



Community Action Responsibility Education
C.A.R.E.

St. Cecilia School
Tustin, CA

Mrs. Mary Alvarado, Principal

Ms. Suzanne DeVaney, Former Principal

Mrs. Monica Sharp, Technology Teacher and Development Director

School Facts

- Pre-School-8th grade Catholic Parochial School
- 350 Students
- Tustin, Orange County, CA
- Credentialed teachers who share Christian values
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) / CogAT
- WASC, WCEA, NCEA, CAPSO, SOCAPS, and Sisters of St. Joseph Educational Network

Community Action Responsibility Education C.A.R.E.

- Students making peace, justice, and charity part of their everyday lives
- Students and parents serving the needy



Service Awareness Program



*"Visiting the elderly
made me feel good
because I could tell
they were excited to
see us."*

4th grade student

Program Design

- Kindergarten through 8th grade
- Coordinating with the curriculum
- Classroom activities, speakers, and field trips
- Cooperative effort between teachers and parents



Program Articulation

- Grade 5 – Compassion for the physically challenged
 - Curriculum Integration – religion and language arts
 - Visit from an alumnus in a wheel chair
 - Classroom simulation activities provided by Children's Blind Center
 - Field Trip to Children's Blind Center

Program Articulation

"When we met the kids at the Children's Blind Center, we knew they couldn't see us but we knew they could feel our love for them." 5th grade student



Program Articulation

- Grade 7 – Tolerance
 - Curriculum Coordination – social studies, literature, writing, religion, and art
 - Field trip to the Museum of Tolerance
 - Participation in the Chapman University Holocaust Art and Writing Contest

Program Articulation

"It was so memorable to meet and talk to the Holocaust survivors. I have become more mature and dignified after that wonderful experience."



Laura Beck, 7th grade, 1st Place Winner

Program Articulation

- Visits from a priest who escaped from prison in Vietnam, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, and a rescuer of Holocaust victims

"I realized that I should not complain so much about something little and worry about things that are more important. You inspired me to care more about what I have than what I want." 7th grade student

"Your heartfelt acceptance of my story and letter from the students have made what I silently kept to myself as unfortunate to something worthy for the future." Fr. Tuyen

Evaluation of the Program

- Student growth evident through
 - Curriculum assessment activities
 - Personal growth
- Community Response



Design, Articulation, Evaluation

"After going on various life-changing field trips, I have learned something that will stay with me forever: God loves us equally despite our differences." 2006 Graduate

- Why is it time to C.A.RE?



Summary Points

- Key Learnings
 - Awareness of needs of others
 - Personal and moral growth of students
- Challenges Still Ahead
 - Turnover of teachers and parents
 - Change in agencies
 - Life values in a consumer society



Community Action Responsibility and Education
at
St. Cecilia School, Tustin, CA

St. Cecilia School incorporates social teaching into our students' lives through the Community Action Responsibility and Education Program. The program began in 1999 at the request of the administration, who recognized the benefit of learning about social justice within the school environment.

Community Action Responsibility and Education or C.A.R.E. is a program at St. Cecilia School focused on making peace, justice, and charity an everyday part of the lives of students. By providing opportunities for the children to take an active role in serving the poor and needy, we hope to instill in them an appreciation for the blessings in their own lives and a responsible attitude of concern for those in need.

C.A.R.E. is a cooperative effort between teachers and a parent volunteer committee at St. Cecilia School. Each grade level is assigned a focus area and a parent to assist the teacher. The program consists of a speaker, a field trip, and an activity that is arranged within the class focus area. In addition, parents are invited to participate with their child. The program is designed to build understanding each year and to expose the students to a wide range of issues.

Goals and Dreams of C.A.R.E.

- To create in our children an informed and compassionate attitude toward others that will remain with them throughout their lives.
- To teach the children that our call to love and service must not only be learned, but lived at home and at school, and acted upon in our world.
- To model for one another personal and moral responsibility by treating others with respect and consideration in home and at school.
- To put our beliefs into action by reaching out in service to those in need in our community, our country, and the world.

GRADE	OUTREACH AREA	CURRICULUM
Kindergarten	Giving to the needy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas gifts to rescue mission • Sponsor a needy family 	Oral language Religion
1 st Grade	Food collection and resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gleaning the fields • Plant for next harvest • Awareness of wasted food at school 	Reading Language arts Science Religion
2 nd Grade	Ministry to the sick, shut-ins of the Parish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make cards for children in the hospital • Write letters to Parish shut-ins 	Reading Language arts Religion
3 rd Grade	Racial and cultural awareness of children/mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit cultural center • Visit food bank 	Reading Language arts Social studies Religion
4 th Grade	Seniors and convalescent homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview the elderly • Serve refreshments 	Reading Language arts Religion
5 th Grade	Physically challenged and justice issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Children's Blind Center • Simulate blind activity 	Reading Language arts Social studies Religion
6 th Grade	Serve homeless and provide for the needy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money collected and sent to Guatemala • Write personal letters in Spanish to sponsored child • Serve food to homeless 	Reading Language arts Social studies Spanish Religion
7 th Grade	Religious, racial, and cultural tolerance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Museum of Tolerance • Contest participation 	Reading Language arts Social studies Art Religion
8 th Grade	Family life, values, justice issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service project for homeless and unwed mothers • Raised funds to donate to Catholic Worker 	Reading Language arts Social studies Science Religion