

Turkey Boxes 2016

Cottonwood Fifth-Grade
Service Learning Project

Why Turkey Boxes?

- Connect what we are learning in class to real life.
- Learn about the community around us.
- To help others who are in need.



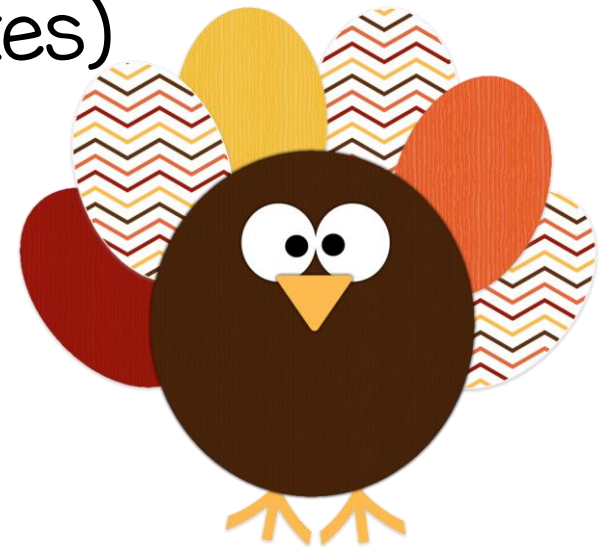
How does this connect to real life?

- Using real life skills plan a thanksgiving meal.
 - Make a menu
 - Create a shopping list
 - Compare prices
 - Calculate the total.
- We used most of the skills we have learned in math this year to complete this project.
 - Multiply whole numbers
 - Divide whole numbers (including money)
 - Add, Subtract, and Compare Decimals
 - Multiply and Divide Decimals



How did we learn about the community around us?

- We used skills of reading and writing to research and write essays about hunger and homelessness.
- We used collaboration to solve problems and create a product to share with others. (Turkey Boxes)



How did we help others in need?

- As a grade we set a goal to make 25 Turkey Boxes to donate to the Road Home Shelter to help families in need.
- Students and teachers collected items to assemble the turkey boxes.
- In the end we were able to assemble 52 Turkey Boxes and collect to donate to the Road Home. We had 20 bags of extra items that were donated as well.

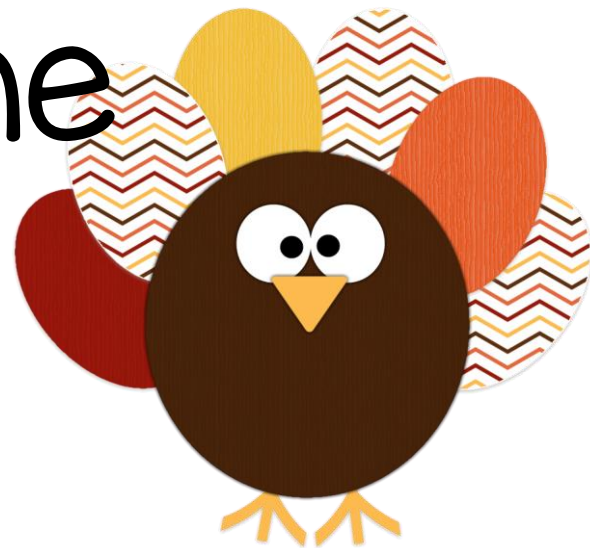


Why the Road Home?

- The Road Home had nearly 900 people on Thursday Nov. 17th, 2016.
 - 550 Men
 - 350 women
 - Plus Families
- Last year the Road Home served
 - 4,108 men
 - 1,442 women
 - 764 Families
 - 2,679 people



