



EDUCATING THE HEART SCHOOL PROFILE: ESTHER WALTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Irvine, Calif. – The Volunteer Center of Orange County, in collaboration with Esther Walter Elementary School recently hosted the Cesar E. Chavez "Educating the Heart" project at the Incredible Edible Park in Irvine, California.

The "Educating the Heart" project was created to bring to life Cesar Chavez, his values and ideals, and his efforts to reform conditions for farm workers in California.

Nearly 100 4th grade students from Esther Walter Elementary School, located in Anaheim, California, took to the fields as part of the "Educating the Heart" project. The students experienced first-hand the difficult, yet honorable work of farm workers. The students toiled under the hot sun, picking lettuce, peppers, cucumbers and squash, all of which were donated to Second Harvest Food Bank in Orange County.

Since 2001 approximately 3,500 4th grade students and 85 teachers have contributed to feeding more than 10,000 hungry people across Orange County thanks to the "Educating the Heart" service-learning project.

In the classroom, Esther Walter Elementary School students learned about Cesar Chavez and the plight of farm workers. They also learned about California's agricultural history and the importance of agriculture to the state. In addition, they enhanced their planning skills as they prepared for a day of service in the fields.



The students had plenty to say about the "Educating the Heart" project. Some even issued advice about harvesting crops.

"You have to wiggle and pull to get the veggies out," said one student.

Other students said that they, "learned how to work hard like Cesar Chavez." But, most of the students enjoyed the "Educating the Heart" project because they got to help others.

For more information about the Cesar E. Chavez "Educating the Heart" service-learning project, please contact the Foundation's Programs department by E-mail at jrodriguez@cecfmail.org or contact the Volunteer Center of Orange County by E-mail at youth@volunteercenter.org. You may also visit their Web site at <http://www.volunteercenter.org/>.