

LESSON PLAN V

Grade Level K - 3

Time Needed 25 minutes (additional time for service projects)

Skill Areas Critical thinking, listening, problem solving

Objective Students will be able to identify ways in which they can help homeless people and families.

Materials The book *Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan. Copies of "I can help homeless people by.." worksheet for distribution.

Teacher Preparation Preview *Uncle Willie*. Plan to carryout one of the community service projects listed in the activity below. If you choose to have the students write letters to local, state, or national government officials, find the names and addresses of those local and state officials or use the national addresses listed in Lesson XI. Should you choose to conduct a food drive or penny drive, locate a local food shelf or soup kitchen that will accept donations.

- Activity
1. Teacher will read *Uncle Willie* aloud to the class.
 2. Discuss the story with the students. Possible leading questions may include: "Who ate at the soup kitchen?"; "Where would those people eat if the kitchen were not there?" Etc.
 3. Ask the students what they can do to help homeless people? Brainstorm and discuss several ideas. The teacher may want to list them on the blackboard.
 4. Students will complete the "I can help homeless people by..." worksheet by finishing the sentence or drawing a picture.
 5. Implement one or more of the following community service projects:
 - a) Create "kids that care kits." See Lesson Plan XI for details.
 - b) Have the students write a letter/draw pictures to local, state, or national government officials asking them to promote policies or legislation that would fund food shelves, homeless service providers, and permanent housing.
 - c) The class can conduct a school wide food drive with the collected items going to a local food shelf or soup kitchen. The teacher should help the students compose an informational flyer that can be sent home with each student explaining the food drive and who will benefit from it. Posters can also be created and drop off boxes designed. If possible, plan to have the students themselves deliver the donated items to the food shelf.
 - d) Students can initiate a "penny drive" and collect coins over a period of time. The money can be donated to a homeless service provider.
 - e) Choose a project from Lesson Plan XI Additional Service Ideas.

**I can help homeless people
by...**

What programs are out there to help? What can I do?

- Some programs that help families that are homeless are “soup kitchens”. This is where somebody can go to get a hot meal. Shelters are a warm place for people to stay so they do not have to sleep outside.
- I can help by: Treating people who do not have homes the same way that I would like to be treated. Collect blankets, hats, gloves and jackets and bring them to a shelter. Talk with my friends and family and tell them what I have learned about homelessness.

Critical Questions K-3

- Think about when you are feeling sick and want to stay in bed and cuddle with your favorite stuffed animal. What if you did not have a bed or your favorite stuffed animal to cuddle with? How would you feel?
- How would you feel if you had to switch schools a lot during the year? How would it feel to have to make new friends and get a new teacher?
- Think about your favorite things at your house; rooms, pets or toys. Now think about how you would feel if your family became homeless and you did not have your favorite things around you anymore.
- Think about getting ready for school in the morning, how would it feel to get ready in the morning at a shelter where there are a lot of other kids getting ready for school too. Would it be hard?