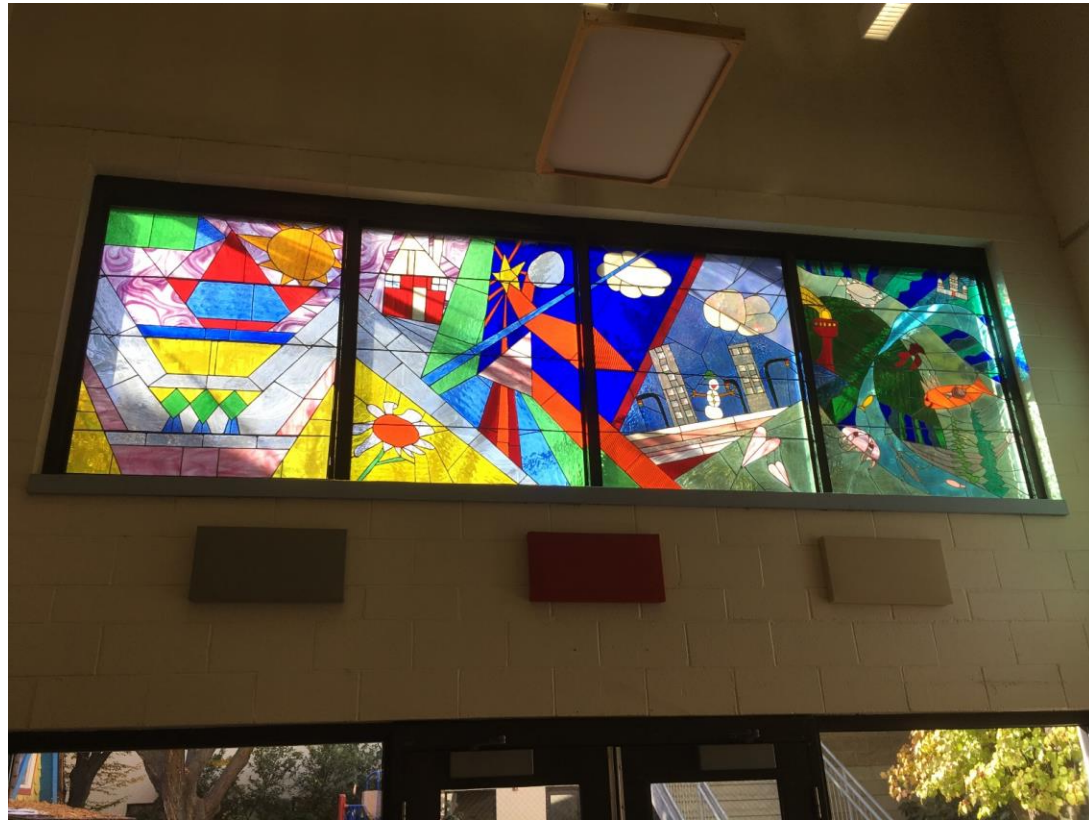
Inside the Road Home



Inside the Road Home



Inside the Road Home



- Stained Glass in the lobby of the shelter.



Inside the Road Home



- Play Area at the Road Home Rio Grande Shelter



Inside the Road Home



- All the art work in the Shelter was done by kids staying there.



Inside the Road Home



- Hallway in the Family Section.



Inside the Road Home



- Hallway in the Family Section.



Inside the Road Home



- Playroom. They have daily activities for the kids and families in this room.



Inside the Road Home



- This is a Family apartment at the Rio Grande Road Home Shelter.



Inside the Road Home



- This is a Family apartment at the Rio Grande Road Home Shelter.



Inside the Road Home



- This is a Family apartment at the Rio Grande Road Home Shelter.



Inside the Road Home



- This is a Family apartment at the Rio Grande Road Home Shelter.



Inside the Road Home



- This is a family area where kids can play.



Inside the Road Home



- This is a storage room where families can get supplies they need.



Inside the Road Home



- This is a storage room where families can get supplies they need.



