

## Spring 2007

### Cesar Chavez Service Learning!



**by Katie Lincicum**

What do fifty 4th graders running around a field have to do with service? Plenty when you combine Second Harvest food bank, broccoli plants, and the lessons of Cesar Chavez. From January through February, 150 students from Pio Pico and Franklin Elementary traveled to Second Harvest fields to pick crops for the Second Harvest food bank. However, these young day laborers didn't come unprepared. Before the field gleanings, teachers used service learning materials provided by the Volunteer Center Orange County to teach the students about migrant farm workers and the life and values of Cesar Chavez. At the fields, students were given a refresher course on Cesar Chavez, and then experienced firsthand what it's like to be a migrant farm worker. Using two hands and all their might, students cleared rows of broccoli, ready to be distributed by Second Harvest. They also learned how to feel a cabbage to make sure it's ripe, and then carefully used a butter knife to

separate the vegetable from the ground. Students collected the goods in huge baskets that they were barely able to carry back to the truck. At the end of the three sessions, students picked over 6,000 lbs of food to feed over 24,000 hungry families in Orange County.

This is the sixth year that the Volunteer Center Orange County has partnered with Second Harvest to provide this service learning project, and the second year that it has been financed by State Farm Insurance. The grant allows teachers who participate to have a free field trip for their students and receive a little extra money to spend on their class afterwards. This is especially helpful in a time when teachers often have to pay for classroom supplies out of pocket. Volunteer Center Orange County provides the teachers with a booklet of service learning materials and an orientation meeting to familiarize the teachers with the program. This year Julie Chavez Rodriguez, the granddaughter of Cesar Chavez and program director at the Cesar Chavez Foundation, conducted the teacher's orientations. Her presence was an extra treat for the teachers and Volunteer Center as she shared her knowledge and personal relationship with her grandfather. If you or your classroom is interested in participating in the Cesar Chavez program, please contact Katie Lincicum, youth leadership at Volunteer Center Orange County at 714-953-5757 x.123.

### Service Events for Earth Day



Are you a tree hugger or a recycling enthusiast? If so, we have some activities for you. Whether you're a moderate environmentalist, or a high profile greenie, you're invited to get involve in Earth week service activities. The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) has developed a weeks worth of service activities for people to play a part in saving the planet.

To view a full list of available activities over Earth week, please follow this link.

**[Service Events for Earth Day](#)**

## Roots and Shoots



At the National Service Learning Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jane Goodall was a tremendous and inspirational key note speaker. Beyond wowing the crowd with her life experiences, Jane shared the programs available through The Jane Goodall Institute for young people who want to get involved. Roots and Shoots is a very active program to get youth active in service learning programs that focus on the environment.

For curriculum material through Roots and Shoots, check out...

[Roots and Shoots](#)

## Water Monitoring with California Coastkeepers



In an effort to raise awareness of the importance water quality and of water conservation in Orange County, Orange County Coastkeeper is proud to present California Coastwide Snapshot Day, a statewide event to monitor water quality along the central coast. On May 5th, volunteers from the community and environmental agencies will collect samples from every coastal stream in Orange County. To find out more information and get involved in this event, please contact Ray Hiemstra at 714.850.1965, or [ray@coastkeeper.org](mailto:ray@coastkeeper.org)

## Info for Grant Writers

---

### **Jordan Fundamental Grant**

The Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program was established with proceeds from the Jordan Brand, a division of Nike, Inc., to recognize outstanding teaching and instructional creativity in U.S. public schools that serve economically disadvantaged students. *Innovation* grants for \$2,500 and *inspiration* grants for \$10,000 are available for educators working with students grades 1-12 in low income schools. Check out [Jordan Fundamentals grant](#)

### **Save Our History grants**

The History Chanel offers grants around \$10,000 to U.S. organizations that partner with schools or youth groups on community preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting, and preserving the history of their communities. Check out [Save Our History grant](#)

**Greenworks! Grants** GreenWorks! offers educators grants from \$250 - \$5,000 to implement community action and service- learning projects. GreenWorks! projects should address an environmental issue and involve students from pre-school to high school. Check out [Greenworks! grant](#)

**State Farm/MADD Good Decisions Service Learning Grants** School or community based organizations can apply for \$1,000 grants that help develop local service learning projects for the 2007-2008 school year. The service-learning projects must address one of three topics: underage alcohol use prevention, vehicle safety, and adult impaired driving. Check out [State Farm/ MADD grant](#)

**[Volunteer Center Orange County](#)**

## Service Learning Calendar

---

April 21- National and Global Youth Service Day

April 22 - Earth Day

May 5 - Snap Shot Day (Monitoring of water quality up and down the coast of CA)

May 5 - Join Hands Day

June 5 - Hunger Awareness Day

October 27 - Make A Difference Day

September 11 - One Day's Pay