ServeAndLearn.org will highlight service learning themes throughout the school year, called Seasons of Service. This fall we are encouraging school districts and community partners to focus on service learning projects to alleviate the problems of hunger in our state.

Hunger in Illinois has reached unprecedented levels and continues to grow. As Illinois’ poverty rate escalates, the number of people seeking food assistance increases in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state. The Illinois Hunger Coalition estimates that one in six children go to bed hungry in Illinois every night.

Here some examples of service learning projects which could help fellow citizens deals with the issue of hunger:

What is Hunger? (Grade Seven)
Students in a social studies class discussed hunger and came to understand how people in poverty experience the world. They found out that people who don’t eat or who don’t eat regular, nutritionally balanced meals, have impaired immune systems and may get sick often. Students worked with local agencies to prepare written materials for distribution at schools, libraries and other organizations.

A Video Donation (Grade Ten)
Following a tour of a food bank, several students expressed interest in doing more than just “donating food”. They worked to develop a video for the agency that featured a video tour of the facility and an interview with a woman who had experienced poverty. The video is now used to educate the local community on poverty and hunger.

(Taken from The Complete Guide to Service Learning, Catherine Berger Kaye 2004)

Please contact the Lt. Governor’s office or visit these websites to learn more about starting your own hunger service project.

www.secondharvest.org
www.illinoisfoodbanks.org
www.chicagosfoodbank.org
www.shareourstrength.org