

## Service Learning at Craig



At Craig, we work to extend our Craig Core Values into the community through learning and service.

To kick off our school's service learning work each year, the Craig Staff has a mid-Summer day of service. The last couple of years Craig Staff members have donated time at Craig planting flowers, cleaning up the grounds, and revitalizing the interior. Teams of staff volunteers also donated time at the Humane Society, Operation Food Search, and a local retirement community. ([Click here to view pictures from Staff Day of Service](#))

At school, each grade level has a theme for their service learning work that was selected to align with grade level curriculum and to be developmentally appropriate:

Kindergarten – Gardening

First grade – Animal Care and Protection  
Second grade – Environment  
Third grade –Building a Safe and Strong Community  
Fourth grade – Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty  
Fifth Grade – Social Change

While the themes stay the same for each grade level each year, the service learning work that is done may change based on the needs of the community and student choice/voice. To learn more about what types of things each grade level is doing, feel free to visit the Craig website.

We believe that Service Learning at Craig will enrich each child's academic experience while reinforcing our Craig Core Values and instilling the importance of service to their community.



**Below are examples of the service learning work done by each grade level during the 2014-2015 school year:**

### **Kindergarten - Gardening**

Looked at flower beds around the building to see where improvements were needed  
Planted bulbs in their classroom garden and when presented flowers to adults around the building and community  
Surveyed the building and grew vegetables  
Help create and plant items in school flowerbeds

## **First Grade – Animal Care & Protection**

Raised money for dogs and the Humane Society – Dimes for Dogs  
Created Public Service Announcement posters  
Made toys for dogs out of water bottles and socks  
Went to the Humane Society on a field trip and learned how to care for animals

## **Second Grade The Environment**

Researched pollution: land, water, air, & energy  
Created instruments and artwork out of recycled materials in art and music class  
Was in charge of keeping our school grounds clean – picked up litter daily  
Created Public Service Announcements via posters and videos  
Wrote nonfiction books on their pollution topic

## **Third Grade – Safe & Strong Communities**

Listened to speakers on ways to stop bullying in our school  
ATA Martial Arts to teach students how they can deal with being bullied in a peaceful way and other safety tips  
Created a fire safety video and helped with Fire Prevention Week

## **Fourth Grade – Hunger homelessness & Poverty**

Students watched the documentary, A Place at the Table, which discusses the hunger and food insecurity in America.  
A representative from Operation Food Search came to Craig to speak about childhood hunger in our community.  
Students went on a field trip to the Operation Food Search warehouse to take a tour, get a nutrition lesson, and provide an hour of service.  
Students organized a bean and spice drive to collect ingredients for bean soup mixes.  
Students worked with students from Parkway North High School to assemble one hundred soup mixes that were donated to a local food pantry.

## **Fifth Grade – Social Change**

Labeling activity at the beginning of the year: students discussed how people might be labeled in our school and society. Students brought in cans and wrote the ways they might have felt labeled on the cans. Students took the labels off as a reminder to not label each other

Read and identified books containing social issues.

In Social Studies: discussed social issues in our past such as slavery, women's rights, etc.

Students chose a social issue, researched it, found an organization that supports this social issue, and tried to convince their classmates to help this organization by writing editorials

Students chose the editorial that was the most convincing and had a bake sale to raise money for that organization (St. Peter and Paul Community Center)

Representative from St. Peter and Paul Community Center came to Craig and spoke to the students on ways they can help

Students participated in Immigration Immersion day, where they experienced what it would have felt like to be an immigrant coming to the new world.

Students then organized a hat and glove drive to benefit our service learning partner, International Institute of St. Louis

Following our drive, students went on a field trip to the International Institute where they helped clean and organize their new facility. Students also had an opportunity to take a tour of the building and see the services that they offer.

Students learned a lot about looking beyond themselves and working to identify issues within the community and how they impact individuals.

