



PROGRAM NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015-16 Service in Schools Service-Learning Institute Commences!



Educators at the Service-Learning Institute 101 session learn how literature can play a key role in developing a service-learning project.

In late October, Service in Schools (SIS) kicked off its 2015-16 Service-Learning Institute, where over 50 educators from across the city gathered to participate in the first of three full days of professional learning focused on implementing service-learning in their classroom and developing a culture of community service in their school. This year's Institute includes two cohorts of educators, a 101 and 201 series, led by international service-learning expert Cathryn Berger Kaye. The 101 cohort, comprised of 40 educators new to service-learning, convened on October 26 at the American Red Cross of Greater New York. During this first session, 101 participants learned the foundations of service-learning, as well as specific techniques and practices for connecting service to classroom curriculum. The 201 cohort, a group of 13 educators who completed the 101 series during the 2014-15 school year, reunited on October 27 to participate in the first ever session of this more advanced series. During the 201 session, attendees built upon their service-learning knowledge from last year and focused on developing their skillset to become service-learning leaders and mentors in their school.

Acceptance into this year's Institute was especially competitive, with nearly 150 applications for the series. During both the 101 and 201 sessions, educators shared their school's service stories and demonstrated their commitment to bolstering their school's service-learning program. SIS was inspired by participants' enthusiasm and dedication to enhancing the service-learning and community service activities in their school. The SIS team looks forward to visiting participating educators in their schools to support the implementation of service-learning prior to the subsequent two sessions of the 101 and 201 series in February and April.

In addition to the Service-Learning Institute sessions, SIS held the Service-Learning Information Session for Administrators event, also led by Cathryn Berger Kaye, for schools with educators enrolled in the Institute. The administrator session enabled SIS to share what the Institute participants had learned and will continue to learn over the course of the year, as well as the integral role they can play in supporting their educators in implementing service-learning in their school.



Educators at the Service-Learning Institute 201 session listen as Cathryn Beraer Kaye reviews the Five Stages of Service-Learning.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

P.S. 203 Floyd Bennett School Supports Communities Locally and Across the Globe

P.S. 203 in Brooklyn is already off to a strong start in service this school year. The Student Government, comprised of students in grades 3-5, meets once a week to plan, prepare, and lead school-wide service projects and events to benefit communities both near and far. This past month, P.S. 203 has been working on an eyeglass-recycling event facilitated by [OneSight](#), an organization that collects used eyeglasses and provides people living in impoverished areas with free eye care and new eyewear. Student Government members created posters to advertise the event and wrote letters to P.S. 203 families. They then went classroom to classroom educating their fellow students on how the recycled glasses would raise funds for OneSight in order to provide free eyeglasses to people across the globe. So far, students have been able to collect nearly 100 pairs of glasses to be delivered to LensCrafters for pickup by OneSight.

On a local level, P.S. 203 is now preparing for its annual food drive, which benefits a nearby food pantry. The Student Government has promoted the event and will be visiting classrooms soliciting food donations. They will also be requesting that teachers include reminders in homework assignments, and a school-wide letter was sent out requesting that families join in donating to the food drive. Before Thanksgiving, Student Government members will pack and transport the donated food to the pantry.

In addition to these service events, P.S. 203's Student Government has plans to once again work on [generationOn's Joy Maker Challenge](#) event, as well as with senior citizens for an event around the New Year. Service in Schools commends the service work P.S. 203 students are doing to support people in their own community and abroad.



P.S. 203 students collect used eyeglasses to donate to OneSight.

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CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

“Recycling is Bigger Than the Bin” by JASON Learning and Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (Deadline: December 18)



[JASON Learning](#) and the [Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.](#) (ISRI) invite students to participate in the recycling awareness contest, “Recycling is Bigger Than the Bin.” To participate, students in grades K-12 should send a poster or video explaining how large items—i.e., those that cannot fit into a blue bin—can be recycled. The item must include

at least one of the following: steel, nonferrous metals, paper, plastic, rubber, glass, or textiles. Unusual items and items composed of two or more commodities are encouraged. Entries are due by December 18 and winners will be notified by March 1, 2016. For more information, click [here](#).



CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)



DOROT (Ongoing)

[DOROT](#), a non-profit organization that mobilizes volunteers to improve the lives and health of the elderly, welcomes school groups for one-time and ongoing activities. Approximately 100 different schools and youth organizations work with DOROT each year, engaging students in meaningful volunteer opportunities, inter-generational workshops, and service-learning projects. DOROT helps parents, teachers, and administrators craft and coordinate a program that best fits the needs of students and educators. Through DOROT, students have opportunities to create birthday cards for isolated and frail seniors, connect with seniors through intergenerational programs, or apply for a teen internship during the academic year or the summer. For any questions or inquiries, email [Shelley Levine](#).

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The GO Project (Ongoing, weekly on Saturdays)

[The GO Project](#) (GO) shapes the futures of low-income New York City public school children by providing critical academic, social, and emotional support starting in the early elementary years. GO provides year-round educational and family support services to children who are performing below grade level, and equips them with the confidence and skills needed to succeed at school, at home, and in life. The GO School Volunteer opportunity is available to high school students in good academic standing. On Saturdays from 9:00am-12:45pm, GO School Volunteers are placed in an elementary or middle school class, which is led by a Head Teacher and supported by 2-3 other GO School Volunteers. The Head Teacher models a lesson or explains an activity, and then the volunteers work in small groups or one-on-one with the students to help them complete assignments. For the online application form and more information on upcoming volunteer opportunities with GO, click [here](#).



Citymeals on Wheels (Ongoing)



Volunteer with [Citymeals on Wheels](#) and make a difference in the lives of the homebound elderly. Citymeals on Wheels provides a continuous lifeline of nourishing meals and vital companionship to frail aged New Yorkers, helping them to live with dignity in their own familiar homes and communities. Opportunities are available for high school students to regularly volunteer on weekday/weekend meal deliveries; make handmade cards for Citymeals recipients; or become a “kitchen aide” and package food to be delivered to homebound elderly, as well as serve meals to older New Yorkers at their local senior center. Volunteers are free to choose the frequency and length of their commitment, which can be as little as a one-time experience or as much as a weekly route. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Those under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All potential student volunteers must attend an orientation at the Citymeals on Wheels office, at which time students will choose their volunteer opportunity and senior center site. Citymeals on Wheels will ensure each senior center will have a coordinator to oversee the program or activity in which the students are involved. More information on volunteering opportunities for high school students is available at the Citymeals on Wheels [website](#).

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Philanthropy Project

THE PHILANTHROPY PROJECT

Get Inspired. Take Action. Change the World!

[The Philanthropy Project](#) is an online platform that gives youth the tools to bring their service projects to life.

Through The Philanthropy Project, individuals, classrooms, and schools can create personalized campaign pages—complete with integrated fundraising, event management, merchandise sales, and volunteer recruitment/organization capabilities—for any service project they wish to undertake. A free curriculum guide, written by international service-learning expert Cathryn Berger Kaye, accompanied by extensive downloadable supplemental resources, supports educators in providing their students with meaningful and engaging service experiences incorporating The Philanthropy Project platform. To learn more about the curriculum guide, click [here](#), and to create a campaign, click [here](#). Additionally, The Philanthropy Project has partnered with several corporations that have purchased gift cards to be given out to employees and customers for the holidays. Recipients can donate the value on their gift cards to support any campaign on The Philanthropy Project platform beginning on Giving Tuesday (December 1) and lasting throughout the month of December. This is a great opportunity for students leading fundraising campaigns to get extra support. For more information on the gift cards, click [here](#).

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CBK Associates Blog: Let the Holiday Food Drives Begin...with Service-Learning

Ready to upgrade your holiday canned food drive through service-learning? Read how an ELA teacher in Cincinnati is infusing his school's food drive with learning opportunities. Use these ideas to kick-start your holiday food drive by making real curricular connections so students gain understanding about hunger and become activated to respond. To read Cathryn Berger Kaye's recent blogpost, click [here](#).



CONTACT THE SERVICE IN SCHOOLS TEAM

Does your school have a great service project to share? If so, the Service in Schools team wants to know!

Invite the Service in Schools team to visit your service project. We want to see your students and school community in action. Email the Service in Schools team at ServiceinSchools@schools.nyc.gov with two weeks' notice and we'll schedule a visit to your school to learn about your project and see the impact you're making on the community.

Mission: Service in Schools strives to expand the number of NYC students engaged in transformative community service and service-learning experiences that enable them to use their voice, skills, and critical thinking to strengthen communities.