**Food and Literature: Beyond the Classroom**

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**Field Trips:**

Kalamazoo’s Loaves and Fishes: <http://www.kzoolf.org/>

People’s Food Co-op of Kalamazoo: <http://www.peoplesfoodco-op.org/>

JBS Packerland, Plainwell, MI: <http://www.jbssa.com/>

Other ideas:

1. Migrant Farmers’ Camp
2. Water Treatment and Sewage Plants
3. Cereal Factory
4. Soda Bottling Plants
5. Ethnic/Cultural Grocery Stores
6. Ethnic/Cultural Restaurants

**Service Learning Ideas:**

1. Volunteer at a Food Pantry
   1. Bag food items, hand out/help others shop for food items, sit and talk/pray with people, answer phones
2. Volunteer in a Soup Kitchen
   1. Serve food, clean up, wash dishes, prepare food, transport food, etc.
3. Volunteer in a Community Garden
   1. Many food pantries and shelters grow fresh fruits and vegetables in community gardens or gardens created by religious organizations
   2. Plant, weed, harvest, transport, etc.
4. Volunteer to bring dinner to a Homeless Shelter
   1. Many shelters will accept warm meals.
5. Help Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets
   1. Many religious organizations and food pantries give out Thanksgiving baskets
   2. Donate items to create baskets
   3. Volunteer to assemble and/or deliver the baskets
6. Conduct a Canned/Imperishable Food Drive
   1. Often collecting money is more beneficial
7. Raise money for wells in Africa
   1. Sell bracelets
   2. Conduct a bake sale
   3. Ask for donations
8. Create Food Bags for the Homeless
   1. Work with a local pantry/religious organization to fill small bags with nonperishable foods to distribute to people asking for food out in public
9. Several shelters/pantries need volunteers in non-food-related capacities:
   1. Write and send thank-you cards to donors
   2. Write and send newsletters
   3. Mow grass, plant flowers, shovel snow, etc.
   4. Ask a local food pantry/shelter what help they may need.

**Speakers:** If you are unable to take students to organizations on field trips, consider asking people from those organizations to come to your classroom and speak to your students about their organizations and their personal roles within them.

1. Chef – could come and speak to students about preparing healthy food; could teach students how to cook a few healthy meals
2. Employee from meat packaging plant
3. Expert on Climate Change
4. Food Pantry Employee/Volunteer
5. Homeless Shelter Employee/Volunteer
6. Community Garden Employee/Volunteer
7. Local Business or Restaurant Owner/Employee who supports local/organic/fair trade

**Local Resources:** Check to see if there are resources in your area regarding the topic of food, food inequality, food justice, etc.

1. District library – films/documentaries
2. Authors
3. Chefs
4. Local Farmers
5. Farmer’s Markets
6. FFA Chapters
7. Local synagogues, churches, mosques, etc.
8. Your own students
   1. Could share ethnic/religious foods with classroom
   2. Could also share food culture from other countries or religions

**Projects:**

Research local grocery stores to compare/contrast prices on foods

Student-Run Healthy Restaurant

College Cookbook Wiki: <http://collegecookbook.wikispaces.com/home>