go? Was the plan effective? Why or why not? What could be done differently? Did you meet your goal?
At the end of the project, you should showcase your results and the impact your project made on the community.
Using either a Smart Board or dry erase board, brainstorm all of the reasons a person volunteers.
If you are interested in service learning as a life-long career, there are several opportunities available to you.

SERVICE AS A CAREER
Case workers * Family advocates * Family specialist
Clergy * In Home consultants * Therapist
Day care teacher * Counselor
Financial advisor * Child Care director * Probation officer
CPS officer * Emergency Shelter Staff * Personal home care aide * Dietetic technician * Social Worker
How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving.

*James Cash Penny*

Ask the following: What do you think James Cash Penny meant by this quote? Discuss the quote with the students.
Questions?

Are there any questions about service learning?
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Images:

Textbooks:

Websites:
Cathryn Berger Kaye
Web page of international service learning consultant and author.
Includes free curriculum materials and information about her books.
http://www.cbkassociates.com/abcd-books/curriculum/quotable-quotes/

FCCLA
Information about Service Learning activities and opportunities in Texas FCCLA.
http://texasfccla.org/Service_Learning.html

National Service Learning Clearinghouse
A web page with lesson plans, success stories, and information about other resources for service learning.
http://www.servicelearning.org/

National Service Learning Partnership
A nationwide network for teachers and students to share their stories and resources.
http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

ProTeacher
Service Learning Project Ideas
http://www.proteacher.org/c/868_Service_Learning_Projects.html

Good Character
Character Education Resources
http://www.goodcharacter.com/SERVICE/service.html

GoToServiceLearning
A site that includes lesson plans organized by topics, grade levels, and areas of study.
http://www.gotoservicelearning.org/

Do Something Good
DoSomething.org harnesses teen energy and unleashes it on causes teens care about.
http://www.dosomething.org/

Volunteer Match
Find a Great Place to Volunteer
http://www.volunteermatch.org/

Youth Service America
Provides resources and funding for service learning. Students can register their projects.
http://ysa.org/