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Model Chavez Service-Learning Project

Cesar Chavez Foundation

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MODEL CHAVEZ SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT



“EDUCATING THE HEART” CESAR E. CHAVEZ”

The Volunteer Center of Orange County and 4th grade teachers from Santa Ana, Newport and other parts of Orange County worked together to develop the “Educating the Heart” Cesar E. Chavez service-learning project. The “Educating the Heart” project is a multi-faceted service-learning experience that supports the Academic Curriculum and provides 4th grade students with a unique hands-on perspective of California History. This experience brings to life Cesar E. Chavez, his values, and his efforts to reform conditions for migrant farm workers in California. Using service as a vehicle for learning, students will also gain a sense of civic responsibility and understand the importance of giving back to their communities.

MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

The students learned about the life of migrant farm workers:

- To better understand how food gets from the fields to their dinner plate.
- To know that migrant farm work is difficult yet very honorable work.
- To better understand migrant worker issues, such as low wages, poor living and working conditions, and the dangers of pesticides.



CESAR E. CHAVEZ’S VALUES

The students learned the importance of making a positive difference in their community, working together to assist those in need of assistance, and respecting one another and all people regardless of their differences.



MIGRANT FARM WORKER CONDITIONS

- The students experienced the conditions of migrant farm workers.
- They picked lettuce, peppers, cucumbers, squash and learned how hard it is to be a migrant farm worker.
- The students realized it was hot to work out under the sun all day, they were thirsty and tired after working only a short time, and their backs hurt from bending over.

MEETING A COMMUNITY NEED

- Based on their research students’ realized there were a lot of hungry people and families in Orange County so they donated the food.
- To date over **3,500** 4th grade students and **85** teachers have contributed to feeding over **10,000** hungry people across Orange County thanks to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

“The end of all education should surely be service to others.” Cesar E. Chavez

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