

Walk for the Cure for Diabetes

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My service-learning club planned a yard sale at the school to raise money for the Walk for the Cure for Diabetes. More than 30 students, mostly sixth and eighth graders, volunteered. Two weeks later we then went downtown and participated in the walk and donated over \$2000.00. More than 20 students and parents participated in the walk.

Best practices:

- A student on my team was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. I also spoke with the school nurse and identified three other students with diabetes in the school. The project raised money for the Walk for the Cure, a non-profit fundraiser that has won high marks for donating over 90% of its funds to the cause.
- This project was not done in a classroom setting so was not linked to a subject area. Rather it met interpersonal and social objectives appropriate for middle school such as development of empathy, respect for others, as well as skills of planning and responsibility.
- Planning meetings each week involved evaluating our progress, reassessing goals, deadlines and expectations. Reflection statements were written after participating in the yard sale and again after the walkathon two weeks later.
- I took three seventh grade girls from the service club to the Walk for the Cure planning kick-off downtown about three months prior to the walkathon. Together we came up with a plan for fundraising and promoting the walkathon. Students wrote and delivered morning announcements, and made posters and fliers advertising the event. The yard sale fundraiser was completely run by students. Students manned tables of merchandise, completed sales, sold concessions, set up and took down tables. Students also provided free face painting to children who came.
- I enlisted the aid of the school's PTA and a key parent. We had a local sign company donate a 15 foot vinyl sign to advertise the yard sale at the school. Local businesses displayed fliers of the yard sale as well. Local radio stations aired public service announcements as well. Plan ahead for service-learning: This event took quite a bit of planning. It required regular meetings with my service- learning club as I wanted them to be as involved as possible and to do as much of the work involved as possible. My role was one of coordinator and motivator.
- Prior to the yard sale I had a meeting for the all the student volunteers to discuss the various jobs and responsibilities. Students signed up on a rotating schedule. I also met with some of the walkers who normally came to my service club and we discussed juvenile diabetes while using some of the literature the Walk for the Cure people provided.