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Math and Service Learning: Bringing Math to the Community

What is service learning? How can we bring a service learning component into math classes? Why is service learning a valuable component? This presentation will attempt to answer these questions.

MATH 100 (Mathematical Concepts) is a course intended for students wishing to go on to an education degree, and is required for the elementary education stream at StFX. This is the first year that the course includes a service learning option, so the presentation will report on how this is going. Students who choose to do the option decide on a community group (school classroom, cub scouts, adult ed. upgrading group, etc.) and an activity that includes some mathematical aspects and is both appropriate and relevant for the community group.

After the activity is planned and done with the chosen community group, the students reflect on their activity in a written report and an oral presentation to the class. The goal of the presentation is to stimulate discussion about service learning in math and to encourage other educators to consider service learning for their math courses.