

## Point-in-Time Volunteers: Feeding the Homeless

**By:** Denise Schachter

**Teaching Team:**

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**School:**

Teaneck High School

**Grade Levels:**

10-12, Chefs II classes

**Academic Focus/  
Core Curriculum Standards:**

Visual and Performing Arts

1.1, 1.2

Comprehensive Health and  
Physical Education

2.1, 2.2,

Language Arts Literacy

3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

Mathematics

4.1, 4.5

Social Studies

6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6

World Languages

7.1, 7.2

**Project Description:**

Students in Chefs II classes prepared a meal for 150 people and served it to the homeless at the Community Action Program of Bergen County's Crisis Center walk-in kitchen. Students became "Point-in-Time Volunteers" and worked with various social service agencies on January 29, 2008 when the federal government conducted its Point-in-Time annual count of the homeless population.

**Target Audience:**

Homeless population served by CAP; Bergen County Department of Social Services

**Timeline:** One week

**Project Scheduling:**

Planning and cooking took place during class time.

**Equipment Needed:**

Food, beverages, ovens, stoves, refrigerators, cooking utensils, pots, pans, paper products, aprons, gloves, transportation, cameras, film

**Academic Focus**

Visual and Performing Arts Students prepared and served a visually pleasing meal in a professional manner

Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Students learned responsibility and how to advocate for others, and became aware of the effect of homelessness on individual health and well being

Language Arts and Literacy Students utilized reading and comprehension skills planning a menu, listening and speaking skills interacting with target audience and during post activity group discussion, and writing skills completing a reflection paper.

Mathematics Students used basic math skills and measurements planning and cooking the meal and problem solving to determine how to package and transport the food.

Social Studies Students developed civic responsibility as they became aware of the local homeless problem and the causes and effects of homelessness

World Languages Students learned about the homeless culture and communicated with a new segment of the population.

## Technology

8.1B

## Consumer, Family & Life Skills

9.1A, 9.1B, 9.2A, 9.2B, 9.2C,  
9.2D

### **Core Ethical Values:**

Respect, Responsibility, Caring,  
Empathy, Civic Mindedness

### **Hurdles Encountered:**

#### Hurdles

How to transport hot food

#### Solution

Brainstormed ideas

### **Celebration:**

Students had a pizza party  
when they returned to school

### **Recognition:**

Newspaper article in the  
Record, pictures posted in  
school, a presentation to the  
PTO & Bd. of Ed, thank you  
letters from the Inter-  
religious Fellowship for the  
Homeless, the Bergen County  
Executive, and the Bergen  
County Department of Social  
Services

### **Key Findings:**

When given the opportunity to  
help others the students rose  
to the occasion. They were  
proud of what they  
accomplished and found it  
personally rewarding

Technology Students learned to use various kitchen appliances

Consumer, Family & Life Skills Students used critical thinking when  
menu planning and self-management and interpersonal skills when  
working with the target audience. They explored new careers,  
developed employability skills and demonstrated compassion for their  
fellow man

### **Educational Strategies:**

#### Performance-based Education

Students planned, prepared and served the meal

#### Cooperative Learning

Students worked together and with outside agencies

### **Personal Growth Outcomes:**

Students have a new found respect for homeless people. By  
connecting with those in need they developed a sense of  
responsibility, good citizenship and a desire to continue helping  
others. They learned to appreciate their lives and what they have.

### **Community Involvement:**

Inter-religious Fellowship for the Homeless, Bergen County Division  
of Human Services, local homeless population

### **Parents and Volunteer Involvement:**

Students worked with other Point-in-Time volunteers and will make a  
presentation to the Board of Education and parents.

### **Reflection Activities:**

Students reflected through group discussion and a reflection paper.  
The reflection focused on the way if any the experience changed a  
student's preconceptions about the homeless.

### **Means of Assessment:**

Students felt it was successful because of how they felt and the  
smiles they brought to those they served. Outside agencies  
applauded our students for their caring, kindness, and willingness to  
help those in need. As a result of this experience, several students  
joined the Inter-religious Fellowship Youth Council for the Homeless.