

# SERVICE-LEARNING AT WAPLES MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PHILANTHROPY CENTER

## WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

Service-learning is a method of teaching and learning that connects classroom lessons with meaningful service to the community.

Whether integrated into the academic curriculum or implemented as a curriculum extension, service-learning helps students and schools meet academic goals. Service-learning enables young people to apply their knowledge in support of their neighbors and community, even as they gain knowledge and skills from meeting real community needs. Students build character and become active citizens as they work with others in their school or community to create service projects in areas such as education, public safety, and the environment.

Service-learning can be applied across all subjects and grade levels and can involve a single student or group of students, a classroom, or an entire school. For example, one student may collect donations for a local shelter while studying the roots of homelessness; a science class may clean up a local stream-bed while analyzing water samples; an entire school may adopt a service-learning curriculum focused on community health. Whatever the focus, service-learning benefits the school, community, and the students.

Adapted from Learn and Serve America, L094-9/07  
[www.LearnAndServe.gov](http://www.LearnAndServe.gov)

## SERVICE-LEARNING WORKS!

Service-learning helps students build academic skills while strengthening communities through service. A growing body of research recognizes the benefits of service-learning as an effective strategy to:

- **Improve Academic Achievement**  
When explicitly tied to academic standards and learning objectives, service-learning positively impacts student outcomes on measures of academic achievement, including standardized test scores.
- **Increase Student Engagement**  
Service-learning engages students by helping them make critical connections between classroom lessons and real-world applications.
- **Improve Social Behavior**  
Service-learning participants are less likely to engage in risky behavior and more likely to build social skills including communication, teamwork, and problem solving.
- **Build Civic Skills**  
By giving students the responsibility to identify and meet pressing needs, service-learning builds civic skills and commitment in young people that last a lifetime.
- **Strengthen Community Partnerships**  
Service-learning brings students into the community and community into schools. In this way, students develop a sense of belonging and responsibility, and communities view youth as valuable assets.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

**Science** – Ecological stewardship with an emphasis on particular species of trees, wildflowers, butterflies, birds, fish, crabs, oysters, and bay grasses.

**Technology** – Digital stories and innovative media projects that raise awareness of social, economic, and environmental issues; have potential to encourage dialogue; share possible solutions; and move people to action.

**Arts Integration** – Teaching practices that weave the visual, media, performing, and literary arts into classrooms to engage students in their own learning and support them in helping others.

**Mind-Body-Spirit** – Clinical programs to help children with academic, developmental, and emotional needs achieve success and demonstrate leadership in a variety of contexts.

**Performance** – Applied problem solving in a supportive learning environment. Areas of concentration include:

- Needs-based assessment
- Observation of the natural environment and active decision making for improvement
- Ethics and values in service delivery
- Students as agents of change

**THE CHILDREN'S PHILANTHROPY  
CENTER CREATES AN  
ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS**

**Who we are...**

The Children's Philanthropy Center is an educational, research, and training institute dedicated to service-learning.

Through our S.T.A.M.P of Excellence program, we teach our students to use skills obtained in Science, Technology, Art, and Music to Perform service in their community.

We recognize that each student has unique interests and abilities that will carry them far in life. Our teaching strategies are designed to help them tap into innate talents, develop new competencies, and strengthen their creativity to bring forth a unique brand of service known as the S.T.A.M.P of Excellence.

The S.T.A.M.P model was developed in response to the changing world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The focus of the program is on students as producers and generators of knowledge. It is responsive to the demands of a changing world, provides innovative strategies to improve student achievement, and supports students in gaining the necessary skills to be competitive in a global economy.

Learn more about the  
Children's Philanthropy Center at

<http://www.fcps.edu/WaplesMillES/stamp.html>

Learn more about service-learning at  
Learn and Serve America:

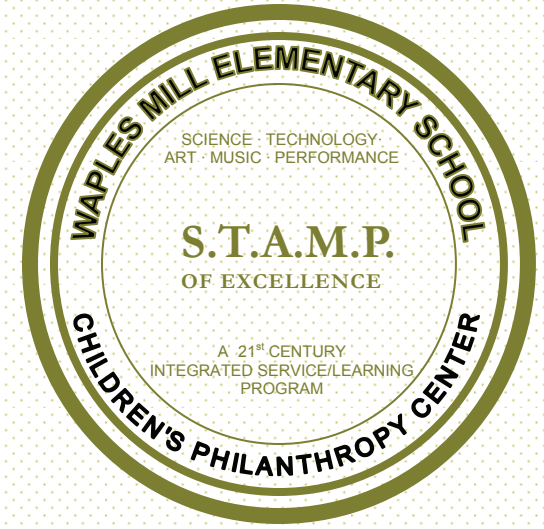
[www.LearnAndServe.gov](http://www.LearnAndServe.gov)  
or call 877-873-7835 or TTY 202-565-2799

**WAPLES MILL E.S.**

Children's Philanthropy Center  
11509 Waples Mill Road  
Oakton, VA  
22124

Phone: 703-390-7700  
Fax: 703-390-7797

Deatema L. Abdul-Latif, Ed.D.,  
Program Developer  
e-mail: [dlabdullatif@fcps.edu](mailto:dlabdullatif@fcps.edu)



**WHERE  
LEARNING  
COMES TO LIFE**