

Charity Checks US Action Plan

School: Lynwood High School
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Lynwood Unified School District
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Please mail the Giving package to: **School Address listed above**
Please deliver by Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Please mail the Teacher Stipend to:

Dana Wilkerson
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Long Beach, CA 90802

The Girls' Athletic Department at Lynwood High School is comprised of 7 sports teams (Cross Country, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Track & Field). My name is Dana Wilkerson and I have been the Girls' Athletic Director at Lynwood for 11 years. During this time, I've had the great fortune to interact with and hopefully, positively influencing the lives of many female Student-Athletes. I thought participating in the Charity Checks Giving program would be an excellent opportunity to continue to help build the character of these young ladies. I chose the 11th grade (and a few 12th grade) female Student- Athletes to complete this project in hopes that it would be a catalyst in helping to develop them as strong leaders for our Athletic Department next year and the years to come. Hopefully, in the long run, this will be an inspiration to our entire campus.

Action Plan

Students: 11th grade Female Student-Athletes

Number of Students: 25

Theme: Sports Charities for Kids or Women

Overview of lesson plan:

I introduced the idea of philanthropy/charities in a very simple way: The need to give back! It allows a person to take the focus off of what he/she does or does not have and moves that focus to helping someone that is less fortunate. Each student will choose a charity base on her personal experiences. She will look for an organization that somehow speaks to her spirit and make it her own.

Curriculum/Lesson Plan

1. Students will use the internet or other resources to look up 3 charities that they find interesting and write a very brief summary on each.
2. Students will chose 1 charity out of the 3 to give their donation to and then do an in-depth research on that charity and write a complete summary.
3. Students will explain in writing why they chose a particular organization.
4. Students will create a personal item to be included with their donation check (letter, poem, picture, video, etc)
5. Students will give a short presentation to all the other female Student-Athletes on their chosen charity.

Educational objectives/standards

Since this project will not be completed in a typical classroom environment, the educational objectives and standards may not follow all the traditional rules. However, there are several objectives and standards that will be achieved by this project that are sure to help these students with the education of life.

1. Students will learn computer research methodology
2. Students will learn to discern and summarize written information
3. Students will produce written (typed) work in standard paragraph form
4. Students will engage in critical thinking
5. Students will participate in cooperative learning groups
6. Students will engage in public speaking
7. Students will learn the value of giving

Improvement for future projects:

Time!!! We will start the project at a much earlier date. I will have the assignment in written form before we begin next year.

Timeline for Charity Checks:

1. Charity Research and summaries – **Complete**
2. Complete creative item to be included with check – **Due Tues., May 31, 2011**
3. Fill out envelopes- **Wednesday June 1, 2011**
4. Fill out check payee line: **Wednesday June 1, 2011**
5. Presentations to the Lynwood H. S. Female Student- Athletes:
Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3 during 6th period
6. Mail Charity checks: **Friday, June 3, 2011**
7. Delivery of items back to Charity Checks: **The week of June 6th**

Future:

At the beginning of next school year each 11th and 12th grade female student-athlete will be giving an assignment of choosing a charity that she will be responsible for donating \$25 to during the second semester. She will be allowed to brain-storm on her own (or with help of fellow classmates) on how she would like to raise her donation. I will assist each student with her idea after she has come up with the basic concept. There will be many opportunities for food/beverage sales on campus during back-to-school night, open house, various sporting events, pep rallies, carnivals, etc. There are also various businesses in the community that are available to help through direct donation or a fund raising promotion. I am quite confident that there are many resources that these students will be able to put from that will allow this project to be a success on numerous levels for years to come.

Publicity:

Due to the timing and newness of this project, I do not plan to seek publicity this year. The local newspaper is **The Wave** and you may contact them if you chose. If they contact me, I would be happy to talk to them and see what kind of coverage they would like to do regarding this project.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to help others.

Sincerely,
Dana Wilkerson
Girls Athletic Director, Lynwood High School

Assessment of Charity Checks Giving Project

Overall, the project was very successful and enlightening. The students really did a good job finding a charity that somehow spoke to them. As I read the explanations on why each student chose her particular organization, I was very impressed with the personal connection that was developed from the brief research. We, as a group, gained a great deal of insight into the lives of each other. It gave each student an opportunity to look beyond her own circumstances and express her compassionate side by helping someone else.

Educational Objectives/standards

1. Students will learn computer research methodology
Met: Students were able to use the internet to research various charities
2. Students will learn to discern and summarize written information
Met: Students completed brief summaries of 3 charities describing the function of each charity
3. Students will produce written (typed) work in standard paragraph form
Met: Students submitted typed papers on their charity (including letters, poems, etc.)
4. Students will engage in critical thinking
Met: Students expressed critical thinking by developing a creative personal item to be sent with the donation
5. Students will participate in cooperative learning groups
Met: Students discussed their charity and ideas for their personal item in small groups
6. Students will engage in public speaking
Met: Each student gave a short oral presentation to the Girls' Athletic Department
7. Students will learn the value of giving
Met: Each student donated \$25 to a charity that had a special meaning to her.

Things to improve on

The biggest issue was time (or the lack of). While this was a rewarding project, it was very time consuming and a huge undertaking. We had to squeeze a lot of work into a very short period of time. In the future, the project will be spread out over a much longer time frame. This will allow me and the students not to feel rushed. I will be able to add more suggestions about their creative personal items. I will also be able to help the students eliminate many of the grammatical errors that were made in their letters and personal items. The students will be better prepared for their presentation because they will know what to expect. We will then be able to expand our presentations to a larger audience and hopefully, invite outside entities in to see the work we doing at Lynwood High School.

