

DEFINING TERMS RELATED TO SERVICE

- **Volunteering** is a worthwhile and important unpaid activity.
- **Community Service** is volunteering to fulfill an *unmet* need in the community. Participants may learn from their experiences, but not in a formal manner. The primary emphasis is on service, not learning.
- **Service to the school** is volunteering to fulfill a need in the school. The emphasis is to make improvements to the school and learning environments. This is a distinct difference from service to the community as the focus is on the school and not the community.
- **Extracurricular Activities** are activities performed by students outside of normal school curriculum. These are non-mandatory unpaid activities that help create well-rounded students such as arts (drama, music, band), clubs (diversity groups, chess club), sports, governance (student government, mock trial), hobbies, media (yearbook, school newspaper), military (ROTC), volunteer work (key club, habitat for humanities), etc. These activities benefit the individual and not necessarily the school or the community.
- **Service Learning** is a deliberate connection between academic curriculum and community service. Students' service is a component of course curriculum and becomes a vehicle for learning course material. Students reflect on their service, relate it to the class, and evaluate what they are learned during a service project. Service Learning participants are students, not volunteers and have specific learning objectives for their service experience.
- **Community Restitution** is court ordered activity to repay debt to society as a result of a crime committed.
- **Internships** focus on learning job skills.

The activities described above are related civic engagement and unpaid activities, though they are each unique and distinct. Understanding the terms helps to determine who benefits from their activities and ultimately how this contributes to society as a whole.