

WEST VIRGINIA K-12 LEARN AND SERVE
PROGRAM DIRECTORS

FY 2008-2009

APPLICATIONS APPROVED ON JULY 30, 2008

Calhoun County Middle/High School

Sunny Cal Kids Can Help Too

Jean Simers

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25 students, 1 community partner

Serving 75 students, 1 community partner, 24 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 1 school and 1 community/business partner

Calhoun County Schools proposes to create Sunny Cal Kids Can Help, community service/service-learning groups extend service learning's traditional projects and classroom lesson approach to an advanced level of authentic learning, student governance, civic understanding and engagement. Students and faculty will learn through participation in Hi-Y Youth in Government and Model United Nations, as well as by enrolling students in the Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative and Conference at Camp Horseshoe, and Hi-Y's new National Learn and Serve America Demonstration Project. Sunny Cal Kids Can Help will work with the local partnership of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program to assist with mentoring children in the afterschool program. Community beneficiaries include the senior citizen center, the nursing home, the day care center, and families of our students. Our project will relate to neighborhood improvement and will show evidence of collaboration with a community-based organization.

Fayette County Schools, Southern Appalachian Labor School, Fayette Institute of Technology

Coalfield Housing

Dr. Serena L. Starcher

Barry Crist

Fayette County Board of Education

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25 students, 10 community partners

Serving 25 students, 10 community partners

Agencies involved: 5 schools, one higher-education partner

In FY 2008-2009, this Learn and Serve Program will primarily focus on working with School-To-Work and YouthBuild personnel at the Fayette Institute of Technology to create student research service learning experiences that will provide them with creative work experience, a healthy work ethic, and civic values tied to the local community needs. In addition, the project will provide focused service-learning training for participating students, administrators, and volunteers; increase the number of students trained in service-learning leadership skills through summer camp experiences at the YMCA of Ohio and WV's Camp Horseshoe; provide participation in high school Hi-Y programs; provide site-based service learning team building, community leadership, and tolerance activities with the WV Learn and Serve Training Specialists, seek to provide fine arts students knowledge and participation with Dr. John Lozier from Harping With Harmony, who will build harps from local construction materials and instruct harping to participating students and senior citizens at the SALS Community Center; and provide opportunities for youth to construct crafts from scrap building materials. A select number of youth will continue project work during June of 2009, thereby earning AmeriCorps stipends and educational awards. This program will identify a group of 25 youth at the Fayette Institute of Technology who will work on home repairs and weatherizations with low-income homeowners in old coal camps in Fayette County. Example communities include: Minden, Page, Whipple and Beards Fork. The work will be part of the vocational curriculum that the students are enrolled in at school. Service to the

families will be provided in the areas of: plumbing, weatherizations, and carpentry. Actual site work will be supervised by an adjunct instructor approved by the Fayette Institute of Technology. Another component of the program will involve students selecting and developing a unique service-learning project which will be based on available building materials and perceived community or family needs. Possible ideas may include projects such as wheelchair ramps, holiday ornaments, crafts or playground facilities.

Kanawha County Schools

“Kids and Community-Planting for Pleasure”

Jackie Hersch

Kanawha County Schools

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Charleston, WV 25311

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45 students, 3 community partners

Serving 200 students, 3 community partners, 8 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 1 school; 1 higher education partner, 3 community/businesses

One teacher from Malden Elementary School will work collaboratively with the 21st Century Learning Center Coordinator and afterschool program to plan, organize, and produce landscaped flowerbeds at Malden Elementary School, Good Living Nursing Home, Booker T. Washington Museum, and Larry L. Rowe Law Office in Malden, WV. In addition to flowers and shrubs in each area, a tree will be planted and a small plaque stating the area was beautified by the Learn and Serve Students from Malden Elementary will appear in 2009. Students and teachers will be trained by the WVDE Service-Learning Specialist on the importance of giving back to the community through service-learning projects. They will learn how to plan, implement and expand on their project to cover a range of the curriculum. Many of the students at Malden Elementary come from single parent homes and live in poverty, with 61% receiving free and reduced meals. These students are not accustomed to doing for others, so given the opportunity to give back to their community will be a new and challenging experience for them. Once the beautification projects are completed, Malden will hold a Family Night/Open House and invite all stakeholders in the project.

A Malden attorney will be present to give lessons in the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the community.

Marion County Schools/RESA VII

Get Healthy – Healthy Choices for Sunbeam Kids

Helen Post Brown

Sunbeam Child Care Center

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Fairmont, WV 26554

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60 students, 2 community partners, and five senior citizens

Serving 30 students, 2 community partners, and 30 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 8 schools, 1 higher education partner, 2 community/businesses

Since 1996 the children at Sunbeam Child Care Center have played the game Do Use Care and Kindness Successfully and DUCK Jeopardy. They have introduced new students at Sunbeam to the game and they have played the game for community events. The game originated from a collaborated effort with the Community Service Learning Program at Fairmont State College and Sunbeam Child Care Center. The game Do Use Care and Kindness Successfully is an adaptation of this game emphasizing peaceful solutions and non-violence tactics. For the past ten years, we have sent students to Camp Horseshoe. The students have grown under the guidance of the remarkable staff at Camp Horseshoe. We have continued our school's student service learning outreach with existing school and community service clubs and organizations. Fairmont State University students continue to mentor our children. The Service Learning Training Specialists with the WV Department of Education will conduct training on team building, rationale and reflection. Dr. John Lozier will introduce the children to the beauty of the harp. Ongoing is our gardening projects with our visits to the Senior Citizen Center and the John Manchin Nursing home.

Mineral County Schools

Students Taking on Projects (STOP)

Susan P. Stone

Frankfort Middle School

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40 students, 2 community partners, 4 senior citizens

Serving 529 students, 3 community partners, 15 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 2 schools, 1 higher education partner, 2 community/businesses

Students Taking on Projects (STOP) is a group of energetic students who are actively engaged in service learning and community projects. Students meet before school, during school and after school as determined by our projects. Students are involved in planning projects that extend classroom skills with our school population and their community needs. Students experience family and consumer life skills (baking, snacks, table decoration and design) through fund raiser and hospitality events at our school and with our community partners. Students utilize math, language, social studies, science and technology to plan, prepare and implement projects during the school year. Students are open to suggestions and willing to tackle any project or task as a team. Projects include raising social awareness for those in need in our school population, reaching out to help Cystic Fibrosis, Hoops for Heart, Tri-State Toys for Happiness, Fort Ashby Lions Club, and other community groups. Students also help promote healthy lifestyles, beautification of school grounds, mentoring fellow students and promoting our responsible student program. STOP will continue to work with the WVDE Service-Learning Specialists to foster team building and service learning as part of the educational process for both teachers and students. STOP will continue to foster multicultural awareness through Harping for Harmony and community guest speakers. The long range goal for STOP members is to build a base for service learning in the hopes that we promote lifelong volunteers who continue to give back to education and the community.

Mineral County Schools

Reaching Out To Communities With THE COMPANION

Cassie Delaney

Keyser High School

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160 students, 10 community partners

Serving 700 students, 6 community partners, 300 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 2 schools, 1 higher education partner, 3
community/businesses

Sixty advanced English high school students in grades 11 and 12 from Keyser High School in Mineral County, West Virginia, will participate in an outreach literacy program. These students will go out into the community to read aloud to approximately 600 elementary students in schools that do not have a central library and for 100 Heal Start students. With the support of the WV Learn and Serve America Grant, the outreach program can be expanded so that students may assist elementary students with tutoring in reading and help these children with their homework assignments and 4-H projects. They will also assist with local blood drives, promote healthy lifestyles by working with the Keyser Food Pantry program, promote neighborhood improvement in coordination with the School-To-Work program, promote intergenerational relationships by delivering meals to area shut-ins and bell-ringing to assist the Salvation Army. By participating in service learning, students wish to promote literacy and a love for reading among elementary and high school students and to share the importance of lifelong volunteerism. The Companion is a quarterly book review journal produced by 60 advanced English service-learning students. The students are involved in every aspect of the magazine production process, from designing page layouts to promoting its circulation and participating in community literacy programs. The Companion is currently circulated to teachers, parents, and librarians in West Virginia and surrounding states. A Learn and Serve America grant will enable the circulation to include reading rooms in hospitals and nursing homes. The Companion is strictly a non-profit publication, and funding from the Learn and Serve grant will help to cover

