Some Other Ideas for Connecting Service-Learning to the Curriculum (taken from various sources – see bibliography at end of this module)

Language Arts
- Record favorite children’s stories or original stories on tape and donate tapes to local day-care centers or school for the blind.
- Analyze the ways in which television commercials try to see products to young people and then write a student’s guide to advertising.
- Research important topics and write stories about them to convey information to peers or to the wider community (depending on the nature of the topic selected, this could also involve other disciplines, such as Science, Physical Education, Social Studies, and Health).
- Read for the blind or others with disabilities.
- Write essays or letters to city officials, businesses, editors, the President; describing a need in their community and what should be done about it (depending on the need which is identified, this could also involve other disciplines, such as Science, Social Studies, Health).
- Organize letter-writing campaigns on important issues (depending on the issues involved, this could also involve other disciplines).
- Organize book-collection drives and establish informal libraries in low-income neighborhoods.
- Research, write, and publish a book on people who are making a difference in their community.
- Interview, edit, and then publish the histories of selected people in their community (e.g., WW II veterans). Depending on the questions which are used, this could also involve other disciplines, such as Social Studies, Health.
- Tutoring younger students to promote reading.
- Research the history of ... and then write about what you find out (depending on the issue, this could also involve other disciplines, such as Science, Social Studies, Health).

Math
• Create a mathematics board game for younger children and share it with the school or public library (could also involve other disciplines, such as History, Geography, Social Studies).

• Interview local business people about the ways in which they use math in their daily work and publish the results in a booklet for other math classes. Stress practical applications.

• Raise and keep records of funds/expenditures for a local cause (of their choosing), such as replacing park equipment or collecting donations for a local food pantry.

• Tutor young students in math.

• Inventory species of animals or measure and count trees and other plant life for the departments of agriculture, environmental affairs, or parks (could also involve other disciplines, such as Science, Language Arts).

• Discuss with senior citizens how the cost of living has changed over the last two generations and calculate and then graph increases for specific items.

• Help senior citizens, poor people, or the disabled with home budgeting, shopping, and filling out forms (could also involve other disciplines, such as Health).

• Help charities and nonprofit organizations with book-keeping, conference planning and registration, and mailings.

• Examine and graph contributions to the school’s food drive.

• Design wheel chair ramps for the school, a local park, or shopping center (could also involve other disciplines, particularly Industrial Technology).

Science

• Prepare a menu of nutritionally balanced meals to serve to the homeless (could also involve other disciplines, such as Health, Social Studies).

• Serve as aides, helpers, and animal handlers at local nature centers or zoos.

• Adopt a zoo animal or species by sponsoring fund-raising recycling drives.

• Work with the local humane societies, zoos, or nature centers to care for injured and healthy animals.
- Produce a video tape, book, play, or puppet show for younger animals on the care of pets and other animals (could also involve other disciplines, such as Language Arts, Art, Industrial Technology).

- Adopt a nearby lake, river, wetlands, or stream for research and pollution testing (could also involve other disciplines, such as Math, Language Arts, Social Studies).

- Conduct research on the environment effects of development and follow up with landscaping and restoration projects to restore native habitat in needed areas (could also involve other disciplines, such as Social Studies, Industrial Technology, Language Arts)

- Produce a video and related materials of some health-related topic, such as cancer, for young people and donate it to local hospitals and health centers (could also involve Health, Industrial Technology, Drama, Language Arts)

- Tutor younger students on science skills and knowledge.

History/Social Studies

- Conduct research on local property use or other community history for community planning projects (could also involve Language Arts).

- Interview elderly citizens about their lives and experiences, then compile a community history. Such a booklet could be broad in scope or focus on specific historical events, such as natural disasters, the Great Depression, etc. (could also involve Language Arts).

- Develop walking tours of historical neighborhoods (could also involve Language Arts, Physical Education).

- Make presentations on historical events and places to peers and younger students; these could take the form of reenactments, stories, plays, etc. (Could also involve Art, Language Arts, Music, Drama).

- Study and then restore or renovate local history or archeological sites such as farms, homes, villages, etc. (Could also involve Industrial Technology).

- Become pen pals with students in other countries (could also involve Language Arts).

