



Community Service Learning

Working Together as a Community

The book Stone Soup by Jon Muth begins with three monks who travel to a village where the residents work hard, but only for themselves. They were weary and untrusting of strangers and did not interact with each other much. When the monks arrived, all of the villagers disappeared into their houses. The monks decided to show the villagers how to make stone soup. They began with three stones and then asked each one of the curious villagers for a different ingredient for the soup. While the villagers were reluctant to help, their curiosity compelled them to contribute to the stone soup. The villagers got very excited as the soup grew richer and smelled more delicious. Finally, when the soup was ready, the villagers and the monks had a big feast together, sang songs, told stories, and celebrated into the night. The villagers took the monks into their homes and gave them places to sleep. The next day, the villagers thanked the monks and told them that sharing makes the whole community richer. Stone Soup is available at local libraries, Amazon.com, Overstock.com, Barnes and Noble, etc.



Discussion Questions:

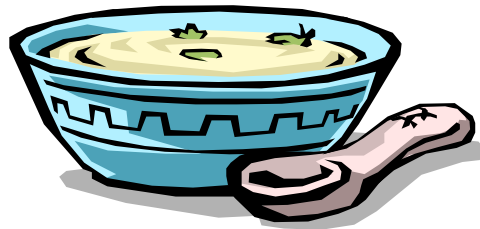
1. Did the monks actually make the soup from stones? How did the villagers help to make the soup?
2. How did the monks help the villagers? Why were the villagers so grateful to the monks?
3. How did the villagers change throughout the story? Why were the villagers so happy and thankful at the end of the story?

Suggested Activities for Working Together as a Community:

- Organize some of your friends and neighbors to pick up garbage at a nearby park or street.
- Create a recycling campaign in your neighborhood to encourage people to recycle. Put flyers up in your neighborhood and in your neighbors' mailboxes. See below for more information on starting your own recycling campaign.
- Organize a food drive in your community to raise money for a local food pantry or food bank, such as the Greater Boston Food Bank. See below for more information on the Greater Boston Food Bank.
- Volunteer for a project that is sponsored by United Way. For more information about United Way, please visit www.unitedway.org.

Information about United Way

- There are over 1350 United Way branches that improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of their communities. United Way works with a broad range of people and organizations to identify and resolve pressing community issues.
- Although priorities for United Way action are set locally, common themes include: helping children succeed, strengthening and supporting families, promoting self-sufficiency, and building vital and safe neighborhoods.
- Many people choose to volunteer and contribute their time to helping others through United Way. For more information on United Way and volunteering, please visit www.unitedway.org.



Information about the Greater Boston Food Bank

- The Greater Boston Food Bank distributes over 24 million pounds of food every year to hundreds of local hunger-relief agencies in a dedicated partnership to feed the Boston area's hungry.

Did you know?

- 321,000 people in eastern Massachusetts sought food assistance in 2005.
- Nearly a third of the people in eastern Massachusetts with children under 18 say that their children are not eating enough because they can't afford enough food.
- You can drop off food donations to the Greater Boston Food Bank Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm. The Food Bank will distribute your donation to the hundreds of member agencies throughout eastern Massachusetts. For more information, please visit www.gbfb.org.

Word Find

C O M M U N I T Y N A W U J Y T I A
X Y S Y Y Q G T B W E S D L O O A Z
Z T U L I V Q I R C P A A L G R Z R
I S O U P A D C C D J S M U K E P Z
X B U N I T E D W A Y M Q X Q L O O
H A G I V E W R N R S D J N M L E A
X D V N D A S M G N K I Z C M I S W
L L H J O X F S H A R E L K M M M N
F O O D J N I O P D T V G Z K I U T
X R N C G Z B D I S I P S Z L M U E

Please find the following words:

Community

Food

Give

Share

Soup

United Way



Reflection: After you have completed your community service activity to help your community, please take a few minutes to reflect upon the activity. How did it feel to contribute to your community? Do you feel like you were able to make your community a better place? What else could you do to help?

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