Motivations for Giving: Penny Drive
Grade 1-5 Lesson Plan

Purpose

The learners will analyze services that are provided in their community and note that the government is not always able to, or does not choose to, provide all goods and services needed. They will define and identify the work of charitable organizations doing philanthropic work in their community. They will investigate motivations for giving and assess their own motivations for participating in a penny drive.

Duration

One 55-minute class period

Student Objectives

- Identify local organizations that provide goods and services to the community
- Define philanthropy, give examples of it and describe some of the motivations for charitable giving.
- Assess their own motivations for giving.
- Hold a penny drive.

Service Experience

Although this lesson contains a service project example, decisions about service plans and implementation should be made by students, as age appropriate.

The class may hold a penny drive to raise money for a chosen cause. To hold the competition, each class or team competes against all others. Each team has a jar in a central location labeled with the team name and the charity they are raising money for.

The idea is to earn the most money for your class or grade. In a penny war, teams try to collect the most pennies, and silver coins count against their total. This creates a competition where other teams try to sabotage the other teams by adding silver coins or dollar bills to the competitors' jars. The value of the coins count against the total, so a quarter subtracts 25 points from a jar of pennies. You can have two winners: one winner is the team that has the most points and another winner collects the highest monetary value.

Materials

- Motivations for Charitable Giving Attachment

Instructional Procedures

Take a few minutes to have the learners describe some characteristics of their community (i.e. population, economic condition, employment opportunities, housing, schools, etc).

Write their comments on the display board and encourage them to keep those community characteristics in mind as they name as many community organizations as they can that provide goods and services necessary for those

who live in their community and enrich the life of the community members. (i.e. public schools, grocery store, Red Cross, a local soup kitchen or shelter, gas station, fast food restaurants, hospital, the fire department, health clinic, Secretary of State Office, the Post Office, the Rotary Club, etc.) As these are given, list them on the display as well.

When the learners have finished naming as many 'helping' local organizations as they can, go over the list and have the learners 'help' you decide if the organization is a "C"- Corporation/Business, "NP"- Nonprofit organization, including both religious and secular), "G"- Government. Point out to the learners that this list is proof that many 'helping' services are not done by the "G"- Government alone. Because the government does not have the funds or the ability to do everything, or chooses not to do everything, there are others who provide goods and services either for profit or not for profit.

Place the term "philanthropy" on the display board. Solicit definitions from the learners. Explain that philanthropy is the giving of time, talent, and treasure for the sake of another or the common good. Philanthropy also refers to voluntary action for the public good. Remind the learners that many of the organizations that provide services for the public are philanthropic. Since nonprofit organizations are not in the business to earn a profit, they have fewer restrictions placed on them from the government than for profit businesses. This allows non-profit organizations more room to be creative and try new ideas to improve social services (i.e. address issues of poverty, environmental stewardship, promote the arts, preserve historical buildings, etc.). In many cases the nonprofit sector is the one that initiates social change.

Ask the learners to recall and list ways in which they have been involved in charitable giving through participation in their school.

Once a good list has been generated, ask the learners if this statement is true. "Only the very rich people are able to give." To stimulate their thinking further, ask the learners, "Why would anyone want to be a philanthropist, and give their money away?"

After fielding a few of their responses, distribute Motivations for Charitable Giving (Attachment). Talk about these motivations and ask the students to list any additional ones they may think of.

Ask the learners to again read the motivations for charitable giving and circle those reasons that may personally motivation them or their family members to contribute to a charitable cause and/or to the school's Penny Drive.

Assessment

- Learner involvement in class discussion
- Learner involvement in group work
- Depth & relevance of learner's discussion

References

- Prince, Russ A. and Karen M. File. The Seven Faces of Philanthropy. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001: 0-7879-6057-8.
- http://www.guidestar.org. Guide Star is a searchable website with a data base that includes financial reports and program summaries on more than 600,000 nonprofit organizations. The financial information is gleaned from IRS Form 990s and additional data is collected from nonprofits themselves.

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Learning to Give

Common Core Standard Suggestions

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.6
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.10
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.9

Motivations for Charitable Giving

Some people give because of their sense of belonging to a community. They give because they consider nonprofit organizations more effective at delivering services and more attuned with community needs.

Some people give because they feel it is a moral obligation. They believe everyone needs to take responsibility for creating a better world and should not expect personal recognition for volunteering time, talent or treasure.

Some people see philanthropy as "good business". They are motivated by the personal tax and other financial benefits philanthropy gives.

Some people enjoy the socializing and entertainment that are a part of contributing to a good cause.

Some people "pay back" in return for what they received in life.

Some people see philanthropy as a family tradition. They were raised in a family that stressed the importance of giving.

Some people feel a sense of purpose and personal fulfillment when they contribute. They see themselves as the true philanthropists who are not concerned with business or personal gain.

From The Seven Faces of Philanthropy by Russ A. Prince and Karen M. File

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