Inside the Road Home



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Inside the Road Home



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Inside the Road Home



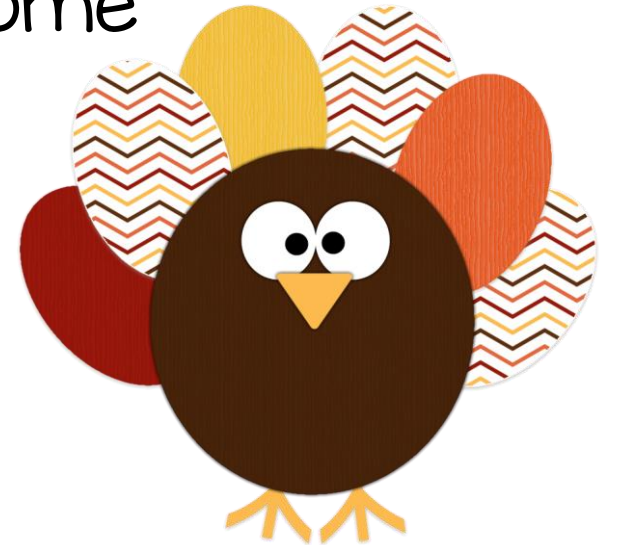
- This is a storage room where families can get supplies they need.



Inside the Road Home



- These are the piles of items that people have donated to the Road Home



Inside the Road Home



- This is the laundry facility the families can use to wash their clothes.



Inside the Road Home



- There are the tables where the men eat.



Inside the Road Home



- This is the hall where the men get their meals.



Inside the Road Home



- This is one of the men's dormitories at the Road Home Rio Grande Shelter.



Inside the Road Home



- This is one of the men's dormitories at the Road Home Rio Grande Shelter.



Inside the Road Home



- This is one of the bins residents can keep their belongings in at the shelter.



Inside the Road Home

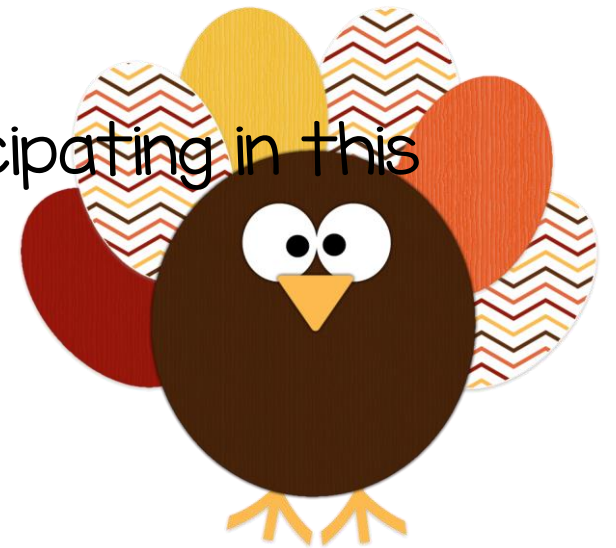


- What an awesome experience!



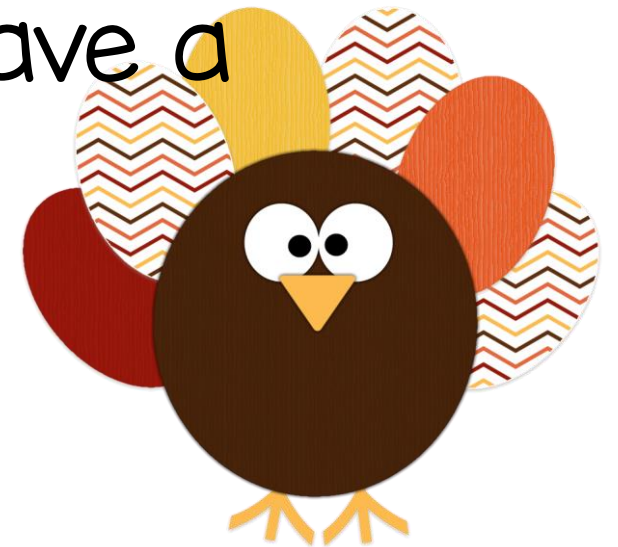
Student Reflections

What did you learn and how did you feel about participating in this project?

