

Service is nothing but love in work clothes

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Home Economics classes are an excellent environment to model and teach service - within the school, community and mission outreach.

For several years I planned random acts of kindness that would involve my students. They would make soup for the local men's shelter, cookies for the food bank, etc. The activities chosen would depend more on feeling, mainly if I had the feeling and energy to take on the extra work.

Six years ago I decided to change my strategy. I began traditions at Okanagan Adventist Academy and the classes look forward to their "working for others" days.



- Each September the Home Economics grade 8 class makes 10-15 gallons of applesauce for the local food bank.
- Also in September the grade 9 class makes apple crisp for the student association and Kelowna Gospel Mission (men's shelter). This year we tried something new and their beginning sewing project was fleece hats for children undergoing cancer treatment.
- Three Home Economics grade 10 classes have chosen to collectively sew a quilt to be sold for OKAA's mission trips. (See enclosed pictures of the queen size Kansas Sampler and Stained Glass Window quilts.)



- In the pastry unit, Foods Studies 11/12 students make several dozen apple dumplings for the local Women's shelter. They are individually frozen and sent with a sauce recipe and baking instructions. The class chooses whether or not they wish to adopt a family at Christmas. If they do, they supply the funds to bake, cook, shop and sew for the family. Family names have come from local ADRA Community Services, student information or the Women's Shelter. I first contact the family by phone and then visit so that I can find out the needs and likes of the family. We include a stuffed stocking for each family member, an article of clothing, an educational and a fun toy. On the last day of classes before the holiday, the class meets the family when they deliver the boxes of gifts. What an experience!
- All classes bake Christmas goodies for four local charities: The Kelowna Food Bank, Gospel Mission, Women's Shelter and Leann's Kitchen.

We have a bread baking program at OKAA to provide a way for students to raise part of their ticket for our mission trips. The student association has capitalized on that skill and baked bread for family day at the food bank. A cutting board, jam made by Home Ec classes and Christmas napkins completed the Christmas gift package. The Home Ec room looks very festive with 75-120 gift packages sitting there

ready to be picked up by the Food Bank van.

It is wonderful to see students catch the vision of service.