publication costs for the Fall 2008-Summer 2009 issues, transportation costs for students traveling to read-aloud sites, and funding for two students to attend sessions at Camp Horseshoe and meetings at Blackwater Falls State Park. No funding will be used for salaries for students or adult sponsors. The Companion is partially funded through Mineral County Schools, donations by local businesses, fund-raising, donations from book publishers, and a grant from the West Virginia Service Learning Grant Program. The project will continue if funding from a Learn and Serve grant is not available. The success of The Companion project is measured by surveys and circulation figures.

Monongalia County – Morgantown High School

Environmental Monitors

Shirley Pugh

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20 students, 3 community partners

Serving 250 students, 2 community partners

Agencies involved: 3 schools, 1 higher education partner, 2 community/businesses

Morgantown High School (MHS) proposes to continue the environmental program, Environmental Monitors, which will allow students and community to understand the importance of stewardship of the earth. Reclamation of acid mine streams is a project that volunteers from many age groups can work together on towards an obtainable and measurable goal. We will use projects to incorporate classroom learning, civic understanding and engagement in the cleanup efforts required to restore streams in Monongalia County to good quality. Students will participate in Youth in Government Day and Model United Nations to help raise the environmental consciousness within the political community. Morgantown High School will work with the local community organization Friends of Decker's Creek (FODC) to help collect water quality data and assist with cleanup efforts. Students will create an informational brochure and promote community understanding of the problems and solutions for cleaning up our local watershed. This program will also work with the WV

Commission for National and Community Service, project FLOW (Future Leaders of Watersheds). The summer Kaleidoscope program will be provided with 20 high school students to serve as mentors for 20 middle school students during a 3 week summer program focused on acid mine drainage monitoring and stream revitalization. Morgantown High School will work with the Service Learning Specialists at the WV Department of Education to provide students a curriculum that will include activities to develop team-building skills, leadership qualities, community partnerships with Friends of Decker's Creek, and a reporting program for acid mine drainage and stream cleanup. The project leader will train 20 mentor students and they will deliver the summer curricula for the 3 week project to be used with middle school students.

Monongalia County – Scott's Run Settlement House

Scott's Run Settlement House Goes Green

Tamala LaBarge

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Osage, WV 26543

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(304) 599-8016 FAX

tamiam_65@yahoo.com

29 students, 4 community partners

Serving 5 community partners, 30 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 4 schools, 1 higher education partner, 9 community/businesses

Youth enrolled in the afterschool program will implement a project that will educate the community about the importance of recycling and saving the planet's valuable resources. Students will receive training through WVU Extension Service. Students will create their own media tool for disseminating the information to local businesses and youth groups and the general public through community wide events. Youth will also participate in service projects that benefit people in the community through their partnership with United Way and through the Scott's Run Settlement House Seniors On The Run Program. These projects include Valentine baskets for seniors, decorations for Scott's Run Settlement House events and Presents for Patients. Youth and teachers will learn about service learning through participation in an onsite workshop and the Learn and Serve Annual Fall Conference which will be held

October 15-17, 2008, at Blackwater Falls State Park. Students will gain an understanding of citizenship and civic responsibility by completing activities focused on building character and citizenship.

