

LINKING LEARNING TO LIFE

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Hunt Middle School Students Use Community as Laboratory, Resource

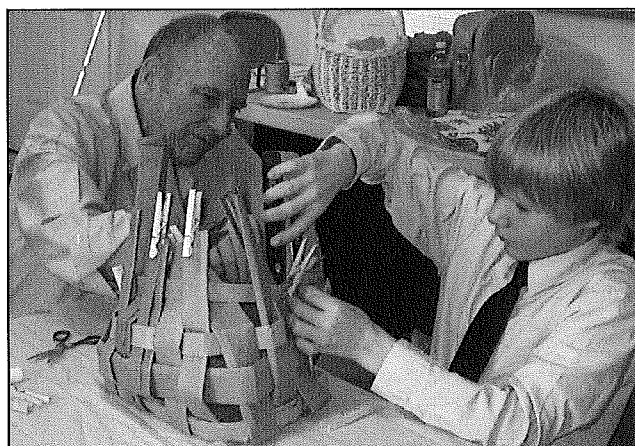
By Jennifer Sutton, *Linking Learning to Life*

As part of the Community Outreach Program, Hunt Middle School students venture far beyond the walls of their classrooms using the community as a resource and a laboratory for creative learning. Students have the opportunity to participate in community service, service-learning, internships, mentoring, job shadows and experimental projects. Through these programs students gain valuable experiences, work on skill building, create engagement and citizenship, are able to apply and demonstrate what they have learned and make important career, college and community connections.

Every student at Hunt participates with students volunteering more than 6,000 hours each school year. Currently, Hunt students are working out in the community just about every school day. This year many of our projects focus on helping seniors in our surrounding community. Every Tuesday students pair up with seniors at the Heineberg Senior Center to explore the past and present through reminiscence time, travel the world together on the computer, teach each other games and computer skills, and explore different art techniques. On Wednesdays, students visit with seniors at Starr Farm Nursing Home, to interview seniors about points of history they experienced, play games, create crafts and discuss common interests. Each



Thursday, students prepare, package and deliver dinners for Meals on Wheels, taking special time to visit with each senior they deliver to. Every Friday, students work at the Burlington Senior Art Guild, joining seniors in creating beautiful works of art from basket weaving to cake decorating to visiting art galleries, and sharing experiences and talents along the way. In completing these projects students work on reading, writing, computer and interviewing skills, learn about history first hand, and explore different cultures, all while creating important interpersonal relationships with community members.



The Community Outreach Program at Hunt Middle School and also at Edmunds Middle School in Burlington is an extension of Linking Learning to Life, which offers a wide range of programs designed to help prepare youth for careers, college and community. For more information on Community Outreach Programs contact: Jennifer Sutton (Hunt Middle School) at 316-1462 or jsutton@bsdvt.org; or Dov Stucker (Edmunds Middle School) at 316-1463 or dstucker@bsdvt.org.