



## TWLS Student Volunteers Make a Difference at Bridging

Volunteering and giving back provides The Whole Learning School's students with several important benefits: First, it boosts their self-esteem and their self-confidence by seeing how their efforts make a difference in the lives of others. Second, it provides them with valuable vocational skills.

Vocational skills teacher Sue McCrary instructs her class in as many as two volunteer opportunities every week. Sue specifically seeks out volunteer jobs that offer her students hands-on opportunities to learn about the skills required for workers in different settings.

One of those opportunities includes time at "[Bridging](#)," a social service agency which provides families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness and poverty with a one-time gift of quality furniture and household goods. In 2011, Bridging will provide approximately 5,000 households (over 13,000 individuals) in the Twin Cities area this once-in-a-lifetime shopping opportunity. As you can imagine, an operation this large requires lots of volunteers to help organize and pack household goods and keep the warehouse clean and organized.

Peter, 16, pictured here, recently wrote about what he likes best about volunteering at Bridging.

*I like ripping newspaper so workers can wrap up breakable items for families in need. I also enjoy vacuuming the floor so it's nice and clean for other volunteers and the workers at Bridging. I realize volunteering there makes a big difference and helps everyone out. I feel good about helping people out.*



If you know of any volunteer projects that might be a good fit for TWLS Students, please contact Sue McCrary at 763-231-2700.

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## Baker Near Wilderness Overnight Trip Helps TWLS Students Bond

TWLS students made their annual pilgrimage to Baker Near Wilderness (BNW) Settlement in Maple Plain, Minnesota last Thursday. Located just 15 minutes from TWLS's location in Plymouth, this overnight camping trip builds valuable social, life and independent living skills. In addition to all of that, it's incredibly fun for children and adults alike! To learn more about what the students did at BNW, check out last week's [blog post](#).

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## Thank YOU for Your Partnership

TWLS is grateful for YOU, our grandparents, friends, aunts and uncles.... our partners....in fulfilling our mission to prepare our special students with the essential life, social, and academic skills they need to lead a fulfilling and independent life.

Thank YOU for all the additional support, in the form of box tops, milk caps, honorariums and more! We are so honored that many of you continue to ask "How else can we help?" Click [here](#) to see the easiest ways to support TWLS.



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## Visit TWLS at Private School Fair, November 17

The Whole Learning School will join more than 20 other private schools at a [Private School Fair](#) on November 17 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Edina Community Center. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

If you've been wondering what TWLS is up to or if you have been meaning to get more information about us, this is an easy way to find out what's new with TWLS!