Monongalia/Preston Counties/RESA VII

Youth Volunteer Connection

Lisa Snyder

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Morgantown, WV 26505

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390 students, 30 community partners, 30 senior citizens

Serving 500 students, 10 community partners, 60 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 20 schools, 1 higher education partner, 20 community/businesses

Youth Volunteer Connection coordinates an area wide service-learning program. Our goals for the program are as follows: projects should teach or re-emphasize character education, facilitate career exploration, reinforce job skills, and provide enrichment of necessary academic skills. Service projects can be initiated by either a nonprofit agency having a need in the community to meet or by youth from schools, the community or afterschool programs that become aware of a community need (or have an interest in a specific project) that we can meet. In either instance, groups are asked to submit their ideas and how their project will benefit the community. If deemed appropriate, groups are awarded funds to purchase the basic supplies necessary to carry out their project. Some examples of past projects include: laying a new floor for Literacy Volunteers; landscaping local parks, assisting nursing home residences at their annual picnic, preparing meals for the homeless in our area. Celebrations in the past have included purchasing medallions for graduating seniors, recognition receptions, and participation in the Presidential Service Awards.

Ohio County Schools

Park Patriots Serve

Ken Sexton

Wheeling Park High School

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Wheeling, WV 26003

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50 students

Serving 150 students, 50 community partners

Agencies involved: 2 schools

Wheeling Park High School Hi-Y will be in its fifth year of existence. In applying for this grant, our Hi-Y agrees to send one adult and several students to the WVK-12 Learn and Serve Fall Conference which will be held at Blackwater Falls State Park on October 15-17, 2008. This conference is sponsored by the WV Department of Education. In 2007, two students and one adult attended the training. We are currently assembling a team to represent our club at Youth in Government. We will be sending four students who are preparing a case to argue in front of the Model Supreme Court. Last year, we sent four representatives to Youth in Government. Our team successfully argued their case in front of the Supreme Court judges and also participated as attorneys in the mock trial in the Kanawha County Circuit Court. We will also send students to Camp Horseshoe over the summer of 2009. We plan to send two students but could possibly send several more depending on funding. Last summer (2008) two of our Hi-Y members participated in the weeklong camp at Camp Horseshoe and they found the experience to be very worthwhile. This past year, our members were again very active in the community. Our first project was done in conjunction with Boatsie's Boxes, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year, our group wants to do more. We enlisted the assistance of our Fine Arts Department and other school clubs. With the help of these groups and one local church group, we filled over 300 Christmas stockings to be sent to the soldiers overseas. Additionally, we presented a check to Boatsie's Boxes for \$350 to help defer the enormous shipping costs of sending over 10,000 stockings to our troops. This was by far, our most rewarding project of 2007.

In March of 2009, our monthly meeting will be attended by Seth Abraham, Operations officer of the Easter Seals rehabilitation center in Wheeling, WV. Mr. Abraham is requesting the assistance of our service-learning students as volunteers for the Easter Seals Telethon. This telethon annually solicits funds from the local community in support of our own Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. Last year, in April of 2008, our members manned the phones and computers to record the pledges of thousands of Ohio Valley residents and businesses who donated to this local charity. In all, the telethon raised over \$210,000 for our Wheeling facility. Our plan is to have a dozen or more Hi-Y members and service-learning students participate this year in 2009. Finally, it is our plan to again assist with the local Special Olympics in April of 2009. Last year, our members "adopted" a participant for the day, seeing to it that he had someone to encourage him and to see that he got to his events without delay. In addition to the earmarked projects mentioned above, Wheeling Park's Hi-Y plans to use a portion of our Learn and Serve grant to fund the newly developed 9th Grade Transition Project at Wheeling Park High School. This portion of our grant funding will be used to defer the costs of training materials for both our volunteer mentors and the incoming freshman class.

Roane County Schools/PATCH 21ST CCLC Program

Low Income Senior Food Drive

David McCutcheon

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Spencer, WV 25276

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dmccutcheon@rccoawv.org

40 students, 30 community partners, 20 senior citizens

Serving 275 students, 2 community partners, 90 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 6 schools, 30 community/business partners

