

Starving Artists' Dinner

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This set of activities engages youth with the community and permits both awareness raising and the collection of canned goods and money to help fight hunger. The activity involves inviting parents and other community members to a “Starving Artists’ Dinner” at a school or community location where soup can be prepared and served. At the dinner the “Wall of Hunger” created by students can be displayed. In addition, pieces of art created by students and their art teachers can be auctioned off. Facts about local and global hunger will be shared by students with those attending the dinner. In addition, students can share their ideas of how the community can help reduce hunger.

Goals:

To raise awareness about global and local hunger within the community.

To provide youth with leadership roles in the education and fundraising aspects of fighting hunger (canned goods and money raised will be donated to local food banks; money also can be sent to the World Food Programme or other national/international organizations that fight hunger).

Pre-event activities

- Completion of the educational activity – “The Hunger Wall” (see the educational activities section in the facilitators guidebook)
- Creation of other artwork in the forms of sketches, paintings, sculpture and other media to reflect students’ understanding of what “poverty” and “hunger” look like. These art pieces can be created by students alone or in cooperation with art teachers and other adults. Students and teachers can decide which pieces will be auctioned off during “Starving Artists’ Dinner.”. Other pieces that are not for auction can simply be displayed. A silent auction, a live auction or both can be held.
- Purchase disposable soup bowls, plastic soup spoons, soup ingredients (e.g., ingredients for a vegetable or bean soup), bread, and cups for water. Have students plan out how much soup they will need to make given the number of people who will be attending. Extra help from parents in the soup preparation process is a good idea.

Instructions:

Friday after school, students will meet in the cafeteria of their school and will set up for the dinner. Tickets will be taken at the door. Before dinner, a presentation will be given in order to educate attendees on the facts surrounding hunger. Following the presentation, dinner will be served by teachers from the school. The dinner will consist of a bowl of soup and a slice of bread. Following a short time into the meal, the completed Hunger Wall will be presented. This will give the students a chance to show off their hard work and the attendees an opportunity to learn a little more on hunger that they might not already know. Art that is not for the auction can be displayed near the Hunger Wall.

After the presentation of the Hunger Wall, the silent and/or live auction can be held.

Silent Auction: bid sheets are placed with each item and people attending the event have a period of time (about an hour) to view the art pieces and write down a bid on the bid sheet. Over the silent auction period, participants can write increasingly higher bids on the sheets (see example) until the specified period for the silent auction is over.

Live Auction: pieces are auctioned off using an auctioneer. The audience members are given bid signs to use that contain a unique number for each bidder. The highest bid gets the art piece.

At each table there will be a set of evaluation forms in which the attendees will complete, in order to assess what was learned.

Evaluative questions for students:

1. How much money was raised?
2. What programs benefited from the proceeds collected from the dinner?
3. Do you think that the parents and attendees learned much from this project?

Evaluative question for the recipients:

1. Do you feel that this benefit dinner was helpful in learning about the war on hunger?
2. Do you have any suggestions to make this project better?
3. After listening to the presentation, what do you feel is your part in helping to fight hunger?