- Survey youth about their needs and opinions and convey this information to policymakers (could also involve other disciplines, such as Math).
• Research the various groups who have moved into their town, conduct oral history interviews with some of them, and compile a written history of their community (could also involve other disciplines, such as Language Arts).

• Teach their peers about the dangers of substance abuse (could also involve other disciplines, such as Health, Language Arts, Science).

• Develop plans for reducing hunger in their community (could also involve other disciplines, such as Language Arts, Health).

• Learn about homelessness by volunteering at a local shelter.

Art
• Make pottery with peers who have disabilities.

• Make soup bowls for an “Empty Bowls” dinner.

• Paint over graffiti-covered wall; enlist the help of local artists in these efforts.

• Make table decorations for a shelter or nursing home.

• Provide artwork to beautify local hospitals, shelters, community centers and retirement homes.

• Design posters for non-profit organizations.

• Design posters that draw attention to particular community issues/needs.

Physical Education/Health
• Participate in Special Olympics programs.

• Help organize walk-, run- or bike-a-thons to raise money for community needs.

• After learning about the exercise needs and capabilities of seniors, conduct exercise classes at a local senior center.

• Assess the needs of area poor and then assemble and deliver “Home First Aid” kids to poor families in the community.

• Learn about the need for organ donations and produce materials suitable for younger children (and their parents). Could also involve other disciplines, such as Language Arts, Art.
- Organize recreational after-school programs for younger children.

- Design and construct exercise and bike trails and provide security for them (could also involve **Science, Math, Language Arts**).

- Coach younger children in a variety of sports.

- Study the prevalence of preventable diseases in their community and gather information on the needs of children for vaccinations (could also involve **Language Arts, Math, Social Studies**).

**Technology/Media**

- Research and then produce videotapes on safety related issues (could also involve other disciplines, such as **Language Arts, Drama, Social Studies**).

- Write and produce a weekly program on recycling and other environmental issues (could also involve other disciplines, such as **Language Arts, Science**).

- Teach residents of a homeless shelter or a retirement center how to use computers.

- Tutor younger students on computer use.

- Explore the needs and issues of their communities and document its cultural life (could also involve **Language Arts, Social Studies, History**).

- Help produce newspapers for a local nursing home.

- Develop school software that provides lists of volunteer opportunities based on students’ interests, preferred locations, schedules, and transportation needs.

**Consumer and Family Science**

- Make recipes for specifics meals and give the information and necessary ingredients to young mothers.

- Plan and prepare nutritious meals for a nearby shelter or retirement center.

- Participate in programs such as “Meals-on-Wheels.”

- Collect and repair clothing and household goods and send them to areas in need of disaster relief.
• Develop sewing skills by sewing baby clothes, blankets, or quilts and donating them to the needing.

• Provide assistance to local day-care facilities.

• Make book bags or carrying bags for the homeless.

**Music and Drama**

• Sing with a group of senior citizens.

• Visit nursing homes and hospitals, find out what songs residents like, learn them in music classes and then return to perform the music for residents (could also involve Social Studies).

• Teach songs to younger children.

• Provide free music lessons and tutoring to younger students and to poor students who cannot afford them.

• Compose and perform a rap on why it is important to be drug free for younger students.

• Interview seniors to find out about their favorite songs and dances when they were growing up; then learn and perform them.

• Make a collection of the music of a particular period in history or from a particular ethnic group (could also involve History, Social Studies, Language Arts).

• Write and then perform a puppet show or skit on the importance of being drug free for younger students (could also involve Language Arts).

• Interview senior citizens on some topic of mutual interest, then write up and present responses in the form of an intergenerational readers theater (could also involve Language Arts, Social Studies).

**Industrial Technology**

• Plant gardens or empty plots near the school (could also involve Math, Science).

• Design and construct playground equipment for schools (could also involve Math, Health).
• Design, Plan, and build a wheelchair-accessible nature trail (could also involve Science, Math, Language Arts).

• Help a group like “Habitat for Humanity” build a house or design a new house that meets Habitat’s requirements (could also involve Math, Science).

• Develop walking, cycling, skiing, jogging, running, and/or natural science trails (could also involve Science, Math, Health, Physical Education).

• Help weatherize the homes of low income elderly.

• Offer home repair services to the elderly through public service announcements.