



TRIP TO A SOUP KITCHEN



Overview: This lesson can be used strictly as information or prior to going to help at a soup kitchen, if your club chooses to expand the activity.

Objective: Expose 4-H members to the concept of a soup kitchen; create awareness of the reasons people go to soup kitchens and what people may use the services provided there.

Activities: Ask members if they know what a soup kitchen is? Is there one in their community?

Read the Reading Rainbow Book, **UNCLE WILLIE & THE SOUP KITCHEN** by DyAnne diSalvo-Ryan (included with curriculum packet) and follow with a discussion about the book and hunger issues using support materials included with the lesson.

Guiding Questions:

What happens in the book?

Why does the boy try to get Uncle Willie to leave when Frank comes by?

What does Uncle Willie do during the day?

What happens at the soup kitchen?

What is Underfoot's job in the cellar?

What kinds of people eat at the soup kitchen?

What do the people have that day for lunch?

How does the boy help out at the soup kitchen?

Where do you think the people would eat if the soup kitchen wasn't there?

Following this book discussion, have members explore what it means to be hungry. Important: Please exercise sensitivity when exploring these questions, as some may be dealing with hunger issues or have been to a soup kitchen as a guest in the past. Hunger is a very serious problem for many families.

What kinds of people do you think are hungry?

- Children • Adults • Elderly • People of all colors and ethnic backgrounds

Why do you think that people are hungry?

- Lack money to buy food
- Homeless
- Limited transportation
- Physical disabilities

Why do people lack money for food?

- Don't make enough money to pay all their bills
- They are ill or disabled
- They have children that they must care for
- They have lost a job or can't find a job

What can people do when they are hungry and have no money for food?

Families may need to seek out the services of a soup kitchen or a food pantry, just like the visitors at Uncle Willie's soup kitchen.

What can we do to help people who are hungry?

We can donate food to a food pantry, food bank or soup kitchen.

Expansion: Arrange for the club to visit a soup kitchen and help for a period of time – a day, month, or year!

Redeveloped from lessons by Project Bread, Boston & Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless