

Service-Learning in Social Studies

Course: **World Geography**

School: **Lynde and Harry Bradley
Technology and Trade School**

Community Partner:
**University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
Institute of World Affairs**

Project Name: **Raising Awareness
of Human Trafficking**



Project Snapshot

While analyzing the distribution of products among global markets and the movement of people among regions of the world, world geography students were upset to learn of the multibillion-dollar industry that treats millions of human beings as “products” and moves them all over the world for the purposes of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation. They were further dismayed to learn that Milwaukee and southeast Wisconsin are ranked among the top areas for human trafficking in the United States. So they decided to create a public awareness campaign.

The students partnered with issue experts from the UWM Institute of World Affairs to gather local data and fine-tune the message they wanted to get out to the community. Several students also designed surveys that they administered to fellow students during lunch hours. Then, in partnership with volunteers from the school’s tech/trade department, students painted their messages on large plywood boards that were weatherproofed and installed on fencing outside the school. The messages included facts on the problem of human trafficking as well as information about what people can do if they suspect that someone is a victim of human trafficking.

To celebrate what they learned and accomplished, students organized an educational event for families, other students, and local leaders.

Community Need/Issue Addressed

Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions*

Through their public awareness campaign, students were able to inform their school community as well as their neighbors of a serious problem that is often hidden in plain sight. They were also able to share local resources available to people who may be victims of human trafficking.

**from United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development <https://www.globalgoals.org>*