

2005

# Homelessness Service-Learning Project

Cesar Chavez Foundation

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## National Youth Leadership Initiative Los Angeles Unified School District

School: Wilson High School Local Dist: F

Title of Project: Homelessness Service-Learning Project

Community Need Identified: Homelessness



### Standards Connections:

11.2.2 Describe the changing landscapes of cities linked by industry and trade, divided according to race, ethnicity, and class.

11.2.1 Know the effects of industrialization on living and working conditions, including the portrayal of working conditions and food safety in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*.

11.2.6 Students trace the economic development of the United States and its emergence as a major industrial power, including its gains from trade and the advantages of its physical geography.

11.6 Students analyze the the Great Depression and how the New Deal changed the role of the federal government.

11.11 Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.



Teacher Involved:

Paul Isozaki 11<sup>th</sup> grade US History

Partner Organizations:

Los Angeles Mission

Service Group:

Skid Row Homeless Population

Number Served:

500 homeless

Number Engaged:

35 high school students



### Project Description:

11<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. history students determined that homelessness was a problem in their community. The project partner was the Los Angeles Mission, a multi-service homeless service center in Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. The Mission was in great need of socks, underwear, and toiletries, so prior to volunteering at the Mission the students held a drive at school and collected more than 30 boxes full of these items. We hand-delivered the items on the day of our field trip to the Mission. Students and teachers spent 2.5 hours working in the morning doing tasks such as folding clothes, cleaning, cooking, and filing. In the afternoon students toured the facility and ended with a 10 minute walk around Skid Row, a perfect culminating activity, as it reminded students about the reality of being homeless in Los Angeles.

*"I liked that we got to see a part of our community that we rarely see and we each helped give clothes to at least one person." Wilson High School Student*