

# Recycling Drive

By Linda D. Bailey

In this service-learning activity, students and the teacher were involved in an aluminum can recycling drive. The first period classes held a contest in which the class that brought in the most cans by weight won a juice and doughnut party to recognize and celebrate their success.

**Meet a recognized need in the community:** The collected aluminum cans were given to the local recycling center. The service project helped to reduce the amount of aluminum waste in the landfills. The class determined this need by investigating several community problems and evaluating possible solutions.

**Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning:** Skills such as planning, following through, teamwork, and organization skills were enhanced throughout the activity. Students were involved in providing leadership and direction, communicating the plan through poster advertisements and announcements, educating the student body about the need for recycling, collecting cans, measuring, and calculating the results.

**Reflect throughout service-learning experience:** Students discussed the status of the project and subprojects. They discussed problems and possible solutions. At the end, students noted improvements they could have made to avoid some of the problems or challenges they faced.

**Develop student responsibility:** Students were responsible for planning and implementing the project.

**Establish community partnerships:** Community partnerships were established with the local recycling center where the cans were taken. Also, can tabs were recycled and the money was donated to a local homeless shelter.

**Plan ahead for the service learning:** The teacher created partnership with the local recycling center and educated selected students on the importance of recycling to lay the groundwork for the project.

**Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service:** Students investigated the issue of recycling and learned about their local landfill. They also learned how to collect and handle recyclable material and plan a project.

