Research exercise: Project READ and Reading with Angels

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Abstract
The Building Communities through Social Justice Learning and Living Cohort (BCSLLC) strives to help students understand the importance of social justice and its impact on communities while providing students with opportunities to grow as leaders. The cohort integrates classroom education with service learning opportunities. This fall we participated in the first annual Book Buddy Program with the Cleveland Elementary School. Each member of the LLC donated a new book for a student in grades 4, 5, and special education. All BCSLLC members were paired by its community partner Project READ to tutor students in K-8.

Building Communities for Social Justice LLC Mission Statement
We are a vibrant education ministry of the Parish committed to
• engages in a process of intellectual inquiry
• productively negotiates and creates space for critical
   listening and the free exchange of ideas
• holistically integrates academic, residential, and co-
   curricular experience
• deploys the particular methodologies of the Humanities
disciplines, specifically those associated with the study of
English, Philosophy, and Religion
• fosters an interdisciplinary approach to fundamental
   human concerns, e.g., what it means to be human
• focuses on apprehending and addressing issues of Social
   Justice, such as stewardship, solidarity with those
   different from us, commitment to the integrity and
   equality of all human life, and dedication to the common
   good
• encourages undergraduate research that is informed by
   the experience of service learning

Holy Angels Mission Statement
We are a vibrant education ministry of the Parish committed to
challenging our students to grow in faith and excel in academics
within a caring Christian environment.

Project Read, Reading with Angels
A Social Justice Learning and Living Cohort Community Project
2012 Service Learning Experience

Expected Outcomes
• Work with the same student every tutoring session
• Assist with homework
• Work with a variety of subjects
• Learn how to handle patience with the students

Reflection
Before beginning this tutoring experience, I expected to do a lot of reading with the students in small groups. Instead, I worked mostly one-on-one with different students of all ages to help complete their homework and answer questions. We worked specifically with counting money, measuring objects with rulers, and completing worksheets and packets for their English and math classes. Helping the students comprehend these topics challenged me to think in different ways in order to aid them in understand what they were learning. This experience taught me the importance of patience and understanding while assisting students with their work.

-Lindsay Smore

In the twelve hours that I spent with the students that I tutored, they in return helped me and I learned a lot from them. Through this experience I have learned about patience, compassion and each child’s individual needs. In the beginning I expected that I would be working with students who needed help in remedial work such as spelling and writing. I soon came to realize that many were above the average level of students in their grade. Thus, a student I worked with, was only in kindergarten but already knew how to write in cursive and spell words such as “would” that a fellow classmate was having a problem spelling. Working with the children helped me to realize how important it is to assist the people who matter the most, the youth.

-Sadari Phillips

Before my first visit to Holy Angels, I assumed I would be assigned a student and tutor them throughout the entire project. On the contrary, we were put with different students every time. We did not stay on the same place every day. We spent our day in the library, in the gym, in the main lobby, etc. I thought I was going to be able to work with the same student throughout the entire day teaching a kid. I also realized how kids open themselves up with us pretty easily. I thought it was going to be really calm, but some of the students were really restless and made us really patient with them. The reason it is important to assist the youth is because without them there would not be a future. While we are helping them we are making the future better.

-Jose Panameno

I originally went into tutoring at Holy Angels elementary school thinking that I would be assigned a student who I would help every time I came to tutor. However what actually happened was that I was put into a room with everyone else tutoring and just helped any student until they did not need help anymore. Therefore the amount of students I tutored or helped a day varied but it was definitely not the same student every time. I liked doing it this way more than having just one student because this way I was able to help someone different every day. By doing this it made what I did that much more substantial. It was substantial because by helping many different students the satisfaction from helping just one student learn is multiplied.

-Will Vandervliet