Service-Learning Lesson Plans from Learning to Give, curriculum division of generationOn

**A Planting We Will Go** (Grades: K-2) The learners will use their time, talent, and treasure for the common good by transplanting trees in a common area.

**A Potting We Will Go** (Grades: K-2) Learners will use their time and talent to pot and care for young trees. They will identify the needs of the trees. They will discuss possible common areas to plant the trees.

**A Shredding We Will Go** (Grades: K-2) After studying the process of composting, learners will recycle paper from their school to be taken to a compost pile in a local nursery. A return visit to the nursery will show students how their paper has become part of the compost pile and is no longer recognizable as the shredded paper they brought to the nursery. A part of this compost pile will be returned to help beautify the trees that the learners have previously planted.

**An Apple a Day** (Grades: K-2) The students will gain an understanding of the importance of trees in the environment. Students will show the life cycle of an apple tree in order, and understand the apple is a fruit.

**Dig Those Holes** (Grades: K-2) Students learn that Johnny Appleseed planted trees for selfless reasons as well as reasons related to his own interests. The students use their time and talent to plant trees in a common area.

**Plants are Growing and Changing** (Grades: K-2) This lesson is designed to teach children about living things, such as trees and the different types of plants. This will not only help them understand science benchmarks, but will also help them understand more about their service learning project.

**Speaking for the Trees** (Grades: K-2) In this lesson, the students learn about the value of trees to the environment and all sectors of society. They also learn their personal responsibility for caring for trees. Students act out story of *The Lorax* and recognize that trees are a limited natural resource. They brainstorm the benefits of trees and group (and regroup) the benefits into meaningful categories. A guest speaker on Day Three teaches them what trees need to survive.

**Talking Trees** (Grades: K-2) In this lesson, students learn about the interconnectedness of nature and the impact of people on the environment. Students are motivated by literature to teach others the importance
of trees in our ecosystem. They respond to the literature selection and design and make posters with a "Save the Trees" message. They also continue work on their community planting project.

**Talking Trees: Earth Day (2nd)** (Grades: K-2) In this lesson, students learn about the interconnectedness of nature and the impact of people on the environment. Students are motivated by literature to teach others the importance of trees in our ecosystem. In an optional Extension of the lesson, they design and make posters with a “Save the Trees” message. This lesson also includes ten (10) 5-minutes lessons that can be used for group discussion led by students.

**Watch Me Grow** (Grades: K-2) Students decide on their service learning project during the first lesson, and work on this project each day during the unit, and possibly after the unit is through. The children have a choice of planting and taking care of trees around the school or community, building a nature center at the school, taking care of an already existing nature center, building a community garden at a local park or helping in a community garden that already exists.

**Planting Trees** (Grades: 3-5) This experiential lesson will allow students to plant trees and see the positive effects of humans on their environment.

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