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## National CE Conference Coming to Des Moines

The Iowa Community Education Association is proud to host the 1994 National Community Education Association Annual Conference on November 9-12, 1994 at the Des Moines Marriott Hotel.

The national conference draws practitioners, citizens, policy-makers, and administrators from across the country and abroad. The conference theme, "**Building Community: A Focus for Change**" includes special program tracks on collaboration, community service, responding to change, family, sustaining communities, professional leadership development, and international communities.

Special speakers include Dr. Sylvia Ann Hewlett, economist; John Alston, multiculturalist; Superintendent Homer Kearns, AASA President-elect; Paul Kordis, change expert; and Kaye Lani Rafka, Miss America 1988.

Conference attractions include a Skywalk Golf Tournament and Iowa Harvest Festival. Volunteers are needed for the socials and the conference sessions.

For more information call Dean Hatch, 515-253-2300. See special page for registration information.

### *Just Another Catch-Phrase?*

## Community Service Learning

by Linda Sanda

Community Service Learning. The latest buzz word for volunteering? A fancy title for work in the community? Don't be surprised if you're not sure because many people don't have a clear understanding of CSL. So read on to find out why the answer is "no" to both of these questions.

Before specifically defining Community Service Learning, however, perhaps making a distinction between "volunteerism" and "community service" is necessary. While most people know that volunteering involves freely offering services or work without pay, community service is more specific. Not all volunteering is based around the community, but all community service involves volunteering. Community service emphasizes work or service within the community at large.

So how does that differ from Community Service Learning? A third, and very important, component has been added to community service... learning. This intertwining of community service and learning goals in the schools creates a setting where both students and the community are enhanced.

Students go through a three-step learning process which teaches them the value of interacting with the community around them. Learning about how to make a difference in the community takes much more than just sending kids out to sing songs or rake leaves. Instead, student preparation takes place inside the classroom before any student steps outside the school doors to work in the community.

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### **BUILDING COMMUNITY: A Focus for Change**

NCEA Conference • November 9-12, 1994 • Des Moines, Iowa



#### *Featuring*

- National speakers and practitioners discussing ways to strengthen communities, families and education.
- Iowa Day - created to draw more state-wide participants to gather information and network with other community builders.
- Skywalk Golf - our own Midwest style hospitality teeing off in one of the world's premiere skywalk systems.



## Violence In The Community – What Are We Teaching Our Children?

by Dr. Judith Richardson

There is solid evidence that children growing up in a violent environment are most at risk to become school dropouts, substance abusers, child abusers and criminals. More often these children live in poverty with parents stressed beyond their limits to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for their children. These parents cannot protect their families from the violence around them.

According to Dr. Joseph Garbarino, President of the Erikson Institute For Advanced Study For Child Development, a graduate research center in Chicago, the community needs to accept a major responsibility for teaching young people about behaving in a positive, caring way towards themselves and others. Speaking to the Iowa Community Education Association at their fall conference in Des Moines, Garbarino said, "The community must teach it's children what it means to care. This means supporting and nurturing our children and youth, but it also means supervising and controlling their behavior.

This guidance and support begins in the family when the baby is born. "Parenting is a contract", says Garbarino, "a commitment to care and control. Children who give birth to children do not have the maturity or the experience to parent successfully. They should be urged to put their children up for adoption. Teen mothers who keep their babies should be counseled to delay the birth of a second child."

The community needs to assure its children that they will be protected and cared for... Children who see other children killed or abused in random acts of violence are convinced that because adults cannot protect them, they must take responsibility for themselves.

When a nine year old says he is afraid and wishes he had a gun, he not longer trusts that adults will protect him. A kind of juvenile vigilantism results when a fifteen year old has a gun, and uses that weapon to protect himself by taking revenge because of a perceived danger or threat.

Gabarino asks communities and parents to assess the messages they are sending to children about safety, and the ability to improve their quality of life. Concentration of all low income families in certain areas of town gives children no experience in seeing how other families live. The more affluent youngsters do not understand poverty. The isolated youngsters living in poverty see no means to escape their fate.

