

Community Leadership Activity

MAKING STONE SOUP⁶

Overview

A short storytelling activity about the value of collective work

Purpose

To explore the gifts and strengths that individuals bring to the group

Time Required

10–25 minutes, *depending on group*

Materials

Paper, markers, large bowl or pot

WHAT	HOW	MATERIALS
<p>Step 1: Storytelling</p>	<p>Tell the stone soup story:</p> <p>Once upon a time there was a village in a land where there was a drought. People were running out of food. The head of the village told the people, “If we don’t have anything to eat, we will have to make stone soup.” She asked the people to come to the town square the next day with stones to make stone soup. One family set off to find a stone to add to the soup, and as they put it in a basket to carry, they noticed some potatoes in the kitchen. They brought the stone and the potatoes. As they walked to the town square, another family saw them, and when they saw the potatoes, they remembered that there were a few carrots in the garden that had not been pulled. So they brought the carrots. Another family saw the carrots and brought some beans, and so on. The stone soup ended up being chock full of things to eat, and the whole town had a feast.</p>	
<p>Step 2: Making Stone Soup</p>	<p>Ask people to add their “stone” to the soup, writing one of their personal gifts on a sheet of paper and putting it in the pot.</p>	<p>Paper</p> <p>Markers</p> <p>Large bowl or pot</p>

⁶ Source: Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development, *Building Community: A Tool Kit for Youth & Adults in Charting Assets and Creating Change* (see Appendix 2).

WHAT	HOW	MATERIALS
Step 3: Sharing & Reflection	Read all the papers back to the group and ask a few questions to guide reflection: <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ What did you notice about your team's gifts?★ What was exciting about hearing about our gifts?★ Based on this exercise, what would you say our strengths are?★ What would you say our challenges are?★ How can we use this information?	