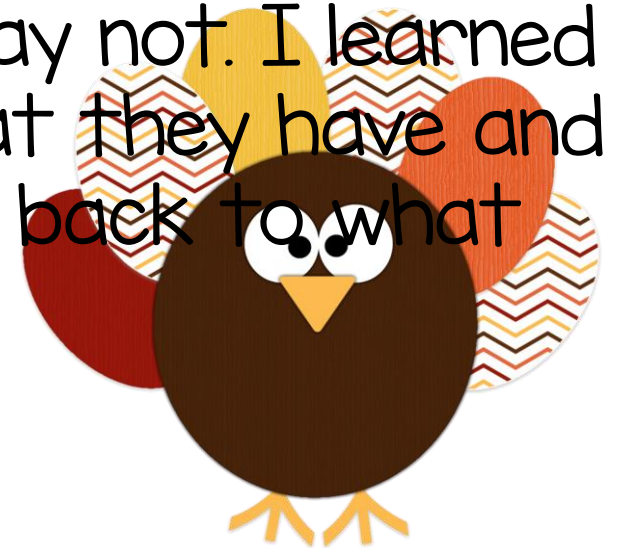


I have learned a lot about service from the Turkey Boxes. I now understand that people are hungry out in the world. I am thankful that I have a home and food to eat. After we fed the hungry I had a good feeling. I had gratitude for these children, and was happy that I could have this amazing opportunity to do it. I was amazed that our school fed 52 families that now have a Thanksgiving dinner.

--Brooks



From the turkey boxes I learned that we should be grateful for what we have. I learned that not everyone is as lucky as I to have a home, money, and a fun family. I learned about causes to the homeless, and not to stereotype them. I also learned that we should look for ways to serve and help the hungry and homeless. I learned that every little thing counts; meaning I should be thankful for everything I get and not just for the things I want. We should all think about what we have done and how it helped so many less fortunate families. Whenever we have something I know to be grateful when others may not. I learned to be happier and uplift everyone no matter what they have and who they are. We should all be grateful and think back to what we have done.



--Thea

This past week I had a great experience! I helped putting together turkey boxes for The Road Home, a homeless shelter. This had a huge effect on me because it made me feel how hard it is to be homeless. Some of the people that are homeless are innocent. When we did the turkey boxes we donated a full thanksgiving meal for each family. As I felt terrible about people having to suffer, I donated multiple products. This was an effect because it made me think of how lucky I was to have caring parents who work for resources. It is sad to think about homeless shelters overflowing with people. They have to turn away people every night because there is not enough room. This had an effect on me because it made me grateful for having a roof over my head. The effects of homelessness also affects those around the homeless. Homelessness is a sad, growing, and depressing thing.

--Jameson



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--Jameson



This past week, I helped make turkey boxes for the homeless. We got food and put it into boxes and sent it to a shelter. This changed me by really thinking about the homeless and noticing them more. We watched a video on the Road Home. The cake lady gives cake to homeless kids on their birthday. She said that she does not do much but they are so happy to get a cake. This changed me because they do not have a lot of money to buy Thanksgiving Dinner for their family. We helped 50 + families by giving food and time. We had to put bags and boxes into all three of our teachers cars it took us over five trips with about fifteen people.

--Christian



This month the fifth grade and I did a Thanksgiving project for The Road Home homeless shelter. We made turkey boxes for all of the families there. My grade put gravy mix, gift cards, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, and other Thanksgiving foods. We took a whole day putting together these boxes. I felt really happy that I could help someone this month, and I think I want to do a project like this on my own every month. Our goal was to make 25 turkey boxes, and we made 50+. We made about \$700 in gift cards so the families could buy rolls, turkeys, etc. After school on Friday all of the fifth grade teachers took the turkey boxes to the shelter. It felt good to know that 50+ families would get Thanksgiving dinner because of the 5th grade students at Cottonwood. It felt really good to do this, and I think I will always remember this feeling.



-- Ava

When our grade got the privilege to serve the road home, we all helped out. We brought food, boxes, and other items. We learned that homeless people are not only men, but families, moms, and children. When our teachers announced that we had made 52 baskets and over \$700 I was thrilled. It gave me a feeling that could not be bought. I LOVE it!

-- Ellie J.



This particular act of kindness brought tears to my eyes. After realizing over 50 families didn't get a Thanksgiving dinner, I was eager to help! After, I found out that we made 52 boxes and over \$700, I knew that our grade had done the right thing!

-- Adrienne



Thank you to all of you for
making this project so
awesome!

