

Christian Shelter Visit

By Monique Birckett

9th grade Government students learned about and provided service to clients of a Christian Shelter in Salisbury, Maryland. The students were also engaged in a directed writing exercise and discussion on what service-learning meant to them.

Meet a recognized community need: Our students addressed the issue of poverty. Students always visited the shelter around Easter, so students were asked to collect candy and fill Easter bags for youth who attend the shelter daily as part of an after-school program. Our students were also asked to write notes of encouragement to attach to each bag.

Achieve curricular objectives: Our curriculum includes a service-learning component in government.

Reflect through the service-learning experience: Students were required to put their reflection comments on a service-learning form. We also discussed our project as a class the next day.

Develop student responsibility: Each student has an assignment to complete for the shelter coordinator once we arrived at the shelter.

Establish community partnerships: I discussed our service-learning project goals with the coordinator of the Christian Shelter. This is our 4th year working with the Christian Shelter, as well as the Salvation Army.

Plan ahead for service-learning: I plan our service-learning project at the beginning of each semester. Then I discuss plans with our school coordinator and proceed with plans.

Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service: First we viewed the video, "The Courage to Care, the Strength to Serve." Then we engaged in several writing assignments and class discussions.