



Dear 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians,

Last week the Special Area Staff began the Service Curriculum with your child. They were introduced to the Homeless Awareness Project. We discussed the 4 major causes that can lead to homelessness. The students also brought forward their ideas of what and who homelessness looks like. Together we dismissed false ideas concerning the homeless and realized anyone at any time could become homeless.

In the coming months the students will learn more about homelessness. They will also begin planning for the Nights Under the Stars Collection Carnival. It will be an evening to spread awareness and collect much needed items for the homeless.

In order to give the students a first-hand look at where their efforts will be going to support, we will be taking a field trip on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> to two locations in Camden that service the homeless population in Camden County as well as our surrounding counties. Cathedral Kitchen will show the students their facility and introduce them to a staff that serves meals to hundreds of homeless guests each day. Joseph House is an overnight shelter that houses 75 homeless guests each evening while providing meals, showers, and laundry facilities. The students will hear personal accounts from people who are currently being assisted by these two services.

The trip is truly an inspiring lesson and a motivator for the students to volunteer their time to make a difference. While it is not mandatory for the students to attend, it would be unfortunate for any student to miss out on this experience.

Please fill and return the permission slip on the other side of this letter and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. **All students attending must return their permission slip by Tuesday, December 2** so we can arrange for busing, chaperones, and nurse assistance.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the school to address your concerns. Thank you for your time and support in helping educate your child.

Sincerely,

Special Area/Service Curriculum Staff