



## PROGRAM NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

### Culminating Session of the Service in Schools 2015-2016 Service-Learning Institute Series

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*Service-Learning Institute participants use the Plus-Delta strategy to examine parental involvement in the service-learning process and discuss what has been working well, and what they would like to improve upon.*

Earlier this month, Service in Schools held its third and final session of this year’s Service-Learning Institute. This joint session brought together Institute participants in the 101 and 201 series. This combined session enabled educators across all boroughs, grades, and levels of service-learning experience to come together and learn from one another through sharing their service-learning stories.

During this culminating session of the Institute, facilitator Cathy Berger Kaye of CBK Associates supported educators in strategizing how best to engage stakeholders in the service-learning process to further develop a culture of service at their schools. One strategy participants worked on was delivering strong elevator pitches to specific stakeholders to demonstrate the importance of service-learning in their school communities. The Institute also addressed other key areas for participants to consider when developing service-learning at their school, including parental involvement, community awareness, and connecting service with school priorities. Also covered in this session was a special focus on the integration of literature throughout all service and service-learning activities.

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Educators left the Institute’s culminating session equipped with a toolkit of strategies and resources to continue the momentum of building a culture of service in their school through the end of this school year and into next fall. Many participants shared that their next step involves meeting with colleagues to incorporate service into their school’s curriculum in an effort to create service-learning units of study.

Service in Schools extends a thank you to all of this year’s Institute participants for their enthusiasm and dedication to expanding service-learning in their school. We encourage all educators interested in further developing a culture of service at their school to look out for information from Service in Schools on how to apply for the 2016-2017 Service-Learning Institute next fall.

## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

### Shop in a Box at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School in Queens

The Model United Nations class at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School operates on the principle of student empowerment. The class was created by students and continues to be student-driven. It started when a sophomore in Edison’s Global Regents class, Oma Hemnath, felt exasperated by all of the tragedies and problems she and her peers learned about around the world. Oma advocated for

## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT (CON'T)

dedicated time during school to address global issues, stating, “We don’t want to learn about anything more that is bad unless you (Edison educators) give us a way to fix what we see.” Soon after, the Model UN class at Edison was born.

During the first years of the Model UN class, students attended conferences aimed at solving a range of world issues, from the peaceful usage of outer space, to rural poverty, to LGBTQ rights. The idea for Shop in a Box blossomed during one of the student conferences where teachers and Model UN students were discussing UNICEF’s [School-in-a-Box program](#), which benefits schools across the developing world by providing them with school supplies teachers can use in the event of an emergency. Similarly, Edison students wished to transport the education they receive to the rest of the world. Since Edison is a school where students learn a range of professional, or shop, trades, students decided to put their own spin on the School-in-a-Box idea by creating a “Shop in a Box.”



*Edison students present their Medical Assisting Shop in a Box, to be sent to Light of Esperanza, a nonprofit in Honduras aimed at improving the living conditions of women and children.*

Students in each of the shop classes at Edison soon embarked on a campaign to advance the world by putting their technical skills and knowledge in a box that could be sent to schools and organizations around the world. The first boxes are now being developed by several different shop classes, and will be distributed in the next few months. Students in the Robotics shop class, for instance, are currently working on a box that will teach people how to construct their own robots to be used in disaster situations. This box will head to a school for victims of human trafficking in Seattle. Commercial Arts students are focused on therapy through mural painting as a response to trauma. These students will lead a professional development session via teleconferencing for teachers in Long Island who plan to use the box in

their school. Medical Assisting shop students are creating a box that aims to increase health in impoverished and underserved areas by teaching handwashing, how to take one’s blood pressure, and more. Students in the Physical Education class are building a box that will teach New York City elementary students proper stretching and exercise techniques.

In the future, Shop in a Box is also planning on working with an elementary school in Guyana and an orphanage in Bangladesh. Additionally, Edison will begin an internship program at the school in which students will use technology to communicate with recipients of the boxes to provide further instruction on how to use the box’s tools. Through the creation of Shop in a Box, Edison students aim to benefit and educate youth around the world.

## CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### **PowerPlay NYC** (Apply by May 1, 2016)

[PowerPlay NYC](#) works to advance the lives of girls in New York City, helping them grow physically, emotionally, and academically. The PowerPlay NYC SuperSTARS Leadership Academy (SSLA) is a free, year-long leadership development program for girls entering grades 9-12 in the 2016-17 school year. An important

## CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

part of the Leadership Academy is the service component. For one semester, SSLA participants serve as youth mentor coaches in the PowerPlay NYC STARS Series after-school program. SSLA participants assist lead coaches by co-facilitating sports-based activities and serving as mentors to girls in elementary and middle school. Additionally, SSLA participants will develop their own bodies and minds through sports, healthy living activities, and advisories. They will also deepen critical skills in writing, technology, and networking for success, as well as build a portfolio of real world work experience, service, and mentorships that will them prepare for college and careers. Click [here](#) to apply. To learn more, email [smithell@powerplaynyc.org](mailto:smithell@powerplaynyc.org).