The Roane County Learn and Serve Program will work with local Hi-Y in our schools and extend service learning's traditional projects and classroom lesson approach to an advanced level of active service-learning, student governance, civic understanding and engagement through participating in Hi-Y Youth in Government and Model United Nations, as well as enrolling students in the Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative and Conference at Camp Horseshoe, and Hi-Y's

new National Learn and Serve America Demonstration Project. We will work with the WV Department of Education (WVDE) Learn and Serve Training Specialist in service-learning 101 techniques including rationale, benefits, reflection, curriculum integration, and how to create effective team building activities, community partnerships and collaborations and orientation sessions in order to develop and carry out two Learn and Serve projects in our community. The projects will consist of two different food drives for low income senior citizens, PATCH 21st CCLC and participating high school students (Hi-Y, TIFU, STARS, RAZE) will collaborate with 30 community businesses to collect donated food. The food drive will be promoted through flyers and radio public service announcements. Students, staff and other volunteers will collect the donated food from the local businesses and sort the food into separate bags and or boxes. The food will then be delivered by students, staff and volunteers to approximately 90 low income seniors on two separate (December and February) occasions during the year. We will work with high school students to design and implement three two unique service-learning projects related to healthy lifestyles, neighborhood improvement, and hospitality based upon their research of community needs. These high school service-learning students will receive service-learning training from a specialist at our annual high school Leadership Academy and visits from the specialist to work on our project. High school students who receive training and participate in the development and implementation of this project will then visit all county schools to promote and explain service learning as well as tell students about the opportunities offered through the WV Hi-Y program.

Taylor County Schools

Grafton High School and Taylor County Technical Center

Taylor County Serves

Mary Tucker

Grafton High School

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Grafton, WV 26354

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75 students, 10 community partners

Serving 65 students, 10 community partners, 35 senior citizens
Agencies involved: 2 schools and 4 community/businesses

The Taylor County Service Learning Project offers students the opportunity to meet the needs of their community as well as improve their skills – academic, work-related and civic. We plan to address homeland security issues and increased emergency preparedness by holding blood drives in conjunction with the American Red Cross. We will work with small community and faith-based agencies by participating in the Salvation Army’s Christmas Angel and Bell Ringing Campaign, conduct a food drive and organize a hat and mitten collection for the Bread of Life Mission. In addition, we will participate in the Solid Waste Authority’s The Great Paper Chase and help with Relay for Life activities. We will cooperate with Taylor County’s three elementary schools to provide child care and learning opportunities during Parent Teacher Conferences and Open Houses.

We plan to send students to the Hi-Y Leadership camp and revitalize Grafton Hi-Y. We will also be participating in the Youth In Government activities and the Fall Leadership Conference sponsored by the Ohio/WV YMCA. We will invite the WVDE Service Learning Specialists to provide training on service-learning techniques and incorporation across the curriculum. The Specialist will also provide training and staff development for teachers and students on leadership and teamwork. Dr. John Lozier will be providing fine arts training through Harping for Harmony. Finally, the service-learning students will design and implement unique monthly service-learning projects based upon community needs. These projects will relate to fine arts training, neighborhood improvement, homeland security and healthy lifestyles.

Tyler County Schools

Tyler Consolidated High School Hi-Y/Service Learning Program

Darlene Koerber

Tyler Consolidated High School

5 Dansers Lane

Friendly, WV 26146

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(304) 758-9006 FAX

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19 students, 1 community partner

Serving 500 students, 1 community partner

Agencies involved: 4 schools and 1 community/business

Tyler Consolidated Hi-Y consistently files year end reports with many respectable accomplishments. This Hi-Y completes a community service project each month and always completes at least two large-scale projects involving non Hi-Y members. Although we operate on a very limited budget, we flourish in achievement. Tyler Consolidated Hi-Y members annually participate in the Hi-Y Youth in Government program. In addition, Tyler Consolidated Hi-Y is also sending a team of devoted students to the Hi-Y Model United Nations program. Furthermore, Tyler Consolidated Hi-Y members also spend at least a week of his or her summer at one of the many programs offered at YMCA Camp Horseshoe. Because Tyler Consolidated Hi-Y completes different student led service learning projects each month, many different community members benefit. Based on past projects, community beneficiaries include: local nursing homes, all schools in Tyler County, local churches, less fortunate members of the community, and children attending the Governor's Youth Opportunity Camps at YMCA Camp Horseshoe throughout the month of July. Tyler Consolidated Hi-Y will work with the WV Department of Education Service Learning Specialists to train local teachers to utilize techniques of service-learning in the regular educational programs. Local teachers will participate in "Service Learning – The Education of Tomorrow" during one of the fall instructional support and enhancement days scheduled in the county school calendar. In addition, Tyler Consolidated High School will complete at least one service learning project that will provide neighborhood improvement and will benefit the community.

