



**2009 Annual Convening
of Service-Learning Leaders**
Maryland State Department of Education
Service-Learning Unit
Ronald McDonald House Day

Primary Subject: Interdisciplinary unit

Grade Level: 7

Additional Subject Area Connections:

Social Studies, Science, English, Math, Creative Arts

Unit Title: Ronald McDonald House Day

Type(s) of Service: Direct/ Advocacy

Unit Description: Students will examine a time line of the RMH history, regulations, and guidelines. They will read articles about infectious and non-infectious diseases that could affect potential families. The students will write letters to businesses asking for donations to the RMH. Students will collect monetary and other donations and categorize the items into charts and graphs. They will read and reflect on stories written by parents and families who have stayed at the RMH.

Potential Service-Learning Action

Experiences: The field trip is a follow-up activity for the entire project. When students visit the house, they will be given a tour and meet with families who are currently living there. Also, the staff will explain how RMH is funded and the importance of the support of the local community.

Local School System: Allegany County
LSS Coordinator: Kara Kennell
LSS Contact Information: 301- 759- 2000
Email: kara.kennell@acps.k12.md.us

**Maryland State Curriculum
Indicators Met**

Content Title:

Social Studies 6.C.2

Identify a situation/issue that requires further study

Science 3.B.2

Recognize and provide examples that human beings, like other organisms have complex body systems of cells, tissues and organs that interact to support an organism's growth and survival.

Math 7.C.1.E

Express solutions using pictorial, tabular, graphical, or algebraic methods

English 4.2

Compose oral, written, and visual presentations that express personal ideas, inform, and persuade

Art 3.2.B

Apply elements of art and principles of design to communicate specific ideas in visual compositions

Alignment with Maryland's Best Practices of Service-Learning: *Ronald McDonald House Day*

1. **Meet a recognized community need-**

Students who attend our school regularly need and utilize the RMH facilities. We live in a rural area where there are not any major medical facilities within 70 miles. Therefore, students who have long term illnesses, diseases or need frequent medical attention, must travel long distances to access this care. Parents and caregivers need a place to stay so that they do not need to commute back and forth on a daily basis. We chose this charity because many students were familiar with the place and many had benefited from this service.

2. **Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning-**

The information from articles and the Ronald McDonald House website were used to meet the following indicators from ACPs curriculum:

Explain the usefulness of the information

Draw inferences from the information

Write letters to the local community businesses

Compare and contrast with prior knowledge

3. **Reflect throughout the service-learning experience**

Students reflected through discussions in various classes as well as a culminating field trip the RMH facility in Morgantown, West Virginia.

4. **Develop student responsibility (Students have opportunities to make decisions about the service-learning project.)**

Students had to speak to people for monetary donations and volunteer their personal time at the Spirit Night event.

They had to give their own donations for a student/faculty basketball game. Students chose to give these donations to the RMH that they visited.



5. **Establish community partnerships-**local Ronald McDonald Restaurants donated gift certificates and allowed students to have a Spirit night at the restaurant. Many businesses donated money and or supplies to be given to the RMH charity.

6. Plan ahead for service-learning

All teachers met during team planning to discuss curriculum matches for various aspects of the project. They volunteered to make phone calls and set up various events outside of school that included Spirit night, student/faculty basketball game/ pop tabs collections and the tour of the WVU campus.

7. Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service

Students learned more about the Ronald McDonald house and its facilities- what it is, who utilizes the services, where it is located and how it affects families. They learned to compare and contrast information, make inferences, and write better letters. They also learned how to become more aware of the needs of others and to reach out to them with empathy. Finally, they learned that they can make a difference in the world in which they live.