



## Jones Middle School and “Growing Together” Take Hunger Personally

*Jones Middle School in Upper Arlington, Ohio leads the “Growing Together” Service-Learning Network through its Semester of Service to address childhood hunger in central Ohio . . .  
by Karen Patterson*

This year, Jones Middle School (Upper Arlington, OH) is one of 11 schools in the country chosen to receive a \$5,000 grant from Youth Service America and The Sodexo Foundation. The Sodexo Foundation School Engagement Grant program engages teachers and students, grades K-12, in learning about the incidence of childhood hunger in their community, and in leading meaningful activities that facilitate access



to nutritious food for all children, especially those most at risk.

With resources from this grant and the involvement of schools

throughout the “Growing Together” network, teacher Molly Miely and her 6th grade students are leading the charge to end childhood hunger through their service-learning projects this semester. Activities implemented by Miely’s students and others at Jones Middle School include “Packing for the Streets” weekly meal donations for the homeless in downtown Columbus, an “Empty Bowls” soup dinner and fundraiser, conducted by Jones 7th grade teachers and students with additional support from Sodexo, to benefit Children’s Hunger Alliance, a tour and healthy cooking demonstration at Mid-Ohio Foodbank, involvement in the “Growing Together” Critical Issues Summit and Year-End Celebration, and additional fundraisers and food drives, including a “Hunger Line Walk” On April 26, 2013 (Global Youth Service Day).

The “Hunger Line Walk” will take place on April 26, 2013 (Global Youth Service Day). This “backward food line” will symbolize students’ desires



to feed those who are hungry in their communities. Jones Middle School students will collect food that they will carry into Heart To Heart Food Pantry to donate. While there, they will count, sort, and shelve the food items. Several other schools in the “Growing Together” Service-Learning Network are currently planning “Hunger Line Walks” in their own neighborhoods that will also take place on April 26.

*Learning with Purpose... Serving with Passion!*