

The Leo Club

By Kathleen Hyde

Best Practice 1: The Leo Club met and developed activities addressing the following community needs; homelessness with participation in the national Walkathon for Charlies' Place; hunger with participation in a school-wide canned food competition to provide holiday dinners for participants of a local food bank; foster care kids by a collection of donated suitcases and children's books for children who are served by the Department of Social Services; a cleaner environment when Leo Club members adopted a highway and cleaned it four times a year; assisted in times of crisis when we raised money to help victims in North Carolina during a recent hurricane and when we made patriotic ribbons and pins and collected money for the American Red Cross National Disaster Relief Fund; assisted students who are mentally and physically challenged in our school by providing holiday parties and "adopt-a-friend" programs.

Best Practice 2: For each project that Leo Club does, the following objectives were met: accessing the specific need of the school or local community; providing either short or long term assistance to address the need; being responsible for specific duties to make a successful project; working together with people who are different from themselves to solve problems; and most importantly making a difference in the lives of others.

Best Practice 3: Our Leo Club meets twice a month, and at each meeting we discuss the activity, we write thank you notes, and decide if we will continue the project next year. The president of the Leo Club developed a PowerPoint presentation about Leo activities and presented at the Character Education Workshop at a local high school and at the Prince George's County Student Service-Learning Advisory Board.

Best Practice 4: Each Leo member has the opportunity to be the chairperson for an activity and have other Leos assist in the project. The chair is to write a proposal, have it approved by an administrator, and assign responsibilities to other Leos. Leo represents leadership, experience, and opportunity.

Best Practice 5: We have established partnerships with the Upper Marlboro Lions Club, Upper Marlboro Food Bank, American Red Cross, Department of Social Services, State Highway Administration, and Charlie's Place at St. Margaret's Church, Washington D.C.

Best Practice 6: Every member of the Leo Club is assigned to a committee: publicity/recruitment, social, and service. Committees meet and report on any activity they feel the club needs to pursue. The club votes on the activities they would like to participate in, and the appropriate committee prepares a plan to successfully accomplish the activity.

Best Practice 7: I give the members background information about their task. An example would be to provide a guest speaker who could speak about the involvement of my members and how they would assist a particular group. The chairperson writes a proposal and presents it to the club at one of our meetings. The club revises and finally accepts the proposal. The chair then asks for volunteers for specific tasks. The entire club participates in the activity.