

## Who Works for the Common Good in Our Community?

Grade Level: 5-12

Time: Three 35-50 minute sessions

### Objectives:

- Identify ways in which service organizations work for the common good of the community.
- Identify ways to work for the common good.
- Be able to explain why working for the common good matters in the students' community.

### Curricular Connections: Civics

**Materials/Resources:** In advance of this lesson you will need to contact 3-4 members of volunteer community organizations and invite them to prepare a 5-10 minute presentation to your students addressing the following questions:

- The purpose of their service organization
- The needs the organization addresses
- The way the organization works for the "common good"
- Why the volunteer chose to serve or work in the organization
- Also ask organizations to provide literature about the organization and the ways in which students might get involved.

If organizations are unable to meet with the class ask them to fill out a form that asks the above questions.

### Procedure:

- 1) Explain to students that you have invited representatives from volunteer and community service organizations in your community to visit the class to help understand what the common good means.
- 2) Preview for students the kinds of things the volunteers will be talking to them about and discuss the common good.
- 3) Let students know that the community organization representatives will provide ideas about the ways in which students might get involved.
- 4) Help students develop useful and pertinent questions for the speakers.
- 5) Ask students, as they are listening to the speakers, to take notes.
- 6) Following the presentations, allow time for questions and answers. After the speakers have left, ask students to respond to the following questions:
  - What would happen if there were no people or organizations who worked for the common good in our community?
  - What are some ways our class could pull together and begin working for the common good of our school or community?

### Reflection Assignment:

- Students write brief responses to the questions below. Afterwards, students share

their responses in small groups.

- What does the common good mean? Why does it matter in our own community?
- What would happen if there were no volunteers working for the common good in our community?
- How do people in our community work for the common good?
- What difference do they make?

**Assessment:**

1. Written responses.
2. Discussion with organization representatives

**Source:** Adapted from

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/guides/insights/service/lesson2/lesson2.html>