

Trumbull Alternative's Hunger Project

Students and teachers at Trumbull Alternative School worked together across a variety of subject areas to study and serve a hidden population of people who are hungry in Fairfield County Connecticut. The project objectives included the study of the problem of hunger in Connecticut, participation and marketing of an art exhibit to highlight the needs of the hungry, creation of pottery bowls to display at the art exhibit and the donation of volunteer time and canned goods to a local food kitchen.



Trumbull Alternative students after YES workshop (December 2005).

This multi-faceted project engaged students in research at school, pottery making in art class, writing invitations, reflection paragraphs and press releases in language arts class, coordinating with the art gallery for the Bridgeport Art for Hunger show, and coordinating with the Merton House, a soup kitchen in Bridgeport to deliver canned goods and volunteer service time. School research led them to find Internet resources to help study and address the needs of Connecticut's hungry-- End Hunger Connecticut! www.endhungerct.org and The Connecticut Food Bank: www.ctfoodbank.org.

The pottery project is typically designed to have the students create and donate useable serving bowls to a soup kitchen. In this instance, the students learned about the art show and agreed to create bowls for display at the show that represented a metaphor about hunger. Pottery was intentionally shaped, cracked or colored to represent the distress associated with hunger.



The art bowls were on display in a Bridgeport gallery for the month of May 2006. The students' work was displayed in a separate room from other local artists who also contributed to the gallery with the goal to call attention to the problem of hunger in Connecticut. Along with each pottery display, the students included a reflective paragraph that interpreted their work as it related to the problem of hunger.

Student reflections covered a wide variety of issues from the pain they recognized in the hunger issue to the difficulty that society has in attempting to address hunger. SEE commends the student participants in the Hunger Project and encourages them to continue to put their ethics in action.

