

Service-Learning Themes and Projects for Young Youth

**The Environment**

1. Invite speaker from Waste Trac , Hartman Nature Reserve, or Green Iowa AmeriCorps (located at UNI) to discuss environmental concerns  
   Book: The Lorax by Dr. Seuss  
   Activity: Clean up litter in the neighborhood
2. Invite a local florist to speak about flowers  
   Book: Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney  
   Activity: Plant flowers in small cups to give to a special person

**Animal Care**

1. Invite a speaker from the Humane Society  
   Book: Let’s Get a Pup by Bob Graham  
   Activity: Make tie blankets for the Humane Society
2. Invite a veterinarian to speak to children about care of pets  
   Book: Before You Were Mine by Maribeth Boolts  
   Activity: Make cat toys: (put a tablespoon of catnip in a toddler’s sock, put in a cotton ball to hold it in place, tie sock closed)

**Community Helpers**

1. Invite a speaker from the local police force to discuss safety.

Book: Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rahman  
Activity: Make cookies for police station and/or make cards to give to the officers

2. Invite a firefighter to discuss safety.  
 Book: Arthur’s Fire Drill by Marc Brown  
 Activity: make cookies for fire station and/or make cards to give to the firefighters.

3. Invite a city sanitation worker to bring a truck and explain his job.  
 Book: Trashy Town by Andrea Zimmerman  
 Activity: Make a thank you note to take home and put on home garbage can on the day of pick-up.

**The Elderly**

1. Invite a speaker from Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging to discuss the elderly  
   Book: Wilfrid Gordon McDonald by Mem Fox  
   Activity: Make cards for food boxes for elderly for Northeast Iowa Food Bank
2. Invite a speaker from a local nursing home to discuss the elderly.  
   Book: Now One Foot, Now the Other by Tomie de Paola  
   Activity: Make decorations to take to a nursing home

**Kindness/Tolerance**

1. Invite a speaker from the Human Rights Commission.   
   Book: The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss  
   Activity: Make friendship bracelets
2. Invite a counselor or perhaps a parent to speak to class on the importance of kindness.  
   Book: Julius, Baby of the World by Kevin Henkes  
   Activity: Everyone will write a nice note to someone

**Homelessness**

1. Invite someone from the Salvation Army to speak to class about homelessness.  
   Book: Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting  
   Activity: Collect socks for a homeless shelter
2. Invite someone from the People’s Clinic to speak about the homeless.  
   Book: A Shelter in Our Car by Monica Gunning  
   Activity: Collect shampoo, soap, and other hygiene products. Bag them and donate to a shelter.

**Hunger**

1. Invite someone from Northeast Iowa Food Bank to speak about food insecurity.  
   Book: Stone Soup by Jon Muth  
   Activity: Decorate small paper bag and ask students to please return it to school with a can of food for the Food Bank.
2. Invite someone from Iowa State Extension about the importance of gardening to help feed the hungry.  
   Book: Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen by Dyanne Disalvo-Ryan  
   Activity: Depending on time of year, start vegetable seeds to donate to community garden.

**Bullying**

1. Invite school counselor to speak to class about bullying.  
   Book: Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Activity: Make anti-bullying posters to be displayed in building.

1. Invite someone from the student services office to speak about bullying.  
   Book: Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson  
   Activity: Have students invite someone they really don’t play with to sit by them at lunch.

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