Wayne County Schools/Playmates Preschool and Child Development Centers, Inc.

Wayne County Community Learning Centers Healthy Communities Program

Jeanette Barker/Amy Wagoner

Playmates Preschool and Child Development Centers, Inc.

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Huntington, WV 25704

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50 students, 50 community partners, 14 senior citizens

Serving 50 students, 550 community partners, 40 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 9 schools, 1 higher education partner, 6
community/businesses

Students and staff of the Wayne County Community Learning Centers Project (WCCLC) conducted a survey to determine the needs of our community. The group found the percentage of students reporting “never or seldom” joining in community activities to be 72.3% (high school) and 62.3% (middle school), indicating a low degree of community involvement correlating with an increased probability of involvement in unhealthy student activities (Pride Survey 2006). The survey also found obesity to be a driving contributor to community health. WCCLC staff, Americorps members, and community volunteers propose to guide and supervise 300 students in an out-of-school project to promote volunteerism and improved knowledge of government processes. The goals of the Healthy Communities Project are: creating a better-educated community with respect to the core components of service learning and community volunteerism; students will develop and implement an initial service-learning project based upon current community needs; and students will plan and implement four additional service-learning projects based upon current community needs. All participants will learn about the core components of service learning and community service, including the techniques, rationale, and benefits of project building, project reflection, curriculum integration, and orientations sessions through training sessions provided by the WVDE Learn and Serve Specialists and the WVU Extension Office personnel. Learning will be reinforced through reflection techniques and participants’ attendance at a series of leadership and team-building camps. The WVDE Learn and Serve Specialist and Project staff will assist the students in planning and developing five service-learning projects based on surveyed community needs. The first service learning project will be the coordination and planning of the third annual Summer Olympics Camp aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles during the summer. The focus of the additional four projects will be determined by participants based on community needs and in consultation with the Service Learning Specialist at the WVDE. Teachers and volunteers will then work with the students to develop and

implement projects to make positive changes in their community and build volunteerism.

Wirt County Schools

Wirt County Serves

Angie Domico Cox

Wirt County Middle School

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295 students, 3 community partners

Serving 50 students, 3 community partners, 5 senior citizens

Agencies involved: 3 schools, 3 community/businesses

Wirt County Serves enables students in each of our three schools to make the world a better place. That world may reach as far as another continent and may be as close as the classroom down the hall or the food pantry in our community. Elementary schools students will focus their efforts on improving the plight of their fellow students in Kenya. Middle school students' efforts will be channeled through the National Junior Honor Society. Their project will strive to involve all middle school students. High school students will create and participate through the Wirt County Hi-Y. High school students will create, implement, and monitor local service activities as well as participate in Hi-Y Youth in Government and/or Hi-Y Model United Nations. Student training will occur locally with the Service Learning Specialists at the WVDE, as well as through leadership training opportunities provided by the Ohio/WV YMCA Camp Horseshoe.

Wirt County Serves will work with the local 21st CCLC program to assist with mentoring children. The project will also work with the other local agencies and groups to implement our program. Those groups include, but are not limited to, Community Resources, Daughters of the American Pioneers, and the Wirt County Ministerial Association.

Wirt County Serves will work with the WV Department of Education Learn and Serve Training Specialists to maintain and enhance their skills. This project will also work with the staff of the Ohio/WV YMCA to insure program effectiveness through our Hi-Y efforts. All efforts will work to build bridges between students, service, and the curriculum. Many activities will reflect a desire of students to better their community and/or school. Many projects will collaborate with faith-based and community-based organizations and agencies.