**Americans seem more interested in keeping track of their automobiles than the welfare of their children.** In Sweden for example, all families register their children with local authorities who keep in contact with families in each neighborhood to monitor child welfare. Although this would be seen as a serious invasion of privacy if it was required in America, we think nothing of being required to renew the license of our cars and have them inspected on a regular basis in order to be allowed to drive. There is no license required to become a parent.

A key strategy for protecting our children from what Garbarino calls an increasingly "toxic environment is better supervision of our children and youth. **The longer children are left on their own the higher the incidence of drug abuse and early sexual activity.** Today, drugs and sex can be lethal. Research continues to show that the lower the level of supervision, the more serious the negative impact on the child.

Children need to know that adults are present to care and control their behavior. All adults in the community share the responsibility for sending this message to the children and youth of the community, at home, at school, on the streets, and in the neighborhood. We must all show our children that they are valued, that we care about them and that we can be trusted to protect and guide them until they reach adulthood.

### ICEA MEMBERSHIP



The Iowa Community Education Association invites your membership. Membership is open to all persons, institutions, and organizations supportive of Community Education. The membership year is October 1 to September 30.

Membership categories include:

- Individual-\$35.00
- Group-\$200.00
- Friends-\$15.00
- ICEA pin-\$3.00

For detailed membership application or to renew your membership, write to Linda Martin, Curriculum Consultant, ICEA Membership Chair, Area Education Agency 7, 3712 Cedar Heights Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613, (319-273-8215).

Checks for membership should be made payable to: Iowa Community Education Association.



1993-94

**Community Involvement in Education Award Winners****Youth Agenda — Davenport**

Denise Stanger, 2417 Hickory Grove Rd., Davenport, IA 52804, 319-322-5318, 319-326-3650; Vice Chair, The Youth Agenda, Inc.

The Youth Agenda's mission is to create a community that is more responsive to and supportive of youth by providing the opportunity for youth to express their views and develop appropriate community responses to quality of life issues impacting them. The Youth Agenda consists of three components (Youth Board, Board of Directors, Coalition of Youth Service Providers) which work in unison to ensure input and support from all facets of the community.

**The Teen Center — Davenport**

Jeff Miller, % Roger Fuerstenberg, Davenport Schools, 1002 W. Kimberly, Davenport, IA 52806; The Teen Center

The Teen Center is an innovative program for Scott County youth, ages 12-18. Housed in the Scott County Family Y facility in Davenport, it offers recreational activities (swimming, dancing, group and other sports) in a safe and caring environment. Its multi-agency approach actively combats gang, drug and other negative influences.

**Garner Area Education Center — Garner**

Barbara Eisenmenger, 325 West 8th Street, Garner, IA 50438, 515-923-2252; Garner Area Education Center

The Garner Area Education Center is a cooperative partnership with the City of Garner, Garner-Hayfield School District, and North Iowa Area Community College. The focus of the Center is to broaden the vision of education to embrace the community for progress toward a greater quality of life in North Iowa.

**Ethical Decision Making in the Workplace and Society — Keokuk**

Sandra Seabold, Box 6007, Keokuk, IA 52632; Southeastern Community College

Ethical decision making is a program designed to increase high school juniors' understanding of values and ethics and how they are applied to career fields and jobs. This program provides an opportunity for community business leaders, schools to join in partnership for the betterment of our community.

**Hands On The Environment — Mason City**

Susan Marzinske, Mason City Schools, Mason City, IA 50401; 8th Grade Science Teacher, Mason City or Mary Hardin; Blackmore Nursery, Mason City, IA 50401

Schools In Mason City, the school district and a civic organization joined forces to create an outdoor environmental classroom. By donating time, expertise, and materials, children and adults working together took the dream for an environmental classroom and made it a reality.

**Salem Media Center — Salem**

Tom Perry, 204 N. Main, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641; Principal, Mt. Pleasant Community Schools

Through fund-raising, donations, and volunteer labor costs for the construction of a new media center were covered. This volunteer effort involved all ages from youth to senior citizens. Salem Elementary students now enjoy a media center with two small group classrooms to use. Salem Elementary is a part of the Mt. Pleasant CSD.

