

It is my pleasure to talk about some of the other initiatives that have been happening at HCCDC. One of our employees, Patricia Ward-Sheridan, has been helping the community through the Learn and Serve Program of America. Many of you are probably asking what exactly does that program do or how is that helpful in the Community. When I came here, I asked that same question. This program is a collaboration of the schools, St. Augustine Indian Mission School, Winnebago Public School, and HCCDC, in getting our children ready for some of life's challenges. This is done through active hands on participation conducted to meet the needs of the students and the community. This helps foster civic responsibility and a sense of the community. This program is integrated into the student's academic curriculum. It provides some structured time for the students to reflect on the service experience and what it means to the community. This learning aims to build knowledge, character, and civic skills by combining this service to the community with academic learning. By linking this into the academic curriculum it makes the already busy lives of the teachers, families, and students easier by combining academic instruction with civic involvement. A good service learning program reinforces specific educational objectives such as developing a students' presentation skills, teaching them how a bill becomes law, how government works, or showing how to translate a drawing from miniature to life-size, all while engaging the students in meaningful and structured volunteerism for the community.



One of the three programs that HCCDC is helping to coordinate in Winnebago during the past year is the Garden Project. This was done at St. Augustine Indian Mission, grades 6 to 8. During several of the planning meetings with staff discussion took place on how to engage students in the educational process in the classroom to solve real life problems and find ways to make meaningful contributions to the community. Through the garden project, students planned the location, size, plantings, and last but not least, harvesting and distribution of the vegetables to the elders and needy in the community. During this process Science was used in the landscape location and plant growth aspect of the garden. Math was used in measuring the size of the plot and how to effectively put the most number of seedlings in an area that was dependent of the types of plants that were planted. Health and Nutrition were used to make the selection of the types of plants that became part of the garden. English was used to write and collect data for the project, and the program was grounded in a good dose of Social Studies that involved community involvement and volunteerism. The children, teachers and Patricia held a meeting on August 27 to discuss the project. What worked, what failed, and what could be done next year to the program so that it would be more of a success. Elders came in and also conveyed to the group that in years past it was very important part of the community and many times if the garden wasn't tended you didn't have

those vegetables to eat in the fall, there were no grocery stores to go to for food.

Another program that also falls under the Learn and Serve Program is the Reading and Mentoring Project. Patricia coordinated with the public school principals about the program. The goal of the program for this year was that four elementary classes and 10 high school students will demonstrate their reading proficiency while entertaining underclassmen or Headstart students. During the Spring Session this year, the students in grades 5 and 6 took one day out of the school week to read 1 hour to the Winnebago Headstart 4 year olds. The elders at the Senior Center even became involved with the program. Some of the grant dollars were even used to allow students to purchase books at Barnes and Noble in Sioux City. I can remember the importance of "Readin, Ritin, and Rithmetic" being drilled into us at St. Anne Grade School in Milwaukee. Those really are the core subjects of a good education. I think we have to re-emphasize a lot of those things today because of all of the distractions that are around like electronics, texting, ipods, and video games. We need to make these programs interesting. The Mentoring piece can be very influential when the children are first starting out in school. It is a way for them to make friends and an opportunity for the older children to show some responsibility. Something positive can be done for the community.

Along these same lines, we received funding from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to conduct a Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This survey was completed in February of this year at the Winnebago Public School. The results were returned to HCCDC to be compiled in June. A Summary of this information was used to create an informational pamphlet that is being shared with the Tribal Council for approval to share the information with the Winnebago Meth Task Force.



On July 15, the Winnebago Tribal Council confirmed the appointments of Tyran Thomas, Chase Colombe, Sandy Scott, and Allina White to serve as the Youth representatives to the Winnebago Meth Task Force. The Task Force was formed in 2004 following a resolution by the Tribal Council to address methamphetamine abuse and the repercussions it has on families and the community on the Winnebago Reservation. A team was formed to include two tribal council members, health educators, court officials, housing officials, one Youth Representative, and others to examine and develop a strategy to combat the detrimental effects of this substance and the related health, and judicial factors associated with its abuse. The community is dealing with methamphetamine abuse through education, prevention, awareness, and strategizing to eradicate its use on the Reservation.

Patricia Ward-Sheridan is leaving the Learn & Serve Program at the end of September and moving into the Housing position for HCCDC, so we will be looking for someone to fill her Community Project Coordinator Position.