

Grant Summary

Date of Application: __02/24/2014__ Granted: __March 18, 2014__

Requested by: __Karla Hammond__ Grade Level/Subject Taught: __HS Biology and Chemistry__

School: __Pennfield High School__ Phone: __269-441-9809__

Brief summary at the **conclusion** of the project

Pennfield students in Mrs. Hammond's Biology class have been working on a service learning project with the Veterans Administration Medical Center this semester. After reading and discussing the service learning concepts of volunteerism and civic responsibility, the students made Valentines for the Veterans, and then made bookmarks with a focus on the Battle Creek Reads book *The Leisure Seeker*. Students toured the grounds and the Greenhouse (see photo below), and then read selections of *The Leisure Seeker* with the Veterans and discussed quotes from each chapter. Students ended by passing out the bookmarks and the books, donated by Willard Library through Battle Creek Reads, to the Veterans along with treats on Friday, March 7. Mrs. Hammond would like to thank Willard Library, the VA Medical Center, Pennfield School District, and Pennfield Schools Educational Foundation for their respective support of this service learning project.



Biology Service Learning Group at the Veterans Administration Medical Center Greenhouse

Please describe the **evaluation** for this project.

Students successfully completed the volunteer activities with the inpatients at the VA Medical Center. They sent their Valentines on time, and the inpatients were pleased to receive them. They also completed their bookmarks and passed them out during the visit, and again, the Veterans were very happy to accept them. What had even more of an impact was the actual interaction between the students and the Veterans. Although the trip did last longer than anticipated due to the extension of the Veteran's lunch immediately before our presentations and activities, the inpatients were engaged and excited to have the students with them. They appreciated the map and activities we made for them, and asked us to thank Willard Library for the book donations we secured. We left with the Veterans having a good connection to the community-wide Battle Creek Reads series, and with the students grateful for the opportunity to better serve their community—and wanting to volunteer again in the future at the VA Medical Center.

With our thanks!

Thank you for supporting our service learning project, and for funding numerous projects and activities in Pennfield Schools. We believe service learning educates our students to be globally responsible citizens, and for them to recognize members of the Armed Forces for their contributions to our society is an important demonstration of citizenship and democracy.