**Evans Middle School Paint-A-Thon — Ottumwa**

Pat Magwire, 812 Chester, Ottumwa, IA 52501, 515-648-8511; Principal, Evans Middle School

Evans Middle School, Ottumwa, Iowa, with the coordination assistance of one of its school/business partners, Norwest Bank, Ottumwa, involved over 50 businesses, 50 parents, 20 students, and 15 staff members in a volunteer painting project to contemporize the spaces occupied by 800 students and 60 staff members.

**Operation Prom Night — Davenport**

Diane Hovick, 106 Hazel Avenue, Story City, IA, 50248, 515-292-4276; Operation Prom Night

A simulated car accident involving injuries, fatalities, rescue operations, removal of a "body" in a hearse, and the arrest and conviction of a fellow student on charges of vehicular homicide were all part of a presentation to high school students to graphically demonstrate the dangers of drinking and driving.

**New Hartford Bond Referendum — New Hartford**

Julie Bright, R.R. 1, New Hartford, IA, 50660, 319-273-2475, 319-983-2898; New Hartford Bond Referendum

Motivate and facilitate a community group in the study of educational trends, school enrollments, importance of a school to population and business retention and its impact on property values. Examine alternative district options, whole grade sharing and financial obligations. Assess school facilities and feasibility of restoration. Recognize the ramifications of doing nothing. Examine reasons an earlier bond issue failed and develop a successful marketing plan for another bond election.





## Community Service

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Here kids learn how to act and react to the people they are going to visit. One program that deals specifically with the elderly is a third grade "Read to Me" project in the West Des Moines Community School District where students visit people in nursing homes and read to them. In the preparation process, students learn that sometimes older people can't see or hear well, so being patient is important when talking to them.

After students learn about who they will visit, the actual interactive experience takes place with students visiting people in the community. In the junior high "ICare" program, students go to a preschool once a week to help with young children. This idea of interaction is so central to the goal behind community service learning because spending time with people of different ages and backgrounds teaches far more than just sitting in a classroom.

But the process doesn't end there. After students return from a project, they process the experience by talking or writing about how they felt the event went. This final step encourages students to think about what their experience means to them. Third graders from Clive Elementary School wrote down what they learned through the "Read to Me" program. The following are excerpts from what some of them said.

"I remember that it was really nice to read books to people who would not make fun of you if you did not know a word..." Jon Allen

"I learned that the nicest people in the world are old ones..." Matthew Miller

"I think the nursing home has lots of friends waiting to be your friend. I know I can't see her every day, but she'll always be in my heart. It feels good to have an extra friend in case I need one..." Ashley Coningsby

This program tries to "serve the community" as well as "serve the students." What these third graders said is the best proof of all that community service learning really is working because it's reaching out to others and getting much back in return.

The West Des Moines Community School District is just one of many participants nation-wide who recognize the potential of Community Service Learning. The future looks promising as CSL continues to grow in our schools, our community, and across the nation.



## The Community Catalyst

A joint publication by the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Center for Community Education and the Iowa Community Education Association.

Submit articles to Dan Buda, Ankeny Community Schools, 306 S.W. School St., P.O. Box 189, Ankeny, IA 50021-0189, (515-965-9600). Articles may also be submitted electronically via GENie or Delphi addressed to DSBUDA or via FOG-Line BBS at 515-964-7937. Comments or suggestions may be made to Joe Herrity, Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-1046, (515-281-3290).

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.

The Department provides civil rights technical assistance to public school districts, nonpublic schools, area education agencies and community colleges to help them eliminate discrimination in their educational programs, activities or employment. For assistance, contact the Bureau of School Administration and Accreditation, Iowa Department of Education.

## Calendar of Events

Date	Place	Event
August 11, 1994 September 15-16, 1994	Lake Panorama, IA DMACC, Ankeny, IA	ICEA Board Meeting Governor's Conference on Volunteerism and Community Involvement
October 7, 1994 October 7, 1994 November 9-12, 1994	Johnston, IA Johnston, IA Des Moines, IA	Counsel of Councils ICEA Annual Meeting NCEA Annual Conference