*SuperSTARS Leadership Academy participant Kamryn Scott introduces her mentor at a 2016 professional speed networking event.*

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### Added Value at Red Hook Community Farm (Ongoing)



[Added Value](#) promotes the sustainable growth of Red Hook, Brooklyn by nurturing a new generation of young leaders. The organization provides opportunities for youth to expand their knowledge base, develop new skills, and positively engage with the Red Hook community through the operation of a socially responsible urban farming enterprise. Added Value has trained more than 150 Red Hook teenagers between the ages of 14 and 19, provided hundreds of local elementary students with educational programs, and worked with thousands of volunteers to build a more just and sustainable future for all. The program enables young people to transform vacant lands into vibrant urban farms; improve access to healthy, safe, and affordable food; and help grow an economy that supports the needs of the community. Volunteers interested in making a difference can volunteer with Added Value at Red Hook Community Farm on Fridays from 9:00am-12:00pm, and Saturdays from 10:30am-1:00pm. Alternatively, educators can contact Added Value to schedule a group volunteer day with their school group. To learn more, visit the Added Value volunteer information page [here](#). For questions, email [education@added-value.org](mailto:education@added-value.org).

### Brush With Kindness (Ongoing)

[Habitat for Humanity New York City](#) is looking for volunteers for its [Brush with Kindness](#) (BWK) program. This program enhances community spaces in all five boroughs by painting interiors and murals; landscaping and gardening; and performing minor construction tasks in public schools, playgrounds, community centers, and public parks.



Volunteers have the opportunity to create their own schedule, learn new skills, and most importantly, make a positive difference in the lives of others. No experience is necessary—just enthusiasm! The BWK sites are open every Wednesday through Friday from 8:45am-4:00pm, and every Saturday from 9:15am-4:30pm. Volunteers ages 14-17 may participate with a signed waiver from a parent or guardian. To learn more before signing up, visit the Habitat for Humanity [volunteer website](#) and register for a volunteer orientation. Orientations, however, are not required for BWK volunteers. Interested volunteers can create a profile on [VolunteerHub](#) and click on “Brush with Kindness” to see all of BWK’s available volunteer opportunities and select a day to volunteer. Volunteers are advised to wear clothes they do not mind getting dirty. If you have specific questions about Habitat for Humanity NYC student volunteer opportunities, please contact [Nikki Azam](#), the Emerging Leaders Associate.

## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

### Learning to Give Lesson Plans

[Learning to Give](#) features lesson plans for classroom discussions aiming to spark a deeper understanding of academic concepts that emphasize community and personal responsibility. Through Learning to Give's resources, educators can explore topics including local and global water solutions, poverty and human rights, disaster response strategies, and more. Educators can search the Learning to Give website for lessons on any of the above topics and can filter by grade level and subject area. All lessons are infused with concepts of philanthropy and align with Common Core and state standards.



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### Karma for Cara Community Service Youth Microgrant Program



[Karma for Cara](#) (K4C) is a non-profit that was founded by 21-year-old Cara Becker and her family while she was undergoing treatment for leukemia at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. K4C's mission consists of three goals: supporting youth engagement and service, recognizing unsung heroes in service, and reducing the suffering of cancer patients and their families. As part of K4C's efforts to support youth volunteerism, the organization started a microgrant program. Youth 18 years old and under are encouraged to apply for funds to complete service projects in their communities. Whether it is turning a vacant lot into a community garden, rebuilding a school playground, or helping senior citizens get their homes ready for winter, K4C wants to hear what projects kids are passionate about. Applicants are invited to tell K4C about their project, and the organization will help them get started. Microgrants range from \$250 to \$1,000, and will be distributed as gift cards to home goods stores, office supply stores, grocery food chains, and toy stores. Click [here](#) for the application. Applications should be submitted to [info@karmaforcara.org](mailto:info@karmaforcara.org).

## 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](mailto: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.



Follow [@NYCDOEService](https://twitter.com/NYCDOEService) to receive program updates, upcoming service opportunities, resources, and more. We encourage students who use Twitter and are interested in service opportunities to follow us.

**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.