

## GenerationOn Indiana Expands

For six years the generationOn Indiana grant has provided curriculum and resources to Indiana teachers and students to promote service learning and philanthropic education. Many schools have benefited from the mini-grants that have provided funding for service projects that are integrated within the school curriculum and the Indiana state standards. With the success of genOn IN, co-directors Joan Belschwender and Shirley Wright will now be assisted by a new Consultant and two new Field Representatives. Located across the state, each will be able to help schools promote philanthropic education (taking the existing service project and elevating it with curricular integration) for the benefit of students and community. IASP is pleased to facilitate the genOn IN grant along with IMLEA, and we welcome Beth Smith, Darlene Short, and Jack Birmingham to be of service to you. Look for each to help guide resources and ideas to you that you may then provide to your staff as they seek to build a climate of service learning within your building.



As an educator for more than 30 years in private, suburban public, inner city public, and rural public schools, Beth Smith has had the opportunity to incorporate service learning in a variety of settings, disciplines, and curriculum. Service learning has been an integral part of her teaching career.

She is a graduate of Indiana University with a BS in secondary education. She has a Master's degree from Ball State University and an endorsement in special education. She has had the opportunity to work in the general education setting, with gifted and talented students, in the cooperative inclusionary classroom, and in a self-contained special education setting. She has also been a team leader at the middle school level, and a coordinator for services for students on the autism spectrum at the high school level, incorporating service learning into each of these teaching and leadership opportunities as well as in my extra-curricular duties as a student council sponsor, class sponsor, cheerleading coach, and drama coach.

Assisting colleagues with an understanding, appreciation, and practical application of service learning has been a part of her emphasis when leading workshops or mentoring other professionals. For her, the component of service learning is inseparable from curriculum content because of the benefits to students and the increased content engagement it compels. She is delighted to be a part of generationON and Learning to Give and is eager to share the benefits of service learning to colleagues around the state of Indiana.



Darlene Short is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher at Castle North Middle School in Newburgh, IN. Darlene holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and a master's degree from Indiana State University in special education and elementary education. Her career spans 28 years and includes teaching students from preschool years through adulthood. Since 2004, Darlene has seen students empowered through service learning projects. All students build academic skills, confidence, and realize their value as citizens by planning projects that fulfill the needs of their community. In the past, Darlene served as a co-coordinator of Serve and Learn America grants that provided the funds to implement the Character Counts! framework in the Warrick County School Corporation. Currently, she is a co-sponsor of the Castle North Middle School *generationOn* Club. The after school club has received *generationOn* grants and other funding that help with their projects. The club was named *generationOn* Club of the month in April 2013. The students who participate in the club are the "teachers". The adult volunteers are continuously impressed by their insight and efforts. Darlene Short resides in Newburgh, IN.



Jack Birmingham is entering his fifth year as Principal at Union Center Elementary school in Valparaiso, and has been serving students in grades K-12 for the past 28 years. Beginning as a social studies teacher, coach/Athletic Director and moving into school leadership, service learning projects have been a constant in his classroom and now in his building. From helping victims in the Oklahoma City bombing to annual local food drives, Jack has enjoyed many opportunities to help his students give back to people and the community, and to integrate this within the school culture. He is excited about reconnecting with many of my colleagues to help expand the network of generationOn and Learning To Give schools!"