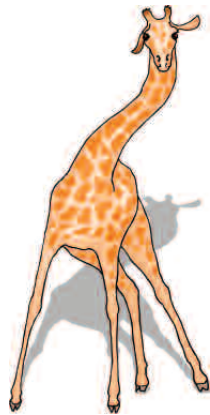


## Civic Engagement & Service (continued)

### The Giraffe Heroes Project

[www.giraffe.org](http://www.giraffe.org)

The Giraffe Heroes Project is an attempt to recognize and celebrate people who have “stuck their necks out” for the common good. The website defines this as “alleviating suffering, rectifying injustice or advancing goals such as peace or a healthy environment.”



Check out the site for nomination forms, Giraffe stories, and more.

- Is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students, or the educational components of the community service program in which the participants are enrolled
- Provides structured time for students or participants to reflect on the service experience

That reflection portion is one of the keys to the “learning” within service learning.

When you and your group members decide to engage in community service, remember to have some intentional reflection time built in. Work with your advisor so that this important meaning-making takes place.

### Helping Others

According to the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, young people cite their single most common reason for volunteering as “to help other people.”

### What Motivates People?

What is it that motivates different people to get involved? Motivators may include:

- personal experience with a cause that makes someone want to give back (i.e. losing a grandparent to cancer so now is involved with American Cancer Society fundraising)

“While trying to think about how you can make a big difference, try not to ignore the small daily difference you can make.”

~ Marian Wright Edelman

- a desire to change the status quo (i.e. encouraging others to register to vote so our political leadership represents us)
- believing in a group’s possibilities and wanting to help (i.e. taking on leadership of a group)

Before deciding what your group will engage in, talk with members about their motivators. It can be so eye-opening!

### Learn More

To investigate civic engagement and service further, tap into resources such as:

- ✓ Campus Compact • [www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org)
- ✓ Corporation for National & Community Service • [www.cns.gov/](http://www.cns.gov/)
- ✓ Learn and Serve America • [www.learnand-serve.gov/](http://www.learnand-serve.gov/)
- ✓ Make a Difference Day (the 4th Saturday of every October) • [www.usaweekend.com/diffday/](http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/)
- ✓ National Service-Learning Clearinghouse • [www.servicelearning.org/](http://www.servicelearning.org/)
- ✓ Raise Your Voice Dialogue Resource Guide • [www.actionforchange.org/dialogues/](http://www.actionforchange.org/dialogues/)
- ✓ Service-Learning Ideas and Curricular Examples • [www.servicelearning.org/slice/](http://www.servicelearning.org/slice/)
- ✓ The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement • [www.civicyouth.org/](http://www.civicyouth.org/) [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)